

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROBERT KUSHNER
baroque

January 8 – February 14, 2015

Opening Reception

Thursday, January 8

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Gallery talk with the Artist

Thursday, January 29, at 6:30 pm



Blue Succulents, 2014. Oil, acrylic, and palladium leaf on canvas, 72 x 72 inches.

DC Moore Gallery is pleased to present *Robert Kushner: baroque*. In this exhibition of new paintings, Kushner fuses plant forms with references to the global history of ornament to extend his exploration of the conceptual and political implications of the decorative. A catalogue with an essay by Faye Hirsch accompanies the exhibition.

The scale of the paintings on canvas situates us in an immersive landscape where flora takes on the presence of sculpture. Kushner achieved the animate quality of individual plants, including quince, phlox, and Queen Ann's lace, by working from life in Waldoboro, Maine. Memories of the Huntington Library Botanical Gardens, near his childhood home in California, inspired the renditions of cacti and aloe. Kushner's inimitable use of color freely ranges across metallics, pastels, and near-neons. The painted plant forms materialize out of what Hirsch describes as "optically complex passages" created by the comingling of marbled, aqueous grounds, dense bands of color, and luminous patches of gold and palladium leaf. Textiles, Japanese screens, and modern painting inform these compositions and the play with space.

In the paintings on paper, Kushner pieces together antique papers and other found fragments to create an all-over field of diverse information on which to paint. *Huntington Library Cactus Garden II* (2014), for example, aggregates text and images from at least seventeen sources in nearly as many languages. Untold scripts, patterns, and messages converge and compete with the mark making of the artist. Kushner distances his practice of collage from the topicality that interested the Cubists: "instead of tying my pieces to one point in time, I want to make them as diffused and confusing as possible. I want the viewer to time travel."

Robert Kushner has exhibited extensively in the United States, Europe, and Japan. Solo exhibitions have taken place at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Brooklyn Museum, and Philadelphia Institute of Contemporary Art. His work is featured in public collections such as The Museum of Modern Art, NY; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Tate Modern, London, UK; and Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy. Publications on Kushner's work include the monograph *Gardens of Earthly Delight* (Hudson Hills Press, 1997) and *Wild Gardens* (Pomegranate, 2006). In 2012, Kushner edited an important volume of art criticism by Amy Goldin (1926-1978) titled *Amy Goldin: Art in a Hairshirt* (Hudson Hills).

UPCOMING EXHIBITION: DUANE MICHALS: Opening February 19, 2015

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DC MOORE GALLERY specializes in contemporary and twentieth-century art. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. For more information, for photographs, or to arrange a viewing, please call 212-247-2111 or email Lily Zhou at lzhou@dcmooregallery.com.