

KATHRYN  
MARKEL

FINE ARTS  
EST. 1976

KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ARTS PRESENTS *SECRET HARMONIES* AN EXHIBITION OF  
SCULPTURE BY MONICA BANKS

January 8 – February 14, 2026  
Artist Reception: January 15, 6-8pm  
179 10th Avenue Gallery

**NEW YORK, NY –December 11, 2026 – Kathryn Markel Fine Arts** is pleased to announce *Secret Harmonies*, an installation of new porcelain sculptures by Monica Banks. This will be her second solo exhibition with the gallery. An opening reception will be held on January 15th from 6-8pm.

Banks' porcelain botanical sculptures take over The Pocket Gallery in this room-sized installation. Modeling from life, she creates delicate, detailed portraits of flowers in various stages of life. Randomly hung, as if in motion, the artist thinks of them as, "though they had blown in from the garden." They float on the wall as if weightless and their muted glazing adds a soft, almost wispy quality to the solid ceramic forms.

Banks sculpts to scale and will observe one subject multiple times, effectively creating snapshots of its brief lifespan as it buds, blossoms, wilts, and dies. The installation serves as a three dimensional chronograph, where one can trace a bloom's journey from bud to decay.

This process, "is an attempt to portray the logic and imperfections of blossoms." She adds in non botanical elements from her previous tableware series such as forks, spoons, ladders, and buttons to incorporate subconscious associations into this subject matter. A touch of surrealism enters the work in some pieces as petals emerge from stemmed tableware as they swirl amidst the flowers. Banks' inclusion of these also places her work firmly in still life tradition; a wild vanitas of sorts.



Monica Banks is based in East Hampton, NY and has been exhibiting sculpture and creating site-specific installations since 1989. She has exhibited at the New Britain Museum of American Art, CT; The Heckscher Museum of Art, NY; The Carriage House at Islip Art Museum, NY; The Center for Architecture, NYC; The Arkell Museum, NY; The Church Sag Harbor, NY; among others. Her work is held in permanent collections of The Parrish Art Museum, NY; UMCA at the University of Massachusetts, The Islip Art Museum, NY; LongHouse Reserve, NY; The Leiber Collection, NY; Peter Marino Art Foundation, NY; The Masur Museum of Art, LA; and the Catherine Konner Sculpture Park, NY. She won an award from the NYC Public Design Commission for "Faces: Times Square," a block-long sculpture which stood in Times Square from 1996-2009. Banks has created permanent public works in the Bronx, NY; Binghamton, NY; and Charlotte, NC.

KATHRYN  
MARKEL  
—  
FINE ARTS  
EST. 1976

**IMAGE CAPTION**

Monica Banks, *Hydrangea 3*, 2025, glazed english porcelain, 13 x 7 x 5 in.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Shannon O'Deens

[shannon@markelfinearts.com](mailto:shannon@markelfinearts.com)

**ABOUT KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ARTS**

The gallery was established in 1976 with the belief that significant contemporary art can be beautiful as well as visually and intellectually rigorous. To that end, the gallery exhibits a diverse group of artists unified by excellence in their craft, compelling intellectual framework, and a love of the art-making process. <https://www.markelfinearts.com/>

**20th Street**

529 W 20th St. 6W  
New York, NY 10011

**10th Avenue**

179 10th Avenue  
New York, NY  
10011