

Rachel Ruysch

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 10 who remained artistically active into her 80s. Her vibrant floral pieces made her one of the most celebrated 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 ants, 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, insects, and plants. Exposure to such items may have encouraged the 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

