

# Curator's Note

*In Bloom: Works from Cheekwood's Collection* features work by artists that were inspired by flowers. The exchange of flowers exists as an expression of human intimacy. When words fail, flowers step in to evoke the deepest of human emotions, including love and loss. Throughout the history of art, artists have felt deeply connected to flowers. During the Renaissance, the painting of bouquets of flowers from different countries began the tradition of still-life painting. Claude Monet, an Impressionist painter, credits his entire career to flowers. Through the Post-Impressionist period, with Vincent van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, to Pop Art's Andy Warhol's *Flowers* and to the contemporary with Jeff Koons' *Puppy*, floral designs and flowers as artistic material have remained in the vocabulary of artists.

When a visitor comes through the gates of Cheekwood, he or she first experiences the botanical gardens and the dazzling array of blooms on display. This exhibition curated from Cheekwood's permanent collection connects the indoor and outdoor and provides a dialogue for visitors between this spring's blooms and flowers from the past, preserved on canvas.