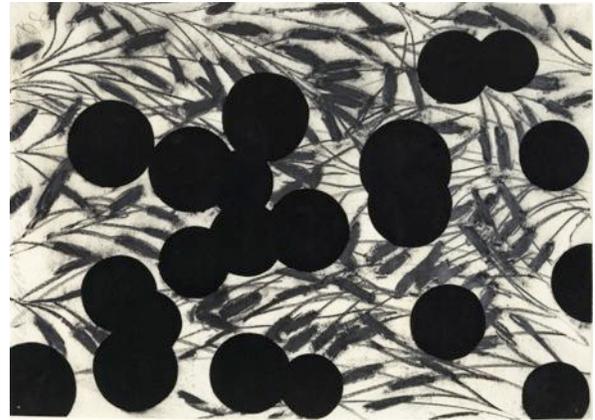


DONALD SULTAN



Rouge Poppies April 25 2012, conté on paper, 22 ½ x 30 ¼ inches



Flocked Oranges on Branches January 22 2002, charcoal and flock on paper
19 ¾ x 25 ½ inches

From June 28 through July 30, The Drawing Room in East Hampton presents a selection of important drawings and a striking new painting by DONALD SULTAN. This rich collection of works on paper, punctuated by a single 2010 *Lantern Flowers* painting, reveals the artist's inventive approach to his quotidian subjects which loom larger than life on paper and become transformative sculptural objects in tar and plaster.

Two early drawings, *Black Roses* 1988 and *Black Lemon* 1989 set the stage for Sultan's dramatic and masterful use of the dry, ancient medium of charcoal in the following decades. Densely wrought in the friable medium, the small, sole lemon is a signature Sultan silhouette, widely known since the Museum of Modern Art's 1988 exhibition, *Black Lemons*. Several drawings selected from his powerful 2000-2002 series, *Oranges on Branches*, conjure memories of walking through an orchard laden with fruit. Sultan's playful and deft balance of compressed charcoal mark making, combined with the velvet flocking of the fruit, dazzle and confound.

Ever inspired by the geometry and sensuality of flowers, Sultan made a large series, *Wallflowers*, in April of 2007 using the French medium of gouache for its opacity of hues worthy of flower petals. In these patterns of free floating wisteria, fritillaria, bluebells, and coreopsis, and many other species, Sultan reduces and repeats the architecture of each blossom in marvelous variations of form and color across the white expanse of the page.

In the 2008 *Mimosa* drawings Sultan abstracts the energy and sensuous forms of hanging blossoms to create rich compositions in conté, charcoal and graphite. By masking the paper with dozens of small circular templates before he drew the cascading mimosa boughs, Sultan articulated popping white spheres that mimic the globular flower heads. In the monumental drawing *Mimosa July 30 2008* his refined graphic intuition re-imagines the visual impact of nature's spectacle.

This exhibition of many of Sultan's iconic subjects also includes a series of playing cards from 1989 and the recent *Rouge Poppies* and *Scarlet Poppies* that offer an intimate appreciation of Sultan's love of drawing. An avid gardener inspired by flowers and fruit, Sultan transforms his subjects in expressive abstractions that infuse them with new life and simultaneously extend the history of the still life tradition. Engaged by the physicality of his techniques, so familiar to him after forty years of exploration, his materials are often the ultimate subjects of his work.

Sultan, who divides his time between Tribeca and Sag Harbor, first settled in New York after receiving his MFA from Chicago's School of the Art Institute. In 2002 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from the New York Academy of Art. Donald Sultan's work is included in many museum collections, among them the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Tate Modern, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Chicago Art Institute, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo.

Hours: Monday – Saturday 10–6; Sunday 11–5

For further information and reproductions, please contact Janet Goleas at 631.324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com.