

May 3, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GRAND GARDENS in GRISAILLE, a show of flower art focusing on peonies

June 1-28, 2006

elise mankes studio, Marblehead, MA

Opening Reception, Saturday June 3, 6-9pm

To coincide with June, the Month of the Peony, elise mankes studio presents a show of peony, garden drawings and prints by Jesa Damora. This gorgeous and sensual art show of monochromatic images on mylar will incorporate events by garden designers (see the [MassHort](#) and [Tower Hill](#) calendars for details).

Events at the gallery include: "Peonies: Ostentation in the Garden" a presentation by Reed Pugh, MCH of Parterre Garden Services on Saturday, June 10. He will lecture at 11AM and again at 3 PM, and be available from 10 AM - 4PM to answer questions and to raffle the demonstration plants, including rare peonies, and sell the rest at bargain prices.

On Sunday, June 11, Donald Smith, internationally known peony hybridizer will lecture at 11AM and again at 2PM, providing much-awaited information on the incredible new peonies that he and others have developed and are finally becoming available.

On both Saturday and Sunday, Jesa Damora will talk about her plein air approach to making drawings and working on mylar. Talks will be at 1PM both days.

This will be an opportunity for attendees of the Mass. Hort. Garden Tours (Tours are Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11) and friends to stop by and learn about exquisite cultivars, purchase them, and see some of them represented in the show. The artist's work, including small prints will also be for sale. This is also the weekend of Marblehead Open Studios, of which the gallery is both a sponsor and participant.

Jesa Damora makes drawings and limited edition prints of flowers and intimate garden spaces on mylar and fine archival papers. Vital, classical, luminous, immensely detailed and done entirely from life, these drawings are about the wildness in both nature and ourselves that we think we have tamed. She also makes drawings by commission for owners of exceptional private gardens. This Boston-area artist shows both locally and in NYC and is in collections from California to Israel. Her work may be seen at www.jesadamora.com

Parterre Garden Services is a horticultural and landscape management company that is part of Gregory Lombardi Design, a residential landscape architecture firm in Cambridge, MA. Parterre offers the highest quality garden services and stewardship by certified horticulturists to owners of exceptional gardens throughout the greater Boston area, from rolling country estates to small, jewel-like city plots. More may be seen at www.parterregarden.com

Donald Smith is on the Board of The American Peony Society, and one of the top researchers and developers in the world in the area of intersectional hybridizing, the crossing of "garden" or herbaceous peonies with tree peonies. These are truly the queens of the garden, and until recently in very limited supply. For more information go to www.intersectionalpeonies.com.

elise mankes studio is a combined gallery and visual learning center nestled in the waterfront of Marblehead's Old Town. Shows include local, national and international artists in a wide range of disciplines. The gallery focuses on thought provoking, innovative contemporary art. The gallery is located at Eleven Selman Street RR, Marblehead, MA 01945. (The gallery is off the street in a cul-de-sac between Selman and Circle Streets, so please call for directions).

Telephone: 781.439.1540

Hours: Friday and Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 12-5pm, or by chance or appointment

More information on the gallery can be seen at www.elisemankes.com