



GRAY



DAVID HOCKNEY
20 Flowers and Some Bigger Pictures



Nov 4 - Dec 23, 2022

GRAY

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Annely Juda Fine Art

London
Nov 3 - Dec 23, 2022

Galerie Lelong & Co.

Paris
Nov 3 - Dec 22, 2022

GRAY

Chicago
Nov 4 - Dec 23, 2022

L | A | L O U V E R |

Los Angeles
Nov 16, 2022 - Jan 7, 2023

PACE

New York
Jan 12 - Feb 2, 2023

“I think it’s what we need today.
New looking fresh pictures of a very beautiful world.”
– David Hockney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

David Hockney: 20 Flowers and Some Bigger Pictures

[October 4, 2022] – Five of the world’s leading galleries are coming together to present **20 Flowers and Some Bigger Pictures**, an unprecedented international exhibition by **David Hockney**. The global exhibition will be jointly presented this fall and winter across five cities: **Annely Juda Fine Art** in London; **Galerie Lelong & Co.** in Paris; **GRAY** in Chicago; **L.A. Louver** in Los Angeles; and **Pace** in New York.

The exhibition at GRAY Chicago (2044 West Carroll Avenue) will be on view November 4 – December 23, 2022, and opens with a public reception on Friday, November 4, from 5-7 PM CDT.

20 Flowers and Some Bigger Pictures presents works created by Hockney in 2021, expanding on a series of iPad paintings in 2020 while quarantining at his studio and residence in Normandy, France. Inspired by his daily observations, Hockney devoted himself to the iPad, a medium of unique immediacy that allowed him to be prolific in his depictions of his home, the changing seasons, and surrounding countryside.

Of his iPad paintings, each gallery will present a distinct series of editioned and signed inkjet prints including five landscapes, twenty floral still lifes, and a composite of three iPad paintings depicting a bouquet of gladioli. These works reveal the presence of Hockney’s hand as well as his deliberate technique for drafting larger-than-life compositions on the iPad. While Hockney’s flowers capture the fleeting stillness of his subjects, his immersive landscapes establish the vastness of his rural surroundings. Whether bound to a single moment in time or created from multiple planes of vision, Hockney’s distinctive sense of time and space draws from art historical examples ranging from the Bayeux Tapestry and seventeenth-century Chinese scrolls to the still lifes of Henri Matisse.

A cornerstone of the series, Hockney’s landscapes call upon his observations of the changing of seasons. In each of his gridded picture planes, Hockney reimagines the Normandy countryside with bright colors, abstracted forms, and impossible angles of otherwise traditional outdoor scenes.

Placing his focus on themes of renewal and rebirth, the resulting body of work reflects the pastoral nostalgia and beauty of the natural world.

First reproduced by the German newspaper, *Die Welt*, and later debuted at Musée Matisse in Nice, Hockney's series of twenty flower iPad paintings captures various arrangements of blooms set against a backdrop of gingham tablecloths and burgundy walls. "I was just sitting at the table in our house, and I caught sight of some flowers in a vase on the table," Hockney explains. "A few days later I started another from the same position with the same ceramic vase. This took longer to do. I then realized if I put the flowers in a glass vase the sun would catch the water, and painting glass would be a more interesting thing to do. So then I was off." Though attributes vary in each work, such as the species of flower, type of vase, and the color of the tablecloth, consistent elements across this series allow viewers to admire Hockney's technique and dedication to his subject. Capturing a spectrum of floral compositions with contrasting tones and textures, Hockney displays his propensity for balancing the central artistic elements of line, color, and perspective.

At the center of the exhibition, Hockney debuts his latest large-scale photographic drawing, *25th June 2022, Looking at the Flowers (Framed)*. Within the composition, Hockney is depicted twice – once on the right side of the scene, and once on the left – sitting in an armchair and looking upon his twenty flower still lifes displayed salon-style on a navy-blue wall. "This is photographic but is in no way an ordinary photograph," Hockney describes. "I had been doing what I called photographic drawings, giving a much more 3D effect. This is because you have to look at these through time (unlike an ordinary photograph which you see all at once)." From a series of individual photographs, Hockney constructs a seamless panorama that defies the natural parameters of time and space. The photographic drawing pulls viewers into a self-referential world that is at once familiar and entirely new. "Most people thought the photograph was the ultimate depiction of reality, didn't they? People thought, This is it, this is the end of it. Which it's not. And I'm very certain it's not, but not many people think the way I do."¹

PUBLICATION

To accompany the exhibition, GRAY, Galerie Lelong & Co., Pace, Annelly Juda Fine Art, and L.A. Louver are pleased to announce the release of David Hockney: 20 Flowers and Some Bigger Pictures (English and French, 76 pages, 24 x 31 cm). The book will feature an essay by the artist and color illustrations of the works on view in the exhibition.

ABOUT DAVID HOCKNEY

David Hockney (British, b. 1937) has produced some of the most vividly recognizable and influential works of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Hockney gained notoriety in his mid-twenties after receiving the Gold Medal from London's Royal College of Art, and he quickly became associated with the British Pop Art movement. In the late 1960s Hockney relocated to California and

¹ Françoise Mouly, "David Hockney Rediscovered Painting," *The New Yorker*, February 17, 2022.

established himself as a prolific figurative and landscape artist. He is perhaps best recognized for the works he produced there: brightly colored, large-scale evocative images of the Southern California lifestyle as well as domestic, intimate portraits of his friends, family, and lovers. Hockney's works are notable for their quietness of subject, flatness of space, and subtle reduction of form. Throughout his career he has worked in a wide variety of media, including painting, drawing, collage, photography, and printmaking, often utilizing contemporary technologies that have included fax machines, laser photocopiers, tablet devices, and other digital instruments.

David Hockney's work can be found in many distinguished public collections around the world, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Art Institute of Chicago; National Portrait Gallery, London; Tate Gallery, London; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC. He lives and works in Normandy, France, and Los Angeles.

ABOUT GRAY

GRAY is a globally recognized team of art professionals devoted to fostering the development of historically important artists' careers and to building outstanding art collections. Founded in 1963, GRAY has established its reputation as a resource for Modern, Postwar, and Contemporary art with prominent private and institutional clients worldwide. Known for producing critically acclaimed exhibitions and programming from its galleries in Chicago and New York, GRAY represents a roster of internationally recognized artists such as McArthur Binion, Jim Dine, Torkwase Dyson, Theaster Gates, David Hockney, Rashid Johnson, Alex Katz, Ellen Lanyon, Jaume Plensa, Leon Polk Smith, and Evelyn Statsinger.

For press inquiries, please contact Rebecca Daniel Mottley, rdm@richardgraygallery.com.

Cover image: David Hockney, "August 2021, Landscape with Shadows," (detail). Twelve iPad paintings comprising a single work, printed on paper, mounted on Dibond. Edition of 25. 108.2 x 205 cm (42.5 x 80.75 Inches) © David Hockney.