

# Jess T. Dugan: I'm right here with you

These botanical drawings were created by Jess T. Dugan over the last year as part of the artist's daily meditative practice. They are part of a series titled *I'm right here with you*, that marks Dugan's first foray into drawing. Primarily known as a photographer, Dugan considers this new body of work to be an extension of their ongoing interest in the ephemerality of life. Depicted are amaryllis and tulips reaching dramatically towards light, peonies on the cusp of blossoming, and branches from a sweet gum tree in Dugan's backyard. The subtle beauty of the blooms and leaves is heightened by Dugan's crisp, controlled pencil lines and selective use of dark accents. By focusing on shape and texture rather than color or shadow, the artist distills each plant to its essentials.

Dugan states, "The process of carefully observing flowers and their life cycle allows me to reflect on things that are difficult to comprehend when thought about directly: time, impermanence, mortality, and love."

Dugan's practice includes photography, writing, video, sound, drawing, and installation. Through these mediums, they explore the complexities of personhood, relationships, desire, love, and family. Their work is informed by their own life experiences, including their identity as a queer and nonbinary person, and reflects a deep belief in the importance of representation and the transformative power of storytelling.

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*Jess T. Dugan: I'm right here with you* is organized by Tamara H. Schenkenberg, Curator, and Stephanie Weissberg, Senior Curator, Pulitzer Arts Foundation.

All artworks are by Jess T. Dugan and are courtesy of the artist.



Scan for the digital exhibition guide on the free Bloomberg Connects app.

201. *Lilies, November 2, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
202. *Lavender, November 21, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
203. *Tulips, December 4, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
204. *Peonies, December 23, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
205. *Tulips, January 4, 2025*  
Pencil on paper
206. *Tulips, January 5, 2025*  
Pencil on paper
207. *Irises, January 6, 2025*  
Pencil on paper
208. *Tulips, January 15, 2025*  
Pencil on paper
209. *Tulips, January 30, 2025*  
Pencil on paper
210. *Hoya Heart Plant, February 2, 2025*  
Pencil on paper
211. *Drawing #14 (Sweet Gum),  
December 22, 2023*  
Pencil on paper
212. *Drawing #53 (Amaryllis, Second Shoot),  
February 3, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
213. *Drawing #60 (Amaryllis, Second Shoot),  
February 3, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
214. *Drawing #81 (Tulips), March 8, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
215. *Drawing #95 (Calla Lilies), March 17, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
216. *Drawing #111 (Lilies), April 8, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
217. *Drawing #114 (Tulips), April 12, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
218. *Drawing #123 (Sunflowers), April 19, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
219. *Drawing #128 (Grasses), April 28, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
220. *Drawing #139 (Peonies), May 9, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
221. *Drawing #177 (Peonies), July 5, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
222. *Drawing #199 (Cone Flowers),  
August 17, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
223. *Drawing #257 (Tulips), October 30, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
224. *Drawing #263 (Lilies), November 5, 2024*  
Pencil on paper
225. *Drawing #275 (Tulips), December 2, 2024*  
Pencil on paper