

Pamela Sztybel



Catalogue to accompany the exhibition  
at Jill Newhouse Gallery  
December 5 - 20, 2016

Photography by David Behl  
Photography of the artist by Susan Bell Richard

Cover: *Open Orange Tulip* (detail), p. 61

# Out of the Garden

Works on Paper by  
Pamela Sztybel

December 2016

JILL NEWHOUSE GALLERY  
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*The Artist in her Garden*



## Afternoon on a Hill

I will be the gladdest thing  
Under the sun!  
I will touch a hundred flowers  
And not pick one.

I will look at cliffs and clouds  
With quiet eyes,  
Watch the wind bow down the grass,  
And the grass rise.

And when lights begin to show  
Up from the town,  
I will mark which must be mine,  
And then start down!

Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1917





*The Artist in her Studio*



**Pamela Sztybel's** latest still lifes of flowers represent the culmination of a creative life that has flourished in the garden and in art. Although she grew up in New York, Sztybel has family roots in Finland, and made frequent visits to her grandmother's house and garden there. These childhood memories inspired her work and her own Connecticut garden, and became sources for the recent paintings seen in this exhibition.

Sztybel begins to work by cutting flowers from her own spring and summer gardens (in winter she goes to the flower district in New York), which she then arranges in vases in her studio. Instinct guides her selection as she applies her preferences to the infinite visual and sensory promptings of nature. She works first in pencil, then adds color almost immediately, so that the composition can evolve organically with color and line interacting. Sztybel frequently turns the flowers as she draws and paints, rather than fix her compositional subject; in fact, some compositions are structured around a single flower viewed from various angles, a strategy that gives her ink drawings in particular a quiet and stately grace.

Sztybel chooses a close point of view, and the flowers fill the picture field with expanding rhythms and shapes. The work envelopes the viewer into a domain of great visual and tactile pleasure. "You can grab them in your hand," she says; and you certainly want to.



Pictorial affinities to Styzbel's work are wide-ranging. She mentions the brightly colored, floating, flattened forms and cropped edges of Japanese woodcuts as influences, while Scandinavian and Finnish masters of watercolor must have been the source for the firm lines, translucent color, and rectilinear rhythms. David Hockney is one of her favorites, and it is rewarding to compare the two artists' treatment of stunningly beautiful flowers as subjects of unexpected authority. The simple strong lines of the drawings also recall also the work of Matisse and of Ellsworth Kelly.

Though painted from life and accurately observed, these watercolors are not intended to be detailed botanical works or even morphologically precise. Sztybel wants her color to be true to the flowers she has selected, but once on the page, she manipulates the color to "lie flatly, like a collage." Flat, but never still, as the planes of color fill the contours of her tulips, irises, and peonies, and the forms spread out like a beautiful map of expanses of splendor.

J.N.



# Catalogue

Works are either watercolor or ink on paper.



*Orange Zinnia* 11 3/4 x 8 3/4 inches







*Blue Orchid with Parrot Tulips* 32 x 40 inches









*Hydrangea, Peony* 19 1/2 x 15 3/4 inches





*Pink Peony* 19 1/2 x 15 3/4 inches



*Tulips with Starfish* 19 x 25 inches





*Parrot Tulips with Lilac* 16 x 20 inches









*Hydrangea, Delphinium I* 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





*Hydrangea, Delphinium II* 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches

*Tulips with Daffodil* 19 x 25 inches





*Pink Hyacinth* 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches









*Tulips, Blue Iris* 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





*Blue Clematis* 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches

*Flowers* 19 x 25 inches





3.9.16

Syfynd

*Agapanthus, Pink Freesia* 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





*Open Black Tulip* 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches









*Lacecap, Buddleia* 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





*Part of a Spider Mum* 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





*Pink Zinnia* 7 x 5 inches





*Little Black Tulip* 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches

*Tulips, Freesia and Shells* 19 x 25 inches





*Agapanthus, Gladiola* 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches







*Crocus* 4 x 4 inches







*Two Violas* 4 x 4 inches









*Lilac, Green Parrots* 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





*Hydrangea, Thistle* 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches



*Tulips, Hyacinth, Shells* 19 x 25 inches







*Black Eyed Susan with Clematis* 7 x 5 inches





*Pink Lacecap* 7 x 5 inches





*More Dahlias* 19 x 25 inches









*Cosmos* 7 x 5 inches





*Zinnias with Yellow Viola* 7 x 5 inches

*More Tulips with Freesia* 19 x 25 inches









*Orange Lily* 7 x 5 inches





*Open Orange Tulip* 7 x 5 inches





*Campanula* 7 x 5 inches





*Hyacinth* 7 x 5 inches





*Campanula, Stock* 7 x 5 inches



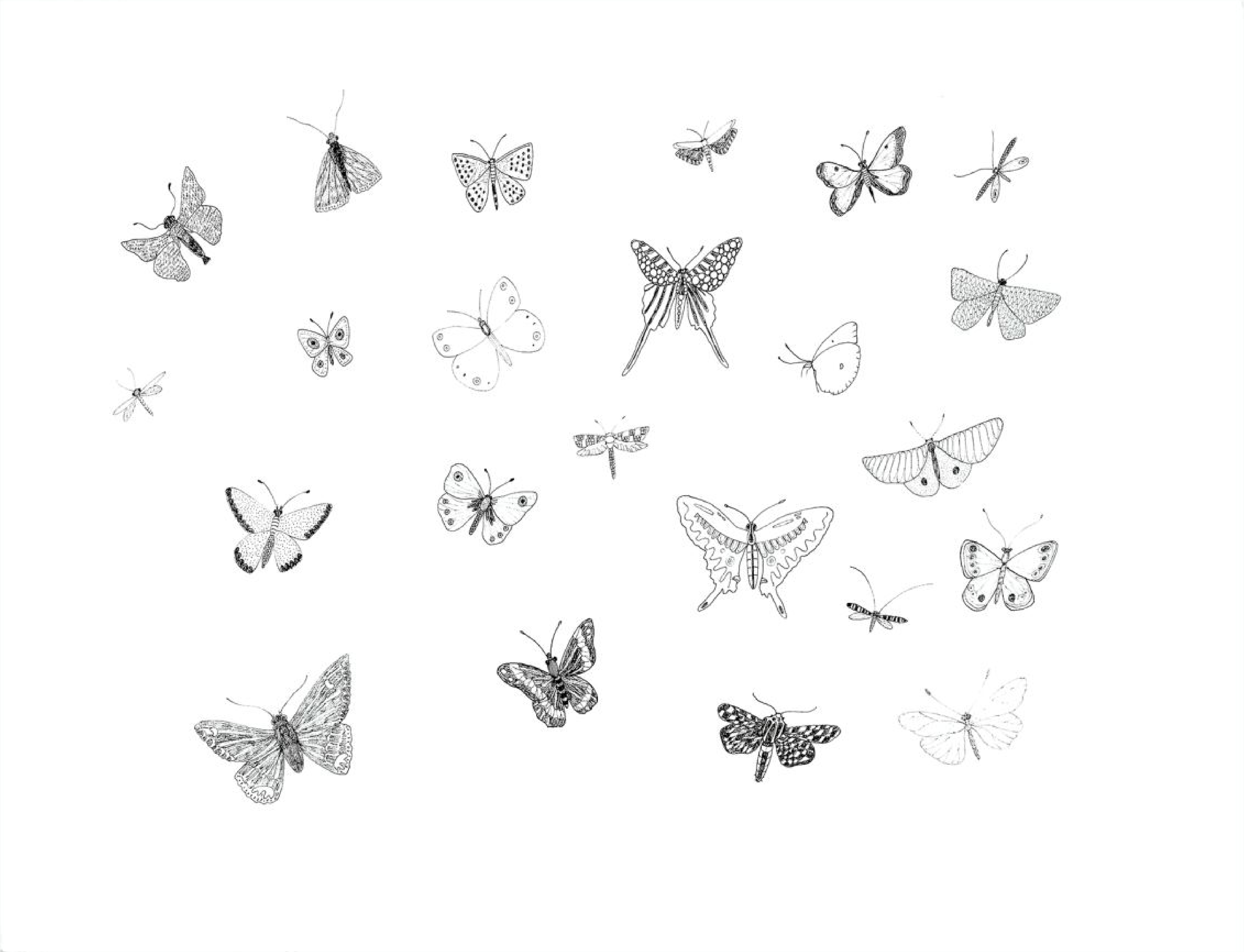


*Stock, Campanula* 7 x 5 inches



*Butterflies* 19 x 25 inches







*Agapanthus* 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





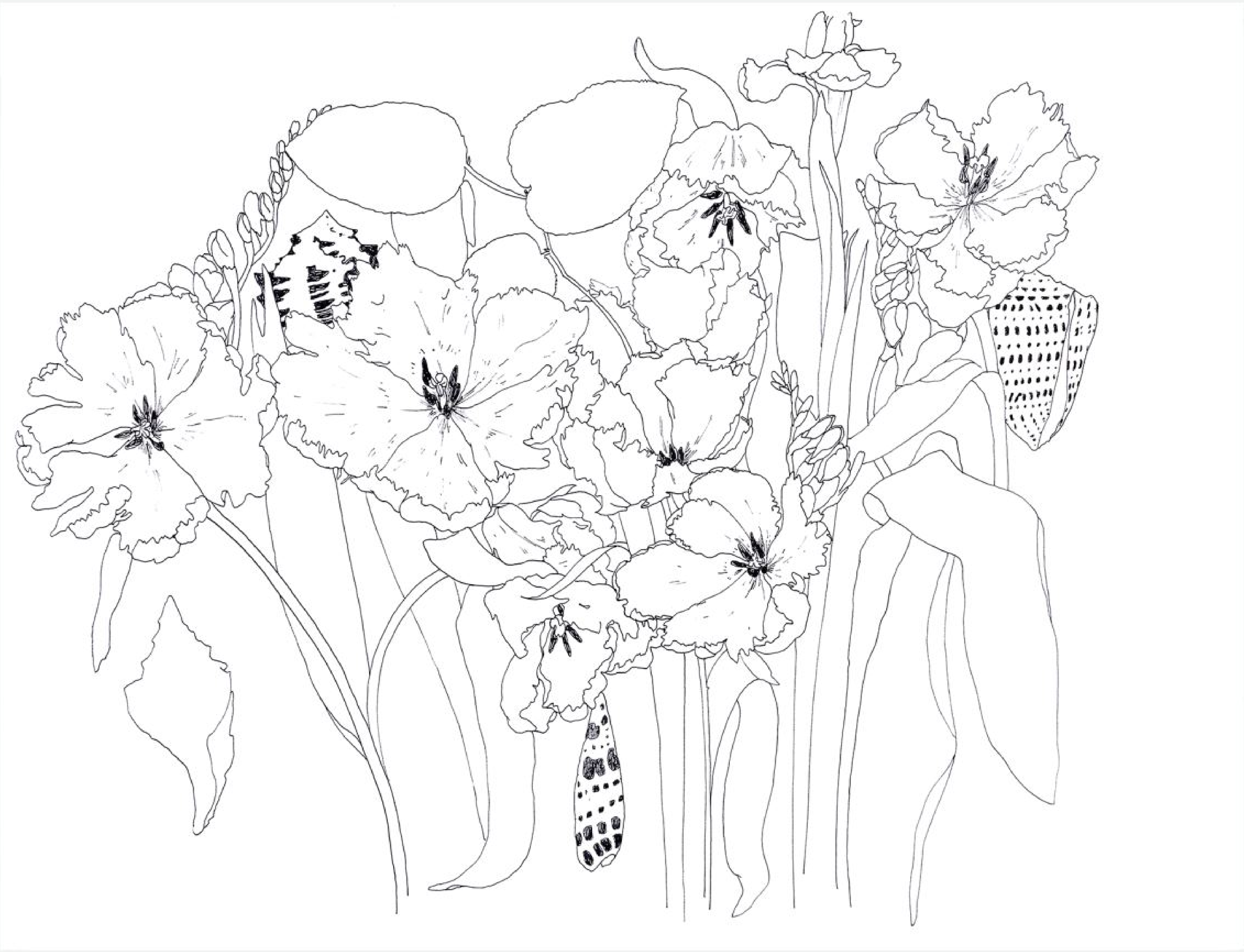
*Buddleia, Nicotiana* 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches





*Tulips with Shells* 19 x 25 inches









*Orange Nasturtium with Clematis 7 x 5 inches*





*Blue Clematis with Yarrow* 7 x 5 inches



**Pamela Sztybel** was born in New York City and studied at the New School for Social Research, in the M.F.A. program at the New York Academy of Art, and under the painter Wolf Kahn. She has won fellowships to both the Santa Fe Art Institute and the Vermont Studio Center and currently serves on the Art Collection Committee of the Board of Trustees of the New School University. Sztybel has participated as a visiting artist and as a teacher at the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice, Italy, and has taught workshops at Connecticut College, West Liberty State College in West Virginia, and Long Beach Island Foundation for the Arts in New Jersey. Her works can be found in numerous corporate and private collections.

## **Selected Exhibitions**

### **Solo**

Southern Vermont Art Center, Manchester, Vermont, June 2010

Spanierman Gallery, New York, *Recent Landscapes*, September 4 – October 4, 2008

Spanierman Gallery, East Hampton, *Pamela Sztybel: Lost Ponds, Hidden Rivers*, June 29–July 24, 2006

Spanierman Gallery, New York, *Toward Simplicity: New Paintings by Pamela Sztybel*, January 6–29, 2005

Cummings Art Center, Connecticut College, New London, 2004.

Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, Easthampton, New York, 2003.

Scuola Grafica, Venice, Italy, 2002

Matson Fine Art, New York, 2002



## Group

Walter Wiskiser Gallery, New York, *Friends*, April 2015

The Bohemian National Hall, New York, *Paperview*, 2012

Spanierman Gallery, New York, *In the Tonalist Mood: Paintings from the 1860s to the Present*, January 6–February, 2011

Spanierman Modern Gallery, New York, *Fifteen Modern and Contemporary Artists*, July 21–September 2, 2011

Spanierman Gallery at East Hampton, New York, *Little Gems for the Holiday Season*, November 27–December 20, 2009

Spanierman Gallery at East Hampton, New York, *Light of Spring*, March 2–April 21, 2008

Spanierman Gallery at East Hampton, New York, *Little Gems*, November 20–December 29, 2008

Spanierman Gallery at East Hampton, New York, *Twelve Contemporary Painters II*, January 13–February 28, 2005

Spanierman Gallery at East Hampton, New York, *Twelve Contemporary Painters III*, March 17–April 28, 2005.

Spanierman Gallery at East Hampton, New York, *Twelve Contemporary Painters III*, March 17–April 28, 2005

Spanierman Gallery at East Hampton, New York, *Twelve Contemporary Painters*, November 4–December 27, 2004

## Other

*Smallbone of Devizes*, New York (included in ongoing installation by Spanierman Gallery), 2009

Eleventh Annual Boston International Fine Art Show (exhibited by Spanierman Gallery), November 15–18, 2007



## Residencies and Appointments

Visiting Scholar, Claremont Graduate University, 2013

Invited Artist: Cill Rialaig Arts Centre, Dun Geagan Ballinskelligs, Ireland, 2013

Invited Artist: Center For Contemporary Printmaking, Helen Frankenthaler Cottage, 2012

Artist in Residence The Charles Moore Foundation, 2011

Visiting Artist The American Academy in Rome, 2010

Visiting Artist, Scuola Grafica, Venice Italy, 2001

Former Trustee, Vermont Studio Center

Art Collection Committee of the Board of Trustees of The New School University

## Education

1992 MFA New York Academy of Art

1979 BA The New School for Social Research





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