

Anita Fricsek

From Flowers to Gardens

Patti and Rusty Rueff Galleries / East Gallery

Purdue University

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Anita Fricsek's exhibition **From Flowers to Gardens** explores the 'garden' as a place of social cooperation and aesthetic production, and is part of her ongoing project examining the structures and effects of different educational models through painting and drawing. Fricsek's exhibition not only represents, but also practices 'gardening' as a mode of community and artistic composition, investigating how systems interact and grow on the level of both their content and material relations. The starting point of the show are three paintings from 2003/4 based on photographs from the book *Blumen in unserer Heim* (Flowers in our Home, Children and Parents as Flower Gardeners - a Family Hobby), a how-to-guide by the Austrian gardener and educator Anton Eipeldauer published in 1973. Two new paintings show a girl and a boy painting and drawing flowers and plants as part of the art classes Fricsek runs with another artist. Both works also include the child - Karolina Macsayova's still life of flowers is exhibited alongside Fricsek's painting showing her doing it, and the painting of Xavier Steinberger drawing plants in a community garden includes his actual drawing within it. The third part of the show presents a new project involving a community garden close to Fricsek's home in Vienna. These works are drawings of movement sequences taken from videos of families working and harvesting in the garden. Finally, the animation film *Little Sculpture Garden* (1995) by special guest Iby-Jolande Varga will be on display for the duration of the show.