



THE SECRET LIVES OF PLANTS

SUNDAY 12TH MAY TO SUNDAY 7TH JULY 2024

Opening Sunday 12th May 2024 the Gallery of **Everything** presents *The Secret Lives of Plants*, a compendium of imagined flora and fauna featuring the otherworldly botany of **Anna Zemánková** (1908 - 1986), the envisioned ceramics of **Eugene von Bruenchenhein** (1910 - 1983), the channelled foliage of **Madge Gill** (1882 - 1961) and others.

The project derives its title from Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird's 1973 publication, *The Secret Life of Plants*. Presented as *A Fascinating Account of the Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Relations Between Plants and Man*, the book describes notions of plant sentience which at the time were both celebrated and dismissed.

The Secret Lives of Plants invites viewers to experience another organic state, borne from the communion between soil and sky.

Artist Biographies

The post-spiritualist practice of **Anna Zemánková** (1908 – 1986) remains as private and profound as when it first emerged half a century ago. Over 30 years, the self-taught Czech artist evolved her voluminous abstracted pastels into a delicate threaded vegetation drawn from the regional histories of folkloric making.

In mid 20th century America, the multidisciplinary hobbyist **Eugene von Bruenchenhein** (1910 – 1983) embarked on a lifetime of visionary image and object making. Co-authored with partner Marie, **von Bruenchenhein's** ever-evolving opus included geometric illustration, organic sculpture, scientific prose, finger painting and vernacular photography.

Almost forgotten by history, the now legendary **Madge Gill** (1882 – 1961) was a British medium and healer whose spirit guide - Myrnerest – authored the pale faces, swirling patterns and cryptic dialogue of a vast and enigmatic channel. Gill's prolific mission included postcards, portraits and vast panoramic calicoes of figurations, inscriptions and contra-symmetries.

Born into a farming community and unschooled in art, **Anna Hackel** (1864 – c 1920) was in her 50s when she started to illustrate her mystical floral visions. The drawings, intended for healing purposes, were distributed across Europe and led to considerable acclaim within spiritualist circles.

An Ostravian designer and machinist, the precisely-dated drawing of **Josef Kotzian** (1889 – 1960) formed a monochromatic compendium of an other-worldly botany. The artist adopted the penname Solferino and went on to become a figurehead for spiritualist art of the region and a lasting influence on subsequent artmakers.

For information, please contact the gallery on ge@gallevery.com or at 020 7486 8908.