

Roses, Convolvulus, Poppies, and Other Flowers in an  
Urn on a Stone Ledge



## Flower Power

Dutch artist Rachel Ruysch was a court painter, wife, and mother of ten who remained artistically active into her 80s. Her vibrant floral pieces made her one of the most celebrated female artists of her day.



## Roses, Convolvulus, Poppies, and Other Flowers in an Urn on a Stone Ledge, ca. late 1680s

### Take a closer look

Paintings by **Rachel Ruysch (1664–1750)** reward close inspection. She renders blooms and foliage with precise details and naturalistic textures. Typically her floral arrangements are also astir with butterflies, beetles, and other insects.

### Something to talk about

Ruysch's still lifes are anything but motionless. How has her use of color, composition, and lighting added visual energy and drama to this work?

### Who knew?

Ruysch grew up amid one of Europe's great Curiosity Cabinets. Assembled by her scientist father, it contained preserved anatomical specimens, exotic birds, butterflies, and plants. Her exposure to such items may have encouraged the scientific accuracy with which she rendered individual flowers.

*Rachel Ruysch, Roses, Convolvulus, Poppies, and Other Flowers in an Urn on a Stone Ledge, ca. late 1680s; Oil on canvas; 42½ x 33 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth*

