

Vase of Flowers I



Purple Datura



Vase of Flowers I, 1999 (printed 2011)

Purple Datura, 2015

Garden Variety

Photographer **Amy Lamb (b. 1944)** produces exquisite, large-scale “portraits” of plants, often ones she has grown herself. Lamb’s artwork marries her scientific eye and artistic passion to explore how form and function relate.

Take a closer look

Lamb’s skillful handling of light and shadow draws our attention to the intricacies of nature—the variegated color of a leaf, the ruffled edges of a petal, and the reflective qualities of a dew drop.

Something to talk about

Before she turned to photography, Lamb was a cellular biologist. She extends a tradition of women artist-scientists, which includes Maria Sibylla Merian (1647–1717), also in the museum’s collection. What qualities of a scientist might serve an artist well?

In her own words

“What is it that is unique about this tulip, this dahlia, this fern, or this rose? I often print my images very large to allow the viewer to delve into the visual ‘soul’ of the flower.”

Amy Lamb, *Vase of Flowers I*, 1999 (printed 2011); Pigment print; 30 x 30 inches (image), 35 x 35 inches (paper); National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist and Steven Scott Gallery, Baltimore, MD, in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; © 1999 Amy Lamb, all rights reserved; Photo courtesy of the artist

Amy Lamb, *Purple Datura*, 2015; Digital pigment print of photograph; 42 x 41 inches (framed); National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist and Steven Scott Gallery, Baltimore, MD; © 2015 Amy Lamb, all rights reserved; Photo courtesy of the artist

