

# TOWN&COUNTRY

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Artist Marcin Rusak Turns Flowers into Art For His U.S. Debut  
Call it a bloom in the art market.

By Adam Rathe



EMLI BENDIXEN

Marcin Rusak can't choose a favorite kind of flower. Even though the Polish-born, London-based artist works extensively with blossoms—his work, much of which includes dead flowers suspended in resin, will have its U.S. debut in the exhibition *Flora Noir* at New York City's Twenty First Gallery beginning May 12—he says to him, the plants are just another artistic material.

“Every week at my studio, we get a delivery of flowers, and we process them, dry them and work with them,” he says. “When you're exposed to them constantly, you treat them differently.”



A LAMP BY MARCIN RUSAK.  
COURTESY

Still, it would be fair to say that Rusak's exposure is a bit different than most people's. He's the son and grandson of flower growers, which brings an additional layer of history to the artworks he makes, which often uses flowers and resin (or beeswax) to replicate everyday items from lamps to tables and, yes, vases.

"I have about 100 years of history in flower growing," Rusak says. "When I was born, my grandfather had just shut down his business. We had a big industrial space with gardens and greenhouses, but it was closed up so I wasn't really raised growing flowers. There wasn't much conversation about flowers either; that was history. Then when I was studying and had to work on a project with an object that was important to me, I chose a Dutch cabinet that was carved with florals and started investigating it. From there, I started researching the flower industry and that's when I reconnected with my history and started embracing it."



A CABINET BY MARCIN RUSAK.  
COURTESY

His work has been embraced outside his family as well. After Rusak earned a master's degree in design products from London's Royal College of Arts, he won the prestigious Perrier-Jouët Arts Salon Prize for emerging artists and has displayed his work at the Victoria & Albert Museum and at fairs and galleries around the world.

The 11 works he's showing in New York are meant not only to introduce his work to an American audience, but also to expand ideas about what the materials he uses can do. "I want people to be surprised," he says. "Sometimes people come and know what they're looking for, but it's always a unique experience to see these pieces in person. I think people are always surprised by how much more they can see when they look closely."



A LAMP BY MARCIN RUSAK.  
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