

Emily Stedman
Remembered Gardens
2025



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Like rippling water in a shiny river, my watercolors spill and splash from paintbrush to stories on paper. I paint quickly, directly, and with the spontaneity that watercolor embraces. Each painting grows from the giddy mix of fantasy, realism, and a conviction that here is a person or place that strikes a universal note. Here is a situation, a gesture, a flower, a mood that will resonate across all barriers.

I have no particular mechanical process or theory that underlies the finished images. What I have is constant curiosity and a lifelong need to filter the chaos and jumble of life through the lens of color, design and drawing. My sketchbooks are filled with sources for later exploration as I capture whatever floats past, snagging my imagination. Nothing is out of bounds. With my sketchbook and my eyes always open, scanning, seeking, weighing, and sifting, I travel wherever the work takes me. However, a wider story will always be the guide. That story might be in a momentary gesture of a nude, or in paths radiating out from an ancient village, or in the transient nature of an anticipating blossom. The story can also be about something never really experienced, only dreamed of.

In my wildflower series I explore feelings of impermanence and fragility. In their short time of bursting exuberance, the flowers symbolize how delicate and fragile life is. Their magnificent beauty is on display for a moment but doesn't last. It leaves us remembering, wondering, and longing for their return in a future season—the cycle of life.

Born in New York City, Emily Stedman spent part of her childhood in France, an experience that shaped her artistic vision. She is represented at NOHO/M55 Gallery in New York City, where she exhibits her evocative oil and watercolor paintings. Her work, often exploring imagined narratives and the vibrancy of nature, has been featured in solo and group exhibitions at venues such as The Brooklyn Museum, The Rotunda Gallery, and Historic Northampton Museum. Stedman has been a Painter-in-Residence at Bryant Park and Su Casa, created a public mural for the City of Yonkers, and was a recipient of a Creative Artists' Corps grant. Her large-scale watercolor flower paintings celebrate the fluidity and vitality of the medium, embodying the spirit of renewal and growth.

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Biophia—Little Buddha
Watercolor on 140 lb Arches paper
40 in x 26 in

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Black Iris
Watercolor on 140 lb Arches paper
40 in x 26 in

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Pistils And Bloomers
Watercolor on Arches 140 lb paper
40 in x 26 in

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Beach Rose and Lunaria
Watercolor on 300 lb Arches paper
30 in x 42 in

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Bees and Caterpillars
Watercolor on 140 lb Arches paper
40 in x 26 in

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Field Flowers
Watercolor on Arches 140 lb paper
26 in x 40 in

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Field Flowers II
Watercolor on 140 lb Arches paper
26 in x 40 in

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Pansies and Beach Rose
Watercolor on 300 lb Arches paper
20 in x 42 in

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Endless Summers
Watercolor on 140 lb Arches paper
26 in x 40 in

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Boats Through Hibiscus
Watercolor on 300 lb Arches paper
30 in x 42 in

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Dancers In A Garden
Watercolor on 140 lb Arches paper
26 in x 40 in