

LES  
***HOMMES***  
PUBLICS



AYRTON DE QUADROS

by ROBERTO PATELLA



## Shibari Flowers

Beauty and control, flowers and Shibari.

Is this perhaps an extreme attempt to stop time, to stop the disintegration of carnality, to prevent spring from ending and excessive heat from transforming the landscape into a desert?

Or is it an act of liberation for the body? Accepting the self as something inscrutable, not totally knowable.

The flower is an apparently crystalline symbol that hides an underlying power, unknown but present.

The power of a goddess of distant classical mythology: Flora, the goddess of flowering, the generative force of the feminine.

This goddess has been raped and denied over the centuries.

This immense strength has been censored and reduced only to the qualities of fragility, transience, and fleeting beauty.

The language of flowers is an invention for control.

A nineteenth-century expedient to perpetrate the lie of decency and the coercive idea of the body as a mere aesthetic canon.

The lie of the *nomos*.

But flowers, just like the bodies of women and men, our bodies, are not the ideal hiding place for vulgar messages of love or hate, anger or loneliness, indecent and inexpressible feelings.

Flowers are unstable.

Bodies are unstable.

Dangerously unstable. And they cannot be censored. And they cannot be bound.

Shibari (literally "to bind") is an art coming from afar, by culture, by geography, by history.

It is the elegant short-circuit between a fierce torture instrument and a cultured erotic technique.

Calla lilies, anemones, carnations, proteas, and tulips are tied up with ropes like forced bodies.

Bodies bent and constricted. Constrained to an ideal, a canon.

Controlled in their vital impulse, in their shameless and sexual explosion.

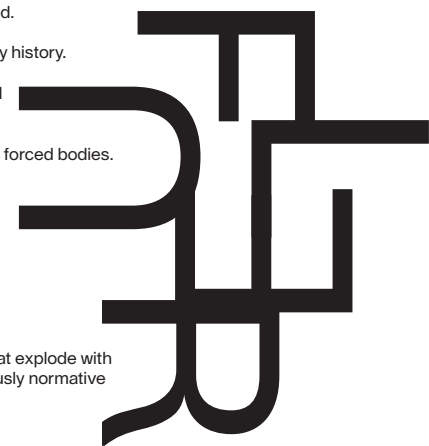
But the tight knots do not immobilize.

See the giddy heights of freedom! See how the submission is staged!

These flowers are not sweet, passive and defenceless victims but creatures that explode with sensuality in a ritual game. A game that denies the foundations of our dangerously normative culture by simply overturning them.

Leonardo Pucci

courtesy of Crux Galerie, Athens





Calla Lilies 10:07 am



Tulips 12:53 pm



by JOSEPH CARDO  
wearing SAINT LAURENT by ANTHONY VACCARELLO

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