

# I HIT YOU WITH A FLOWER- SUGAR-COATED ART WITH A PUNCH

from 22nd of May to 27th of July 2025

With works by Afra Eisma, Ninon Enea, Jurjen Galema, Vera Gullikers, Alan Hernández, Kinke Kooi, Ash Love, Béatrice Lussol, Alex Naber & ChelseaBoy, Richard Otparlic, Lucas Tortolano

Curator: Nanda Janssen



Kinke Kooi  
*Visit*, 2019,  
Coloured pencil and  
acrylic on paper  
102 x 120 cm  
Courtesy of the artist

The MABA's new exhibition *I Hit You With A Flower - Sugar-Coated Art With A Punch*, curated by Nanda Janssen, brings together a group of French and Dutch artists in an exhibition with a sweet, sugary note. While the works may seem frivolous, they are as attractive as they are relevant...

**Exhibition from 22nd of May to 27th of July 2025**

**Wednesday 21st of May**

Opening from 6pm to 9.30pm (shuttle bus from Paris, Place de la Nation at 6pm)

Open to the public every weekday from 1pm to 6pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 12pm to 6pm

Closed on Tuesdays and public holidays

Free admission

**Getting here**

RER A: Nogent-sur-Marne then bus 114 or 210, Sous-Préfecture stop  
RER E: Nogent-Le Perreux then direction Tribunal d'instance  
Metro line 1: Château de then bus 114 or 210, Sous-Préfecture stop

**Events linked to the exhibition:**

**Guided tours followed by a coffee**

Monday 26th of May at 2.30pm  
Sunday 22nd of June at 11am  
Monday 7th of July at 2.30pm

**Short tour**

Wednesday 4th of June at 3pm

**Story(ies)... of flowers**

Sunday 29th June from 2pm to 5pm

*The MABA is an establishment of the Fondation des Artistes.*

This merry band of artists isn't afraid to use pink, bright and pastel colours, gold, glitter, sparkles, flowers, hearts and much more... Their catchwords? Pretty and bounteous.

Exuberant images with a sprinkling of provocation slip nonchalantly from the hands of these artists, addressing in a refined way subjects such as feminism, gender, (homo)sexuality, intimacy, eroticism, racism and fully accepting one's body - "body positivism", in such a deliciously exquisite manner that it's barely noticeable.

These appetising images are like bait on a hook. A subtle seduction strategy to tempt the viewer towards a deeper social critique. The sensitive subjects become irresistibly amusing. Forthright activism gives way to a velvety approach.

This artistic style, often described as "girly", has often been seen as futile.

This is a complete faux pas that the exhibition sets out to correct. Especially as this genre is not just a women's issue, but also that of men and the queer community.

Ultimately, these works aim to break away from the norm, the source of so many problems. *I Hit You With A Flower - Sugar-Coated Art With A Punch* is intended as a love filter, encouraging visitors to open their minds.

**Artists presented**

Afra Eisma, 1993, lives in Amsterdam, NL  
Ninon Enea, 1999, lives in Montreuil, FR  
Jurjen Galema, 1992, lives in Groningen, NL  
Vera Gullikers, 1991, lives in Maastricht, NL  
Alan Hernández, 1992, lives in Mexico, MX  
Kinke Kooi, 1961, lives in Arnhem, NL  
Ash Love, 1996, lives in Marseille, FR  
Béatrice Lussol, 1970, lives in Malakoff, FR  
Alex Naber, 1984, lives in Almere & ChelseaBoy, 1993, lives in Amsterdam, NL  
Richard Otparlic, 1993, lives in Issy-les-Moulineaux, FR  
Lucas Tortolano, 1995, lives in Paris, FR

**\*Stedelijk Museum Schiedam**

The exhibition *I Hit You With A Flower - Sugar-Coated Art With A Punch* is part of a two-part project between two institutions, the Stedelijk Museum Schiedam in the Netherlands and the MABA in France. Presented in the Netherlands from the 23rd of November 2024 to the 4th of May 2025, the first part brings together artists from the Dutch and French art scenes working on queer issues.

At MABA, from the 22th of May to the 27th of July 2025, a reworked and narrowed down selection of artists takes on a new dimension in a more intimate space, encouraging a closer connection with and a fresh look at the issues explored. The second part of the exhibition allows us to reflect in greater depth on the visual and critical impact of these "sweet" but militant aesthetics.



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**Visuals available on request**

Created by the French state and recognised as being for the public benefit in 1976, the **Fondation des Artistes** is driven by a unique philanthropic, cultural and social vision. It supports visual artists throughout their professional life, from their graduation from art school to the end of their career. Present at strategic moments in an artist's life, the **Fondation des Artistes** supports art schools, awards grants to support the production of works, ensures the circulation and diffusion of creative work in a contemporary art centre – the **MABA** in Nogent-sur-Marne, supports the French art scene internationally, and provides artists with studios and housing, as well as a retirement home for aging artists, the **Maison nationale des artistes**.

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