

Taylor William McKimens debuts *Flower Market*

Free Parking Space, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, March, 2026 - Taylor William McKimens presents *Flower Market*, a month-long, evolving, site-specific installation at Free Parking Space, the ground-floor exhibition space beneath his studio at Mohilef Studios in Los Angeles' Flower District.

The project marks the artist's first solo exhibition centered primarily on his distinctive sculptural language. It also signals a homecoming: after years in New York, McKimens has returned to Southern California, near the Imperial Valley desert where he grew up and first developed the cartoon-based visual vocabulary that defines his practice.

Flower Market features a series of new small-scale sculptures depicting potted plants and flowers. These works deepen McKimens' long-standing exploration of the boundary between painting and sculpture, extending his flattened, graphic drawing language into three-dimensional space. Here, distinctions between object and environment dissolve as the gallery transforms into an immersive cartoon landscape.

The installation directly engages its immediate surroundings, particularly the Los Angeles Wholesale Flower Market located across the street. Its improvised tables, visible clutter, utilitarian shelving, and pragmatic display strategies; shaped by a blue-collar economy of means; stand in sharp contrast to the polished conventions of contemporary art presentation. In *Flower Market*, these two visual economies collide. The exhibition space absorbs the aesthetics of labor and improvisation, challenging expectations of refinement and permanence.

Another unique site specific aspect of the gallery is that it sits directly beneath the artist's studio. McKimens takes the opportunity to disrupt the notion of the artwork as a fixed relic, allowing the exhibition to remain open to process. New works will be devised, produced, and installed throughout the month, replacing the notion of the gallery as a static record with one shaped by continuous creative and natural evolution. The installation begins with an opening reception on March 1 and culminates in a closing event on March 29; by which point the exhibition will have fundamentally evolved into something entirely different.

The sculptures themselves emerge from McKimens' enduring exploration into blurring distinctions between folk and contemporary art. Rooted in his California desert upbringing; the works depict hardy plants that appear weathered but resilient. Each is housed in a cast-off container; dented cans, broken pots, discarded bottles, jugs, boxes, even shoes; often marked with bootleg graphics, off-brand logos, and fragments of pop-cultural debris. These materials simultaneously clash with and amplify the plants' quiet dignity.

These plants stand upright as emblems of endurance. They evoke narratives of neglect, pride, and punishing desert heat, yet radiate persistence and understated humor. Plainspoken and unabashedly human, they function as sculptural folk songs about contemporary American life.

Raised in Winterhaven, California, a small desert town on the Mexican border, McKimens grew up without access to museums but immersed in cartoons, comics, signage, and vernacular printed imagery. These influences continue to shape his practice. He treats drawing, painting, sculpture, and installation as a unified language, collapsing the boundaries between flatness and volume, high and low, refinement and rawness. With wry humor and genuine sincerity, McKimens reveals the disorienting beauty embedded in marginal spaces, revealing the sublime within the pop-cultural debris of the contemporary American West.

McKimens received his BFA from Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. He has exhibited internationally in galleries and museums and is included in numerous prominent collections. Solo exhibitions have been presented at Deitch Projects, Rockefeller Center, The Hole, Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Dio Horia, Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Galerie Zürcher, and Loyal Gallery. Group exhibitions include presentations at MoMA PS1, White Columns, Neuberger Museum of Art, DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art, MACRO, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern Art Saint-Étienne, ARoS Kunstmuseum, Riverside Art Museum, and Peres Projects. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Flower Market is open by appointment from February 27 - March 29, 2026

Grand Opening reception: Friday, March 6, 4-7pm

Going Out of Business reception and Flower Market book release: Sunday, March 29, 4-7pm

At *Free Parking Space*, 743 Maple Avenue, Los Angeles CA, 90014

For additional information and to view the exhibition: flowermarket@mckimens.com