

Tatiana Argueta Garcia
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FLORIOGRAPHY

Floriography refers to the language of flowers and the idea of assigning meaning and significance to flowers to communicate one's feelings and desires; it is a form of expression through silent communication with the exchange of simple objects. Floriography was commonly used during the Victorian era when open displays of emotion were discouraged due to proper etiquette. Many of these meanings were inspired by literature, mythologies, religions and by the physical appearance of the flowers.



Figure 1

Figure 2



ARTIST STATEMENT

Inspired by Floriography, the symbolic language of flowers, I create sculptural ceramic pieces that convey emotion and meaning through my interpretation of surface and form. Using motifs from nature to inspire the form of my pieces, I explore a botanical and floral language, transcribing each flower's translated meanings and expressions into clay vessels. My pieces consist of two complementary ideas that work together; an individual form to highlight the diversity and overall expression of floral elements; and the portrayal of emotion interchanged through simple objects. Through naturalistic and detailed modelling, I draw the viewer in to contemplate the symbol of each flower, and to interpret the meaning and emotions associated with it.

FORM

My work is a play on form exploring the relationship between vessels and how meanings and emotions associated with each flower can be translated into different structures. Using the curves and direction of each peice to establish meaning and intention to create a connection with the interpretation of the flower. Emphasizing the significance of floriography and the ways in which meaning can be transformed from being silent and unknown to taking an abrupt and physical form to convey emotion.

PETALS



I create soft and delicate petals using translucent porcelain to further contrast the solid abstracted form of each vessel they sit atop, and create a separation between the intended message being delivered by the form and the fragile flowers.

Garden



Each piece is created to stand on its own or as a group. The flowers have drastically different meanings and hold different levels of significance. As a group, they interact with one another to create a cohesive piece of work that reflects nature and its overgrowth body of emotions and journey, encompassing an individual full of emotion.

Figure 5

DATURA

DECIETFUL CHARMS

Devils trumpet, Thorn apple, Jimson Weed, Moon flower.

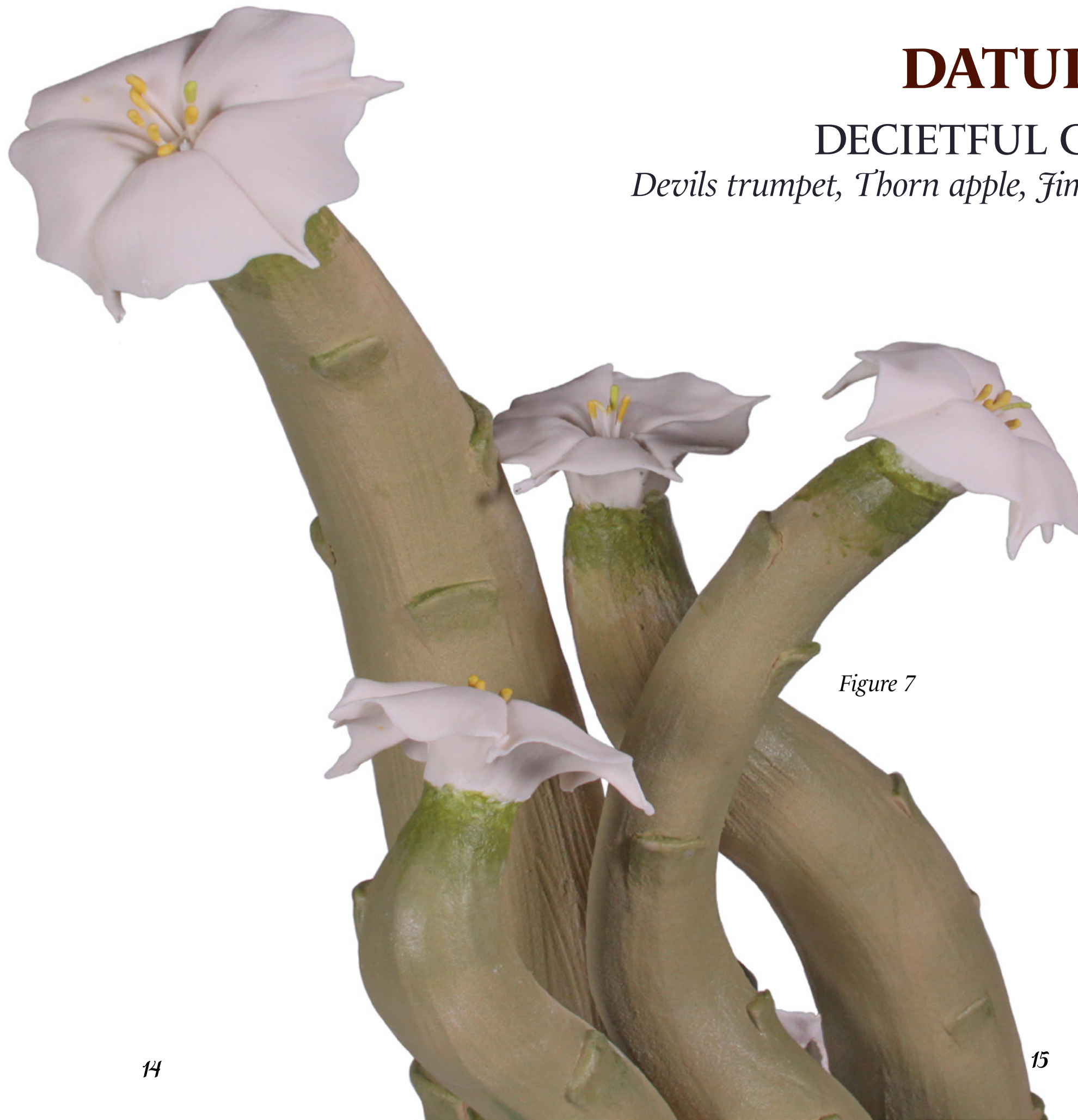


Figure 7



Figure 6

The Datura flower is soft and delicate in appearance, but is extremely poisonous if ingested; therefore, it is often used to represent deceitful charms. Historically, the flower has been used for rituals and ceremonial purposes because of its hallucinogenic properties and the idea that it could protect one from evil. At the same time, because of its trumpet-like and fragile appearance, it is also commonly used as an ornamental flower.

Using the idea of how the appearance of Datura is contrasted by its poisonous effects, I created a vessel to communicate the deceitful tones of the flower using a rough-textured surface to contrast the delicately sculpted Datura blossoms, highlighting their soft appearance. The flowers are colourless and placed on top of a tangled vessel with branches intertwined, with a hidden flower to emphasize the deceitful tones of the flower's hidden meaning.



Figure 8



Figure 12

ORANGE BLOSSOM
Eternal Love, Harbinger Of Goodluck

Citrus sinensis

Figure 9



Orange blossoms signify purity and eternal love. The flower is often used as a symbolic association with marital rituals and is often used in wedding bouquets inspired by the exchange of orange blossoms portrayed through Greek and Roman mythological weddings.

The vessel is decorated with orange low-relief forms in reference to the fruit produced by the flower and showcases the growing cycle of the plant. On each vessel's tip, there are two orange blossoms held by two limbs wrapping around each other, forming a connection in reference to the union between one's eternal love.

Figure 10



Figure 11

CAMELLIAS
LONGING, ADORATION



Figure 16

The Camellia flower's meaning of longing and adoration originates from Alexander Duma's Book "Lady of the Camellias": A story about two lovers who are forced apart because of their status and die alone forever longing for what could have been. This story and the flower's unique way of blooming and withering its sepals and petals together, unlike any other plant, further emphasize the significance of connection and longing. The vessel holding these flowers was created to portray the two lovers reaching for each other unable to touch, in a constant state of longing and admiration, with one flower wrapping around the other being intertwined forever longing but unable to touch.

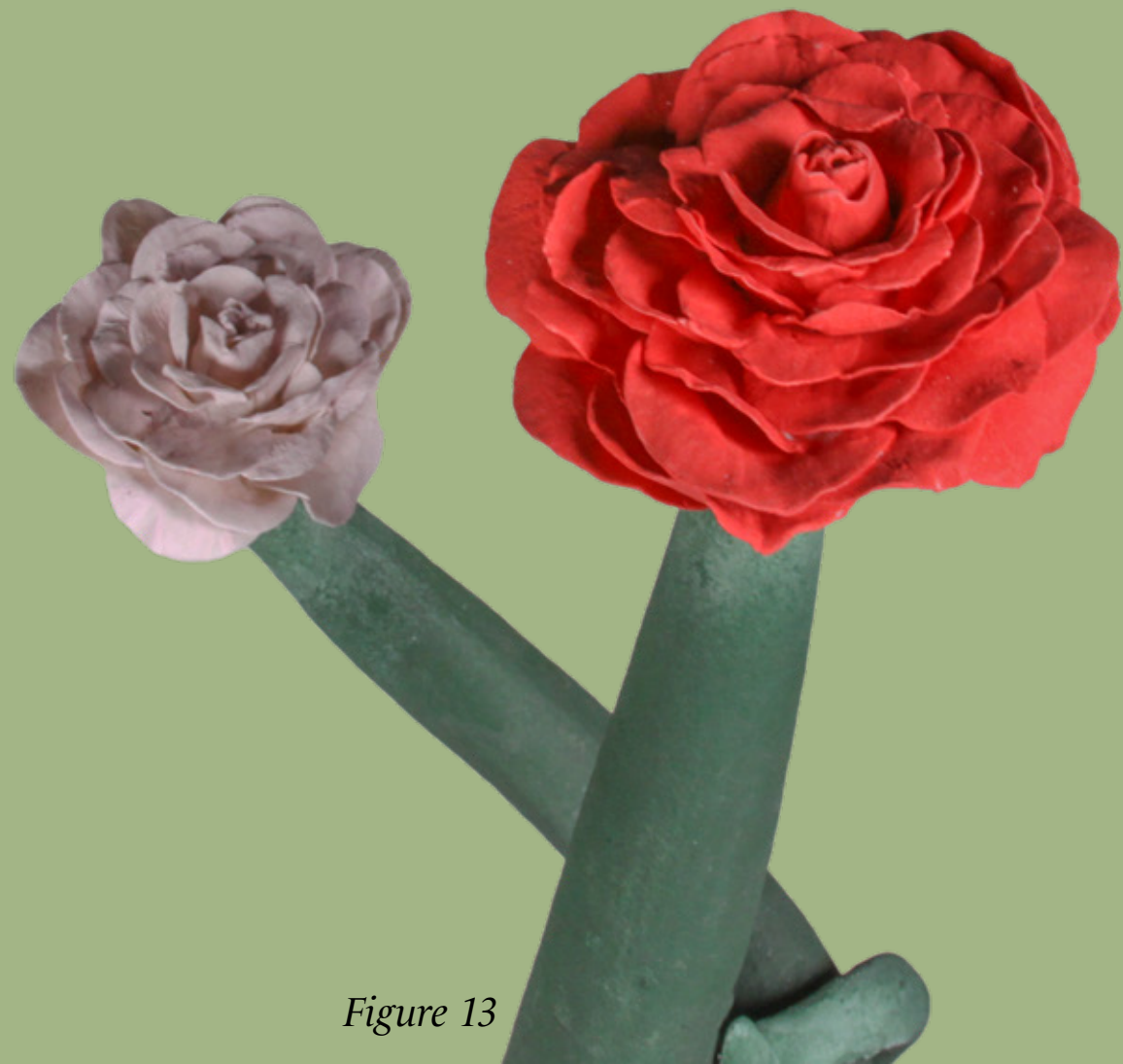


Figure 13



Figure 14

Figure 15

FORGET-ME-NOT FORGET ME NOT, RESPECT.

Scorpion Grass, Mouse's ears



Figure 17

The Forget-me-not flower's name and meaning originate from the same story of a couple walking by the edge of a river when one stops to pick some flowers for the other, but results in them falling in, throwing the flowers to their significant other, and calling for them to remember them always before being carried away by the stream. Consequently, the flower is used as a representation of the promise to never forget. The simplistic shape of the vessel is created as an easy way to remember the appearance and is shown with a fallen petal to reference the loss and separation of the two lovers.



Figure 18



Figure 19

GLADILOUS
"You Pierce my heart",
strength in character,
faithfulness.

Sword Lily

The gladiolus flower often also called the sword lily is used to represent strength in character and integrity, the name originates from a Latin translation meaning "Sword." The flower is often exchanged with someone to show infatuation or that they "pierced the heart" of the recipient.

Through my vessel, I have Portrayed a tall unwavering form to communicate strength and remembrance through its simple shape, adding vines to accentuate its form, and creating character showing faithfulness in how the entities are bound together. Taking an overall inspiration from the shape of a sword and surrounding it with flowers to emphasize the infatuation and gentleness of the fragile flower often shown to be strong being softened through the contrast of colours.

Figure 20



PROTEA
TRANSFORMATION,
DIVERSITY, CHANGE

Sugarbush



Figure 21

The Protea is one of the oldest flowering plants known for its ability to adapt to extreme weather conditions and survive wildfires. The flower signifies transformation and diversity. Named after Poseidon's son Proteus, who was very knowledgeable, held the power of transformation and often changed his shape to avoid his duties and those seeking his wisdom. The flower itself comes in many different forms and exemplifies its ability to transform and adapt through its ever-changing nature.

The vessel holding the protea flowers was created to portray the concept of transformation. Using different elements to create a contrast and show the change and diversity of

different motifs that complement the flower's unique shape, as well as references to how the flower itself contains a multitude of elements, showing that the stems emerge from a separate vessel to complement the story of the flowers and how they adapt and survive.



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24

36



Figure 25

37

AMARYLLIS
PRIDE, TIMIDITY,
HAUGHTINESS, DETERMINATION

naked lady, belladonna lily, Jersey lily

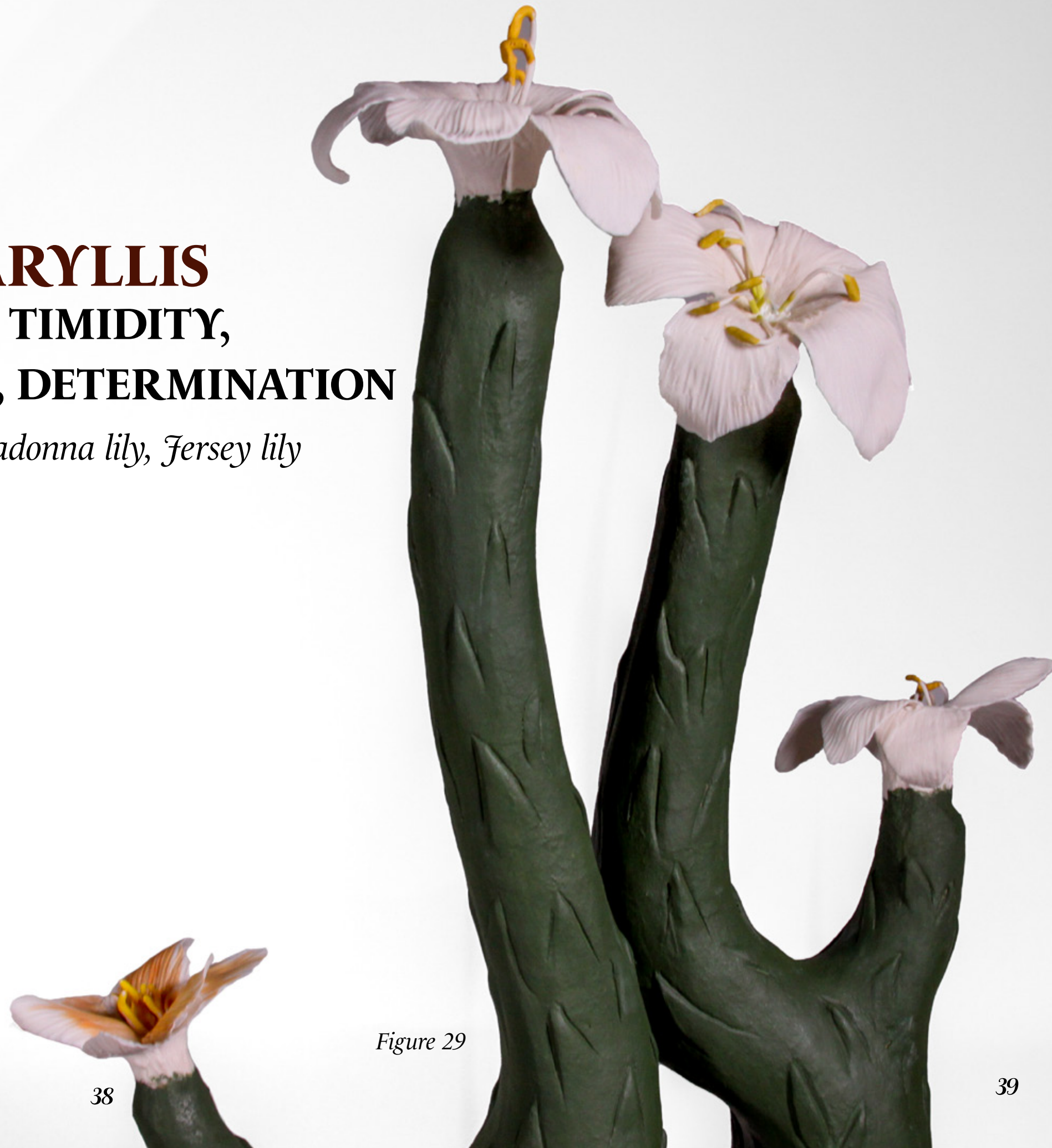


Figure 29

The Amaryllis is a resilient flower; the translated meaning of pride and determination comes from its bright blooms that tower over other flowers, and how they can adapt to their environment, are able to withstand drought, and are known to be too stubborn to wither under harsh conditions. The flowers grow in tall stalks that come straight up off the ground, becoming the main focus and outshining everything around them when in bloom. Using a strong form for the vessel holding the flowers to encompass the meaning of the amaryllis and its growth cycle, standing tall above its surroundings. decorating it with low relief spikes to show self-preservation and determination of growth, and placing the flowers at the top, where they can be portrayed as strong and full of pride.



Figure 27



Figure 26

40



Figure 28

41

Reflection

I will continue to explore the relationship between form and how to create vessels that relate to the emotions and meanings tied to each flower through floriography, as well as how to emphasize the unspoken language of flowers through surface and form to relate to the experiences of what the flowers represent.

Focusing on memory and how the familiarity of personal experiences can be interpreted using the form and overall visual movement of my vessels to highlight and invoke feelings and emotions to continue bringing back the lost language of floriography.



Figure 30

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Figure 31

