



Rosemary Mayer (1943-2014)

Connections (Los Angeles), 1978-2023

Balloons, helium, India ink, ribbons, silk, chiffon, string, metallic streamers
Promenade Terrace at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Beverly Hills, California

Saturday, November 11, 2023

1:00-4:00 PM

Organized by the Estate of Rosemary Mayer with Hannah Hoffman Gallery and Marc Selwyn Fine Art.

Balloons dedicated by: h / e / li / os (Hannah O'Brien, Ei Arakawa-Nash, Liz Berger, Oscar Corona), Guadalupe Rosales, Nancy Stella Soto, Barbara T. Smith, and Martine Syms.

Description

Connections (Los Angeles) is a continuation of Rosemary Mayer's practice of making ephemeral installations with balloons. Mayer intended these installations, part of a larger body of work that she called "temporary monuments," to celebrate and memorialize individuals and communities and to create connections to time, place, and history.

Connections (Los Angeles) draws from a close study of Mayer's archive and documentation of her past installations with balloons. It is inspired by an unrealized proposal from 1978, called *Connections*, in which she planned to invite people to collectively decorate, launch, and dedicate balloons to someone important to them. For all of Mayer's installations, each balloon had a series of words and numbers written on it -- the name of a person, a date associated with them, a star in the sky, and a flower blooming on and around that date.

For this iteration, five artists based in Los Angeles were invited to dedicate a balloon to a person of their choosing. Based on the date associated with each person, the brightest star in the sky and a flower native to California was chosen. Mayer was interested in the significance of names and naming, and her documentation often included the meanings and etymologies of the names for the stars and flowers.

This work is enacted concurrent with the Rosemary Mayer exhibition "Noon Has No Shadows" at Marc Selwyn Fine Art and Hannah Hoffman Gallery, on view from November 12 – December 23.

Dedications

Balloon for Richard

Barbara T. Smith dedicates a balloon to her son Richard Allen Smith, who was born on January 11, 1954.

Sirius is the brightest star in the sky and is quite prominent in the winter. It is part of the constellation Canis Majoris and is also known as the Dog Star. Its name is from the Latin, meaning glowing.

Chaparral Currant is a shrub that grows in woodlands and chaparrals along the coast of California. It is well-known for its pink and purple flowers that appear beginning in December and attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Balloon for Estelita

Nancy Stella Soto dedicates a balloon to her mother Estelita, who was born on March 31, 1953.

The California Poppy is the state flower. It blooms beginning in early spring throughout the state in open areas and along roadsides and is celebrated for its bright orange flowers and delicate structure.

Capella is one of the brightest stars in the sky, part of the constellation Auriga, and an important star for navigation. Its name means "little female goat" in Latin, which is related to both Greek and Bedouin ideas of constellations as groups of animals and Auriga as a herd of goats.

Balloon for Negin

Martine Syms dedicates a balloon to her friend Negin, whose next birthday will be on October 15, 2024.

Altair is one of the brightest stars in the sky and part of the constellation Aquila, the eagle. It forms the center in a line of three stars that represents the bird's wings. Its name derives from the Arabic phrase meaning "the flying eagle."

The California Fuchsia begins blooming at the height of summer and continues into the fall, one of the only flowers remaining by October. Its scarlet-red flowers are very attractive to hummingbirds.

Balloon for bel

The collective h / e / li / os (Hannah O'Brien, Ei Arakawa-Nash, Liz Berger, Oscar Corona) dedicate a balloon to bel hooks, who died on December 15, 2021.

Aldebran is the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, forming the eye of the bull. The name derives from Arabic and means "the follower" because the star seems to follow the nearby star cluster known as the Pleiades.

Shining Starwort, also known as Shining Chickweed, is a common wildflower that is found in much of California. It is named for its small star-like flowers that start to appear in December.

Balloon for Ever

Guadalupe Rosales dedicates a balloon to her cousin Ever, who died on December 21, 1996.

Polaris, the North Star, is the brightest star in the constellation Ursa Minor, also known as The Little Bear or The Little Dipper. It has long been essential to navigation because of its fixed location, with all the other stars appearing to revolve around it.

Toyon is a shrub that grows throughout coastal chaparrals and canyons. Although it blooms in the summer, it is most well-known for its bright red berries that are prominent during the winter and are important food for birds. The name likely derives from the Ohlone, the Native Americans who lived along the coast of Northern California.

Acknowledgements

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ROSEMARY MAYER
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CONNECTIONS

kids coming from all over the city

a celebration connecting the city

an attempt to ascribe meaning to points in time, to a place, to
the meetings of participants

attempt to connect individuals' lives in time to other time cycles

attempt to connect individuals to each other, to a place

attempt to make individuals evident as they make their marks
(similarity to graffiti)

ATTEMPT TO MAKE A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

... AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS