

# DESCRIBED INTRODUCTION TO *FLORALIA* BY SABRINA RATTÉ

You are now facing the installation *Floralia*, by  
Sabrina Ratté.

Artist Sabrina Ratté was born in Quebec in 1982, and now lives and works in Montreal. She has shown work in group and solo exhibitions around the world, notably in Paris, Tokyo, Shanghai and New York. Her work immerses audiences in artificial places inspired by the natural world in which we evolve.

The installation *Floralia* was created in 2021 and is part of the MAC's collection. Combining digital and

analog technologies, *Floralia* presents an archive room from a speculative future, which displays specimens of plants that have become extinct in this future. The artist observed and then digitised these plants in three dimensions in their natural environment. This gesture of transplanting reality to the digital allows Sabrina Ratté to rework and recontextualize these specimens.

Shown as traces of the past, the plants are presented in the style of dioramas found in natural history museums, which recreate natural environments in display cases.

There are four screens hanging at eye level, measuring 1.4 metres each. Each broadcasts a different 3-D animation, running 4 to 5 minutes on a

loop, that shows a single plant specimen floating in a colourful, moving digital universe. Behind the screens, wallpaper covers the entire wall, which measures nearly 7.5 metres. The wallpaper shows a collage of recreated plant specimens.

The colourful and unstructured images float, frozen in time, against a blue background with mauve and grey accents. Sprigs of purple lilacs glide beside orange roses in bloom, ferns, and mauve hydrangea flowers. Leaves and petals seem to twirl in the air, like birds or insects, with tree stumps framing the composition.

On the left side, a snow-covered tree stump stands in a block of ice. To the right, moss covers the gnarled roots of another stump. The videos are accompanied by audio tracks that overlap in the space. As you pass

in front of the work, you will hear the soundtrack  
connected to each screen more distinctly.

With *Floralia*, Sabrina Ratté offers a simulation of  
ecosystems born from the fusion of technology and  
organic matter.