

**PASCAL BRAULT**  
*FIGURA BOTANICA*

**Opening : Thursday June 12, 2025, from 6PM to 9PM with the artist in attendance**  
**Exhibition : From June 13 to 24, 2025**



Pascal Brault  
Giant Dahlia, *Dahlia* var. *Spartacus*, 2018  
Watercolor on Sennelier satin paper  
64 × 49 cm

Portraiture is the exclusive representation of the human figure, a genre through which the profane and the sacred have intertwined for millennia.

At least according to Western art history.

Today, Pascal Brault questions this very idea with precision, virtuosity, and humor. Encouraged by the Virginie Louvet gallery, he gathers and shows for the very first time his portraits of botanical figures, a world which, despite all our scientific knowledge, remains wrapped in mystery. Pascal Brault serves as the mesmerized witness of monstrous, bewitching, and endless enigmas.

The artist, who studied at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, did not take on a mission to “free” plants from the rigorous realm of science. He aspired to translate their very essence: from their birth and metamorphosis to their living pulse, encapsulating the troubling yet thrilling process of plants spreading, wilting, and falling, the way they sway in the wind. In short, their ephemerality.

His models range from a tuber to a dahlia flower, winding roots, veined mulberry leaves, lascivious pistils, and fruit that glow like human skin.

Brault’s expressive, shameless, and unique paintings are inspired by the courtesan portraits of Kaigetsudō Ando, a pioneer of the 18th century Japanese “ukiyo-e” movement, the pictures of the “floating world”. The expression of a time and space when one gives in completely to the contemplation of a maple leaf. As depicted in the novel *Ukiyo monogatari*, it is a celebration of the imperfection and fugacity of things.

In “Portraits botaniques” (or Botanical Portraits), Pascal Brault offers his interpretation of non-human life, looking beyond scientific study, fully embracing an artistic perspective. His talent and that of many renowned French illustrators puts a fresh new spin on the field, reaffirming its position in contemporary art.

Pascal Brault (ageless)

- Botanical and scientific illustrator, winegrower, and arborist
- Designer and collections director at Chanel
- Member of the French Society of Botanical Illustration
- Member of the National Horticultural Society
- Appointed Knight of Arts and Letters

But first and foremost, he is a proud Knight of Agricultural Merit.

Over the past few years, Pascal Brault has dedicated himself to the restoration of an old and abandoned 200-acre farm property in the Cévennes region.

Elisabeth Quin

“Living only for the moment, savoring the moon, the snow, the cherry blossoms, and the maple leave... unconcerned by the prospect of imminent poverty... like a gourd carried along with the current of the river: this is what I mean by *ukiyo*.”

Asai Ryôi (1612-1691)

With this definition of “ukiyo” and the simple juxtaposition of the term “e” –image– the Japanese named a new art form born during the Edo period, which redefined space and representation, the Japanese printing known as “ukiyo-e”.