



# SMITHSON PROJECTS

## MEKIA MACHINE

*Elegy in Florals: Stitched in Time*

COLLECTORS' PREVIEW CATALOGUE | SEPTEMBER 2023

*'Elegy in Florals:  
Stitched in Time' is a  
visual journey through  
intertwined memories,  
a testament to the  
enduring power of love,  
the fragility of life, and  
the eternal renewal of  
nature.*

– Mekia Machine



***Elegy in Florals: Stitched in Time (2023)*** is a new collection of mixed media paintings from Mekia Machine that encapsulates her current relationship with studio practice.

Consciously carving out room for play and experimentation, embracing the materials she has at hand, and allowing them to guide her, Mekia has found herself revisiting her love for making alongside her painting practice. Through the acts of gathering, sewing, sketching, and crafting she is reminded of her late Jamaican grandmother whose skilled hands once guided her own needle and thread. Mekia weaves these textured memories into her paintings, sewing flowers cut from her grandmother's sheets onto the canvas, attaching ribbons, plastic, and letting threads hang loose.

The figurative paintings that have emerged from these material experiments have an almost patchwork like quality to them; a stitching together of time, memory, and experience that capture a certain fragile beauty. A clock ticks, bodies unravel, and flowers spring forth from the seams.

These paintings are accompanied by a small selection of other studio sketches and experiments, and a reflection from Mekia on her grandmother and the eternal renewal of nature.





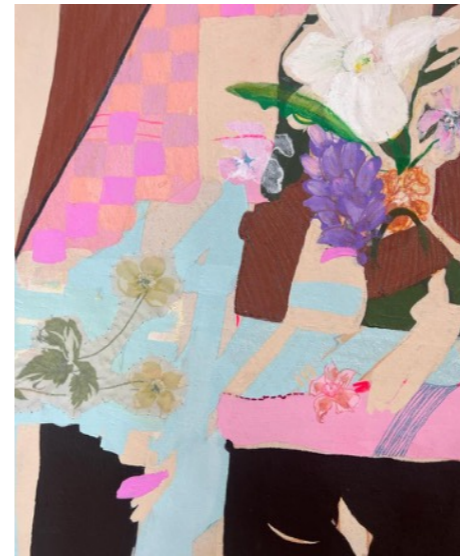
*“In February 2023, I embarked on a creative odyssey without a clear destination, armed only with a palette of pale pinks and blues reminiscent of the Jamaican homes that lingered in my memories. As I painted, my mind wandered back to Jamaica, to my grandmother, and to her enchanting garden, where the scent of giant roses beckoned even before one stepped through the gates.*

*In 2010, my grandmother passed away, leaving behind a legacy of love and a trove of memories. I remembered the sheets from her bed, where I lay trying to memorise the names of the flowers that adorned them. Those early attempts at sketching those blossoms still influence my doodles today. The act of sewing, guided by her skilled hands, was my gateway into her world, as I created miniature garments for my dolls during our precious moments together.*



*My grandmother was a formidable presence, strict but with a heart brimming with love. As time passed, her body began to change, to crumble under the weight of illness. Diabetes claimed a toe, then her left foot, and she withered before my eyes. It was a poignant reminder of the fragility of life, the inevitable decay of the physical form.*

*(Cont.)*



*But in contemplating what happens to the body in death, I found solace in a profound and beautiful truth. The body, returned to the earth, becomes the nourishment for nature's rebirth. From that metamorphosis, flowers emerge, vibrant and resilient, echoing the cycle of life itself. In a sense, I too am the flowers, born from the body that once nurtured me.*

*'Elegy in Florals: Stitched in Time' is a visual journey through these intertwined memories, a testament to the enduring power of love, the fragility of life, and the eternal renewal of nature. It is my humble attempt to capture the essence of a beloved grandmother, her garden, and the profound connection between memory, sewing, and the ever-renewing cycle of life."*

— Mekia Machine

# WORKS ON CANVAS

*Elegy in Florals: Stitched in Time*

## Wild Geranium and Poppy



Acrylic, acrylic gouache, flashe, pen on  
canvas, collage fabric, plastic, threads  
27 x 33 in. | 68.6 x 83.8 cm artwork size

\$4,550 | £3,675 unframed

\$4,930 | £3,975 tray framed

*Available to enjoy now,  
Pay over 10 months with Art Money\**

## Lady Slipper and Buttercup



Acrylic, acrylic gouache, flashe, pen on  
canvas, collage fabric, plastic, threads  
27 x 33 in. | 68.6 x 83.8 cm artwork size

\$4,550 | £3,675 unframed

\$4,930 | £3,975 tray framed

*Available to enjoy now,  
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## Rose Gentian Beneath The Sun



Acrylic, acrylic gouache, flashe, pen on  
canvas, collage fabric, linen,  
plastic, threads  
48 x 48 in. | 121.9 x 121.9 cm artwork size  
\$8,000 | £6,500 unframed  
\$8,625 / £6,950 tray framed

*Available to enjoy now,  
Pay over 10 months with Art Money\**

## Works on Canvas | Framing Notes

We often present works on canvas framed in a handmade wooden tray frame (without glass). We use an Obeche wood which is stained by hand and individually chosen to suit the artwork.

This is available in black ink stain, hand-painted white, dark brown or lime wash. We are happy to send you photos of the framing mouldings against the artwork prior to the artwork being processed with the framers.



WORKS ON PAPER  
*Elegy in Florals: Stitched in Time*

## It's Springtime Somewhere



Acrylic on 300gsm paper  
14 x 10 in. | 35.6 x 25.4 cm artwork size  
\$735 | £595 unframed  
\$1,035 | £835 framed with Anti-Reflective  
70% UV protection glass

## Hiding Poppy Seeking Lily



Acrylic on 300gsm paper  
10 x 8 in. | 25.4 x 20.3 cm artwork size  
\$615 | £495 unframed  
\$805 | £650 framed with Anti-Reflective  
70% UV protection glass

## Aster's Sunlit Cornflower Dreams



Acrylic on 300gsm paper  
10 x 8 in. | 25.4 x 20.3 cm artwork size  
\$615 | £495 unframed  
\$805 | £650 framed with Anti-Reflective  
70% UV protection glass

## Mariposa Lilies in a Pale Teal Sky



Acrylic on 300gsm paper  
10 x 8 in. | 25.4 x 20.3 cm artwork size  
\$615 | £495 unframed  
\$805 | £650 framed with Anti-Reflective  
70% UV protection glass

## Rosebuds Among Tulips



Acrylic on 300gsm paper

6 x 8 in. | 15.2 x 20.3 cm artwork size

\$485 | £395 unframed

\$660 | £535 framed with Anti-Reflective

70% UV protection glass



## Roses, Gentian, Hibiscus, and Violet



Acrylic on 300gsm paper

6 x 8 in. | 15.2 x 20.3 cm artwork size

\$485 | £395 unframed

\$660 | £535 framed with Anti-Reflective

70% UV protection glass

## Lilies on the Green



Acrylic on 300gsm paper  
6 x 8 in. | 15.2 x 20.3 cm artwork size  
\$485 | £395 unframed  
\$660 | £535 framed with Anti-Reflective  
70% UV protection glass

## Moses in the Cradle



Acrylic on 300gsm paper  
6 x 8 in. | 15.2 x 20.3 cm artwork size  
\$485 | £395 unframed  
\$660 | £535 framed with Anti-Reflective  
70% UV protection glass

## Works on Paper | Framing Notes

Works on paper are presented float mounted into a bespoke hand-stained tulipwood frame. This is available in black ink stain, hand-painted white, dark brown or lime wash. We are very happy to send photos of your chosen painting against each moulding to determine which finish works best.

All works are presented with specialist glass as standard, which features anti-reflective and 70% UV protective properties to ensure the depth of colour and archival qualities are maintained. Higher grades of UV protection are available upon request (92% or 99% – museum grade).



# SALES ENQUIRIES

\*Please contact us if you would like to discuss payment with Art Money

*Please note our new contact details:*

**Anna Smithson**

Curator

[anna@smithsonprojects.com](mailto:anna@smithsonprojects.com)

**Louise Feakes**

Assistant Curator

[louise@smithsonprojects.com](mailto:louise@smithsonprojects.com)

+44 (0) 20 3633 1997 | [smithsonprojects.com](http://smithsonprojects.com) | [@smithsonprojects](https://www.instagram.com/smithsonprojects)