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THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN ART IN 2020

by Roberta Smith



View of “(Nothing but) Flowers” at Karma gallery. From left, Marley Freeman’s “Untitled,” 2020; two 2016 watercolors by Stephanie Crawford: “Flowers on Tablecloth,” top, and “Still Life with Lemons,” below; Andrew Cranston’s “The Gloaming,” 2020; Lois Dodd’s “Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium),” 1995; five paintings by Tabboo! (2014 to 2018); far right, James Harrison’s “Walk in Wild Flowers,” 2020.

7. ‘(Nothing but) Flowers’ at Karma

It was just a gallery group show, but its size, inclusiveness, theme and timing made it special. It was the first show that I and probably others saw after four or five months of sheltering in place. Between the absence of the art galleries and my absence from the city, I had come to feel rather feral, unfamiliar to myself. The vibrancy of this late-summer show snapped me back. It was a breath of fresh air, a sign of real life emphasized by the floral motifs. The more than 60 artists were an intergenerational, stylistically diverse group, but they all confirmed, as with one voice, the persistence of art and the instincts to make it.