

## Toutes Les Fleurs

*Sullivan Goss presents the largest selection of floral pastels by tonalist Leon Dabo ever assembled*

**Through October 28**

**Sullivan Goss**

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**T**hrough October 28, Sullivan Goss presents its second solo exhibition from the estate of noted tonalist Leon Dabo, NA (1864-1960). Titled *Leon Dabo: Toutes Les Fleurs*, the exhibit features 20 pieces, 16 of which are for sale while the remaining four are on loan from private collections from New York to California.

*Toutes Les Fleurs* represents the largest selection of mystical floral pastels by the French-born American artist ever assembled—many of which have not been seen since 1933, when Knoedler Gallery mounted an exhibition of Dabo's floral works. These vividly-colored lost works will likely surprise connoisseurs and curators as Dabo was primarily known for his darker, atmospheric tonalist pieces.

"It is suspected that he wanted to be known for the tonal work, and therefore did not show these, even to his friends, until 1933—the middle of the Great Depression—when his dealer, Knoedler, was able to convince him they were the perfect antidote to the difficulties of the day," explains Frank Goss, gallery owner and art historian. "The folks at Knoedler were right. The show was so successful it received more than a dozen glowing reviews in New York and Brooklyn newspapers."

Leon Dabo (1864-1960), *Ar-En-Ciel*, ca. 1916. Pastel on paper, 17½ x 9¼ in., signed lower left.

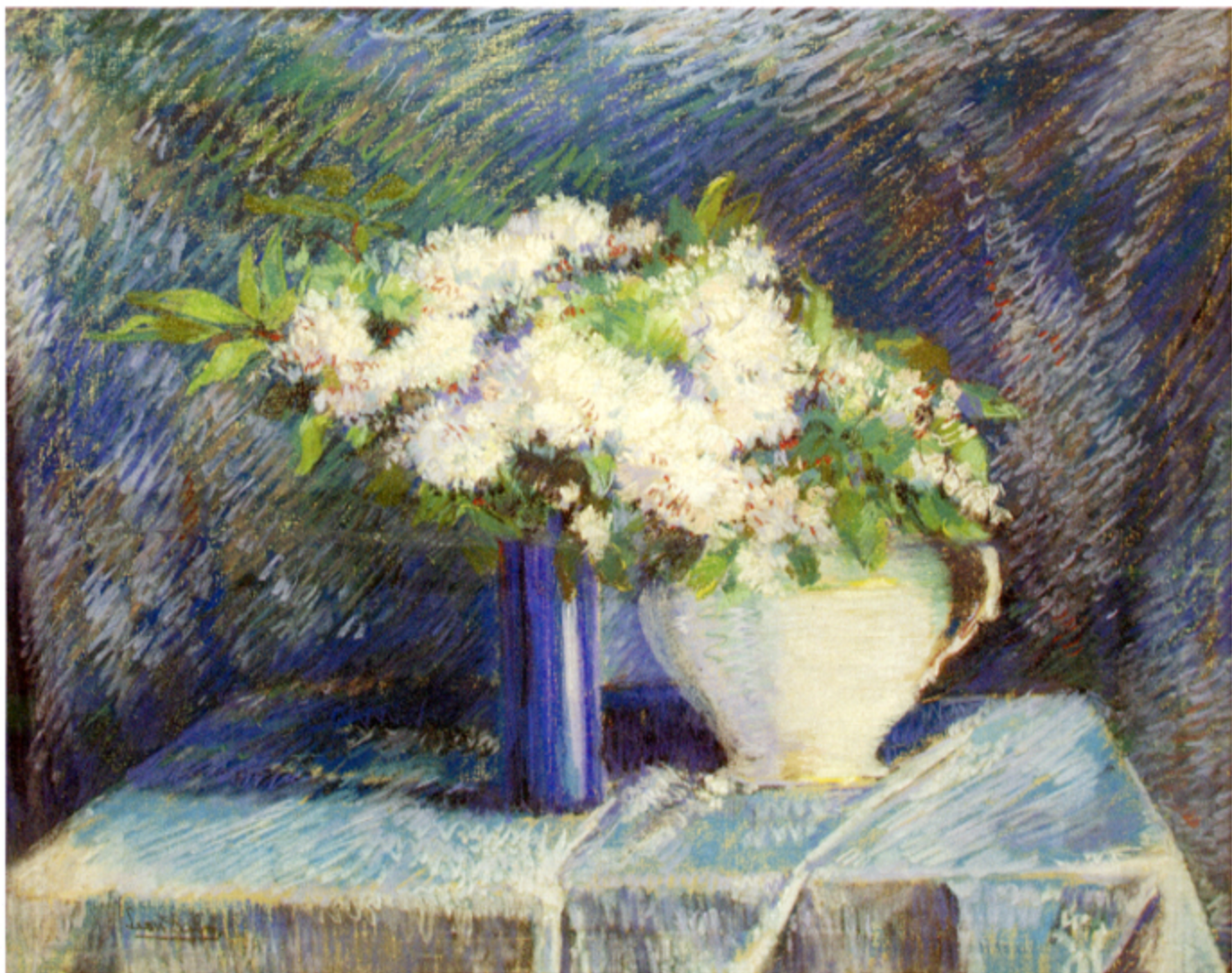




Leon Dabo (1864-1960), *Abstraction Avec un Zinnia*, ca. 1915. Pastel on paper, 18 x 12 in., signed lower right.



Leon Dabo (1864-1960), *Coquelicots Sauvages*, ca. 1915. Pastel on paper, 13 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  in., signed lower left.



Leon Dabo (1864–1960), *Flowers in Blue and White Vases*, 1899. Pastel on paper, 23¼ x 29¼ in., signed lower left. Images courtesy Sullivan Goss.

According to Goss, Dabo is “known to have painted about 40 floral pastels and 70 in oil. All of the pastels in the exhibition were in the Dabo estate as it descended from family member to friend over the 52 years since Dabo’s death in 1960.”

Dabo’s fine art career extended over 80 years. He was a distinguished member of the National Academy of Design and, in 1911, he helped found and became the chairman of The Pastellists—a group of New York

artists who were committed to the medium and its myriad possibilities. He also helped to organize the famous 1913 *Armory Show*. Interestingly, Dabo did not exhibit any of his floral pastels in these shows, but rather presented tonal pastel seascapes and landscapes, several of which will be included in this exhibition. Dabo painted until the age of 90; he died at age 96 in New York City.

In conjunction with this exhibition, Sullivan Goss is offering a new

hardbound book *The Pastels of Leon Dabo* that serves as a de facto catalogue raisonné of Dabo’s pastels. With contributions by one of the nation’s most eminent scholars in American art history, Dr. William Gerds, as well as by Dr. Cody Hartley of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Goss and fellow gallerist Nathan Vonk, *The Pastels of Leon Dabo* should greatly enliven and enrich the growing conversation about the life and work of the artist. ■