

Kate Friend  
As Chosen By...  
Part II

15 November - 22 December, 2023  
Lyndsey Ingram Gallery, 20 Bourdon Street, London W1K 3PJ

'There is no end to the associations of these plants, their deep entanglement with human lives. Shot like this, with nothing but a clean backdrop of coloured paper to distract the eye, the intricacy of their forms is almost overwhelming.'

—Olivia Laing, from an essay in *Kate Friend As Chosen By*, Ridinghouse (2023)

'As Chosen By is unique as both botany and biography. And that double existence taps into another strength of flowers: what they symbolise for us. Each flower here is a flower, but it is also a "figure" for something unseen.'

—Christopher Woodward, from an essay in *Kate Friend As Chosen By* (2023)



Kate Friend, *Sue Stuart-Smith, Tulipa 'Helmar', Hertfordshire, 2022*  
C-type colour print  
Signed and numbered verso  
Edition of 5 with 2 APs: 80 x 65 cm (31 1/2 x 25 1/2 in)  
Edition of 3 with 1 AP: 153 x 122 cm (60 1/4 x 48 in)

Lyndsey Ingram is pleased to present our upcoming exhibition, *As Chosen By ... Part II*. This is Kate Friend's second solo show at the gallery and is the final installment of this series of work.

In these portraits, her 'sitters' are flowers or plants, each one selected by a recognisable public figure or creative who is then recast through a plant of their choosing. These 'sitters' are chosen by the artist. Friend's approach to making this series is rigorous: a single flower (in bloom on the day of the shoot) and vessel, chosen by the sitter, is shot in natural light at their home, studio or garden on medium format film. Each photograph is as much a portrait of a place and time as it is a portrait of a person and a flower. The coloured backdrop for each image is selected by Friend, with her choice driven both by the aesthetic of the chosen flower and by a deeper intuitive sense of her sitter's character. Although her methodology is concise and consistent, the artist's resulting variety of images is testament to the array of unique personalities included in the project.

The show presents 22 new works (bringing the total number of works in this series to 41) in a standard size edition of five (plus two artist proofs) and a large size edition of three (plus one artist proof). The show will also include a selection of items, specially commissioned by Kate, that relate to the making of her works. This includes handmade white porcelain vases by Karen Downing (Norfolk, UK) artisan free-blown glass vases by Yoko Yamano (Stockholm, Sweden) and black-forged carbon steel scissors by Ikenami Hamano (Tanegashima Island, Japan).



Kate Friend, *Yinka Ilori, Daisy, North London, 2022*  
C-type colour print  
Signed and numbered verso  
Edition of 5 with 2 APs: 80 x 65 cm (31 1/2 x 25 1/2 in)  
Edition of 3 with 1 AP: 153 x 122 cm (60 1/4 x 48 in)

*Portraits, As Chosen By ...* is a new publication presenting all 41 works from Kate Friend's photographic series of the same title, published in September 2023 by Ridinghouse, with essays by Christopher Woodward and Olivia Laing, available at the gallery.

Sitters include: Anjelica Huston, Sir Paul Smith, Kulapat Yantrasast, Piet Oudolf, Luciano Giubbilei, Ai Weiwei, Claudia Schiffer, Tom Stuart-Smith, Yinka Ilori, Simone Rocha, Tania Compton, Georgie Hopton, Olivia Laing, Sue Stuart-Smith, Jamie Compton, Fernando Caruncho, Amanda Feilding, Ron Finley, Maggi Hambling, Polly Nicholson, Olivia Harrison, Dan Pearson, Penny Rimbaud, Margot Henderson, Duncan Grant, Cosey Fanni Tutti, Bethan Wood, Isabella Tree, Juergen Teller, Charlie McCormick, Molly Goddard, Jeremy Lee, Margaret Howell, Alys Fowler, John Pawson, Amanda Harlech.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Kate Friend was born in the UK. From an early age, her desire to explore set in motion a decade of extreme solo travel – first leaving England for Mongolia at 18 and then on to Beijing, where she lived and studied Chinese. She continued to live and work throughout Asia, with several peripatetic years spent in Japan and Indonesia.

During this time she refined her photographic practice, pursuing projects in New York, Iceland, Indonesia and Tokyo. She created and published her own limited edition arts publication, *MOTHER*, from 2010 to 2015, which was widely collected and led to various commissions and collaborations with fashion houses including *Commes des Garçons*, *Issey Miyake* and *Maison Margiela*.

Kate's current botanical still life work has been written about by *The New York Times*, *Wallpaper\**, *World of Interiors*, *The Observer* and *The Financial Times*. Her *Botanical Portraits* series exhibited at the Garden Museum twice, in 2018 and 2021. Kate's recent botanical series, *As Chosen By*, showed in part at Lyndsey Ingram Gallery in 2021. The second part of the series will open at Lyndsey Ingram Gallery in November 2023.

Kate shoots exclusively on film. The final prints are fine art C-types, made using a unique museum-grade printing process, exposing light onto colour paper. The print is then developed and hand-washed using traditional photographic techniques.

Kate's first monograph, *As Chosen By*, was published by Ridinghouse and Lyndsey Ingram in September 2023. Kate currently lives in Lisbon, Portugal, with her partner and their son.