

***FOREVER SPRING* EXHIBITION BLOOMS WITH ART, CRAFT &
GARDENING EVENTS**



Guest Curator, Katherine McDonald, in Hamilton Gallery's current exhibition; *Forever Spring: The Art Of Flowers*.

Hamilton Gallery welcomes experts and artists as part of the public programs on offer to complement current free exhibition; *Forever Spring*, curated by a Hamilton local.

November's public events include a still life painting workshop on Saturday 6 with talented artist, Sarah Gabriel, a children's origami flower making workshop on Tuesday 9, and a floor talk by renowned artist, Criss Canning & esteemed garden designer, David Glenn on Saturday 13.

Criss Canning is one of Australia's most highly acclaimed still life artists. Criss and her husband David Glenn own Lambley Nursery in Ascot near Ballarat, a highly regarded plant nursery renowned for growing and sourcing dry climate plants.

These events take place within the richly hued exhibition spaces and inspiring artworks currently on display in Hamilton Gallery's free *Forever Spring: The Art Of Flowers* exhibition.

The exhibition is entirely composed of floral works selected from the rich holdings of Hamilton Gallery by guest curator and Hamilton resident, Katherine McDonald. McDonald's experience as an art historian, curator, gardener and artist have allowed her to draw on horticultural, aesthetic and art historical knowledge for an uncommon exhibition result.

The diverse works make up eight flower-named arrangements in 'hybrid flower gardens', which reveal the importance of the flower as a potent symbol and model of beauty and refinement. The aim of the exhibition is to draw attention to the universal human desire to be surrounded by flowers—not those fresh from the garden or florist—but ever-present blooms painted, printed, embroidered, engraved, formed, cast and carved by artists and artisans as personal and cultural objects.

McDonald has selected works from the Hamilton Gallery's 9000+ collection that explore Oriental and Western flower images from the seventeenth century to the twenty-first century, covering ceramic, glass, metalwork, painting, print and textile traditions.

Ms McDonald said: "It has been a privilege to work with such a fine collection. Its wonderful depth and breadth has allowed me to present a sweeping view of flower depictions over the last three hundred years in Japanese, Chinese, Australian and European cultures."

Forever Spring: The Art Of Flowers is showing until Sunday 14 November 2021. For event bookings contact Hamilton Gallery on (03) 5573 0460. To discover this colourful, inspiring collection exhibition alongside Hamilton Gallery's 60th Anniversary Exhibition: *HG:60*, visit us- entry is free with the gallery open 7 days.

***Forever Spring* Events at Hamilton Gallery:**

- Sat 6 Nov - 9.30-4.30pm - Still Life Workshop with artist, Sarah Gabriel, \$220, fully booked.
- Tue 9 Nov – 4.00-5.00pm - After School Art: Origami Paper Flowers, free, booking essential.
- Sat 13 Nov - 11.00am – *Forever Spring* Floor Talk by artist, Criss Canning & garden designer, David Glenn, free, booking essential.

Curator's Note & Exhibition Highlights:

From Guest Curator, Katherine McDonald:

Flower images are compelling in their loveliness and so highly valued that they have always been necessary accessories to human existence. Forever Spring celebrates the worth of such flower depictions in different societies over time—and the visionary artists and artisans who made them.

As well as being purely decorative, depictions of flowers have been charged with potent symbolism in both eastern and western societies, have served as a barometer of taste down the ages, revealed the complexities of nature and been metaphors for ideas. Themes such as these are explored in Forever Spring.



Mandarin's Coat of dark blue silk, embroidered with paler blue flowers, Chinese 19th century. Gift of Mrs N. Dickson 1973.



Detail of the sleeve of a mandarin's coat in dark blue silk Chinese 19th century Gift of Mrs N. Dickson 1973.

In one of the ten arrangements *Rose: A Barometer of Taste*, a wall cluster of late twentieth-century Australian paintings of roses, and a Scottish nineteenth-century painting *The Rosebud*, is aligned with mixed objects depicting roses. English Jacobite glasses and a French teapot from the eighteenth-century, a French Neo-classical gilded clock and English tureen from the nineteenth century and an Art Deco vase and engraved Scandinavian glass vase from the twentieth century demonstrate the altered form of the rose through time. Hybrid breeding activity over two hundred years, from the circular Gallica, Centifolia, Moss, Hybrid Perpetual and Bourbon class roses of the 1800s to the angular Hybrid Tea roses and circular David Austin-bred English roses of the twentieth century can be seen simultaneously in this unique group arrangement.

Other items across the ten arrangements include a Hans Heysen painting of spring flowers, English wildflower studies, a black silk kimono embroidered with pink cherry blossom, a green and yellow tea service hand painted with naturalistic flower bouquets, woodblock portrayals of flowers by Qi Baishi and Kamisaka Sekka, and a midnight blue silk mandarin's coat sprigged with monochromatic flower bouquets.



Detail of a two-handled cup and cover English c.1820-30 Floral encrusted Coalport 'Coalbrookdale' porcelain, Hamilton Gallery Collection

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For more information on gallery events and exhibitions, see www.hamiltongallery.org, the Hamilton Gallery Facebook page, or [join the mailing list](#).

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HAMILTON GALLERY

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FREE ENTRY | OPEN 7 days from 17 Sept 2021 | M-F: 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun: 10am-2pm

HAMILTON GALLERY TRUST



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