

The Museum of Modern Art

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HELEN CHADWICK: *BAD BLOOMS*

April 13 - July 11, 1995

The first exhibition in the United States of the most recent photographic series by British artist Helen Chadwick (b. 1953) opens at The Museum of Modern Art on April 13, 1995. Organized by Peter Galassi, Chief Curator, Department of Photography, **HELEN CHADWICK: *BAD BLOOMS*** presents thirteen large, round-format color photographs of flowers, made from 1992 to 1994. The exhibition, which remains on view through July 11, is made possible in part by grants from Peter and Eileen Norton/Peter Norton Family Foundation and The British Council.

Encircled by steel frames enameled in a range of colors, Chadwick's lush photographs describe carefully arranged, symmetrical designs of flowers in viscous liquids -- for example, dandelions in hair gel, narcissi in bath bubbles, bluebells in oil and milk, orchids in window cleaner, and tulips and a plum in engine oil. As in all of Chadwick's work, the ***BAD BLOOMS*** series fuses opposites: natural and artificial, vulgar and beautiful, seductive and repulsive.

Over the past two decades many artists have concocted their photographic subjects in the studio rather than searching for them in the world at large. Chadwick is an innovator among those who have pursued this strategy, and both her choice of subjects and the ways she has deployed them are distinctive.

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