

## Seven Favorite Vermont Art Shows of 2018

### ‘Hyper Flora,’ JoAnne Carson



“Field Days” by JoAnne Carson

If Hallmark greeting cards are any indication, humans enjoy thinking of flowers as perfect and pure offerings from nature, signifying love, beauty and sometimes ephemerality. This vibrant exhibition at Anni Mackay’s consistently excellent gallery space, however, took another tack. Carson, a painter and sculptor based in Shoreham

and Brooklyn, presents the plant world as anthropomorphized, in your face and teeming with aggressive energy.

Hybridity and interstitiality are of key interest to Carson, who often gives her botanical subjects legs and renders them in a style grounded in the traditions of both bucolic landscape and kaleidoscopic digital collage. Mutants in form and function, her flowers and floral scenes are right at home amid the present-day realities of genetic engineering and climate change. The show was a perfectly anxious reflection of modern environmental transitions.

Rachel Elizabeth Jones

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