

Denise Sfraga's Solo Exhibition

Strange Brew

April 1 - 30, 2023

About the exhibition

Nature has always been an important and integral part of Sfraga's creative life. As a visual artist and avid gardener, the life cycle of plants has always been at the root of her creative energies and exploration. Working in her own garden and experiencing its constant state of flux, from seed germination, leaf and flower growth, and the dispersion of the next generation of seeds, to the final stages of plant decay, Sfraga witnesses an ever-evolving landscape of life forms from which she draws visual inspiration.

Elizabeth Saperstein, in her essay for the exhibition HyperAccumulators, which she co-curated with Alexandra Rutsch Brock, writes... *"Sfraga's luminous drawings conjure beautiful but poisonous plants with exotic names. Her glowing, surreal forms recall the cutout animation of Fantastic Planet, the 1970's sci-fi film about humans living on a strange planet. Biomorphic tentacles and pods have a dreamy, psychedelic quality. Glowing edges contrast with the chalky, burnished quality achieved by layering marker and pencil."*

Michael David, artist and curator of her solo show Poison Garden at M.David & Co., writes in the catalogue introduction... *"Sfraga's process is obsessive and deceptive, just like her complex subjective matter. Her work first appears smooth and without overt gesture, but upon closer inspection, we see surfaces that are tirelessly reworked and made up of countless micro-adjustments. They're infused with lyrically lurid color, creating a surface and image that is simultaneously violent and subsumed. The results are beautiful, dark, luminous, seductive, and disturbing all at once."*

This exhibition Strange Brew will showcase Sfraga's latest works, including drawings and paintings of various sizes, all of which are botanically inspired. Through Sfraga's unique artistic lens, the exhibition promises to immerse visitors in a captivating world of botanical wonders.

About the artist

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Denise Sfraga received her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts in Photography from Long Island University, C.W. Post College in Brookville, New York. As an avid gardener, Sfraga's artistic vision is constantly fueled by the ever-changing landscape of her garden.

Art Workshop 'Probing Peculiar Plants' | Saturday, April 15, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Free and open to the public. Age 7 or older recommended. Registration required.

Please visit <https://garageartcenter.as.me> to reserve your seat.

Image List



Bloom floridus black

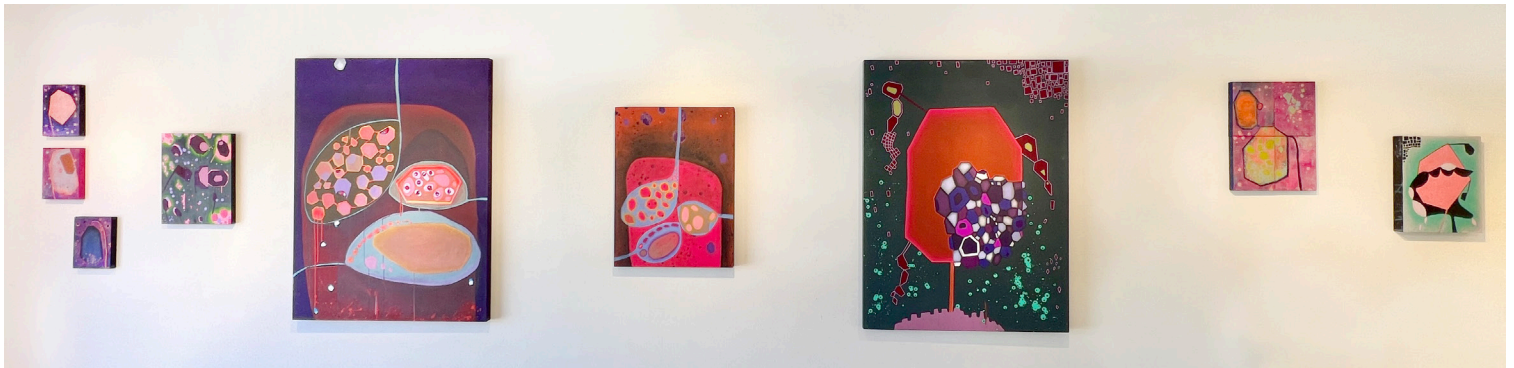
flashe, gouache on paper mounted on wood panel
24" H x 18" W | 2021

Fetish deliciosa scarlet

Flashe, photographs on wood panel
40" H x 30" W | 2022

Bloom diversi violet

flashe, gouache on paper mounted on wood panel
24" H x 18" W | 2021



Strain baccatus

Flashe, photographs on wood panel
40" H x 30" W | 2019 - 2020

Fetish imperialus saffron

Flashe, photographs on wood panel
40" H x 30" W | 2022



Fetish maculatus 1 - 4

Watercolor, flashe on paper mounted on wood panel
8" H x 6" W each | 2022

Fetish augusta 1 - 5

Colored pencil on paper mounted on wood panel
12" H x 9" W each | 2022

Fetish incanas 1 - 4

Colored pencil on paper mounted on wood panel
12" H x 9" W each | 2022

Fetish micro 1-6

Watercolor, flashe on paper mounted on wood panel
8" H x 6" W each | 2021