

A Gallery 6

Richard Estes, *Helene's Florist*, 1971

Flowers are grown as crop for their beauty, scent, and color. Floriculture, or the cultivation of flowers, has existed since at least the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome. Richard Estes made this photorealistic painting from a single photograph of a New York City flower shop in late autumn.

B Gallery 10

Japan, *Netsuke: Cherry Blossoms*, 19th century

Cherry blossoms are very important in Japanese culture. So important, in fact, that the Japanese Meteorological Corporation releases a forecast for the blooms every year. Hanami (“flower viewing”) is a national celebration in March and April to welcome spring and appreciate the temporal beauty of nature.

C Gallery 35

Claude Monet, *Water Lilies*, 1922

Water lilies, or *nymphéa* in French, first struck Monet's fancy at the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris, where a prominent botanist and breeder introduced him to exotic new hybrids. He promptly ordered six to start in his pond at Giverny, two pink and four yellow. He would go on to paint approximately 250 paintings of the beautiful aquatic plants.

D Gallery 34

J. & L. Lobmeyr, *Morning Glory Chandelier*, 1850–60

Ipomoea, or morning glory, is a common flower seen in gardens and roadsides alike. The flowers bloom and die in a single day—making them a fitting allegory for death and fleeting youth. Viennese glass company J. & L. Lobmeyr made this chandelier of naturalistic glass morning glory blooms, as well as many similarly exuberant floral chandeliers based on other types of flowers.

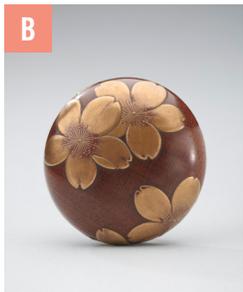


“Earth laughs in flowers.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Flower Power

Flowers have been a popular subject for artists for centuries, across nearly all cultures. This guide will lead you through TMA's interior garden. Be sure to stop and smell the roses!



E Gallery 33

Gustave Courbet, *The Trellis*, 1862

Daisy, magnolia, lily, hydrangea, primrose—how many flowers in this joyous painting can you identify? Despite the natural appearance of the colorful flowers, these specific species don't all bloom at the same time. Courbet used brilliant flowers from three different seasons, perhaps to symbolize the youthfulness of the young woman tending to them. Even the print on her dress matches the arranged trellis!

F Gallery 30

India, *Parvati*, about 1150–1200

Parvati, Hindu goddess of fertility, love, and devotion, is shown in a swaying, dance-like pose as she stands on a stylized lotus flower base. Known as the sacred lotus, the *nelumbo nucifera* is the national symbol of India and has spiritual significance to both Hindus and Buddhists. It represents divine perfection. This figure of Parvati also may have originally held a lotus blossom in her raised right hand.

G Gallery 22

Daniel Seghers, *Flowers in a Glass Vase*, 1635

Tulips became an especially sought-after commodity in the Dutch Republic during the first decades of the 17th century. In the height of the craze, people would spend the equivalent of a house on a single bulb! The white variety with flame striping shown here was the most coveted of all. The tulip mania ended abruptly when the market crashed in 1637, just two years after this painting was completed.

H Glass Pavilion, Gallery 3*

Louis Comfort Tiffany (designer), *Vase*, probably 1913

This Louis Comfort Tiffany vase form has often been called “jack-in-the-pulpit,” but it actually bears little resemblance to that plant. In fact, the vases were not meant to be exact replicas of specific flowers, but this particular form was more likely to have been inspired by the pansy. The lustrous iridescent glass was influenced by the colorful chemical corrosion on the surface of ancient glass that had been buried for centuries.

MUSEUM MAP

Upper Level



Please note: Some works of art in this guide may have been moved to a different gallery, be on loan to another museum, or be temporarily off view for other reasons. We regret any inconvenience.