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Jennifer Steinkamp is an American installation artist known for her innovative use of digital media to explore themes of nature, architecture, motion, and perception. Born in 1958 in Denver, Colorado, she moved to Los Angeles in 1979 to attend the Art Center College of Design. She later transferred to the California Institute of Arts to study experimental animation before returning to the Art Center College of Design to earn her BFA in 1989 and MFA in 1991. In recognition of her contributions to the field, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by the same institution in 2011. Currently, Steinkamp serves as a professor in the Department of Design Media Arts at UCLA. Her work is largely characterized by large-scale digital projections that transform physical spaces, creating immersive environments from architecture that interact and challenge with viewers' perceptions of space and time. In an artist's statement, she says, "I investigate perceptual effects that transform the viewers' understanding of actual space in a synthesis of real space and virtual computer imagery." She also employs 3D animation to render organic and abstract forms such as trees, flowers, rocks, fruit, and fabrics, and adds motion to "give deeper insight into the often unseen complexities of the natural environment." Steinkamp's art often engages with historical art genres, including 16th-century Dutch and Flemish still-life paintings to provide commentary on topics such as the fragility of life and the passage of time. Her work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions worldwide. She has also been recognized with several awards and honours. She was the J. Paul Getty Artist in Residence during the Getty Artist Program in 2010-11 and represented the United States at the 11th Cairo International Biennale in Egypt. Her works are held in numerous public and private collections internationally, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul, South Korea.

One of Steinkamp's most acclaimed works is "Madame Curie," a multi-channel, synchronized video installation first commissioned by the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego in 2011. It has since been exhibited in various institutions, including the Tampa Museum of Art, where it was adapted into a site-specific installation for the Bronson Thayer Gallery. The piece draws inspiration from the life and achievements of Marie Curie, the renowned physicist and chemist who pioneered the research on radioactivity. Steinkamp's interest in Curie was piqued during her research into atomic energy and its effects on nature, leading her to explore Curie's personal and professional life in depth. "Madame Curie" features a panoramic projection of over forty types of flowers that Curie may have encountered in her garden, as mentioned in her biography written by her daughter Eve. The installation includes realistic depictions of apple blossoms, daisies, fuchsia, periwinkle, rambler roses, Virginia creeper, and wisteria, among others. These digitally animated flowers swirl and cascade across the gallery walls, creating an enveloping environment that immerses viewers in a continuous cycle of movement. The choice of flora acts as a symbolic connection between Curie's scientific pursuits and her lesser-known appreciation for the natural world, as well as the interplay between science and nature. The piece's dynamic motion and vibrant colours and intricate details are conveyed through video projection to pay homage to Curie's contributions to science while reflecting on themes of growth, decay, and regeneration. Through digital animation, the flowers appear lifelike yet clearly artificial, prompting viewers to contemplate the intersections of art, science, and nature, creating a deeper appreciation within audiences for the unseen forces that shape our world. Through this work, Steinkamp artfully bridges the gap between the organic and the digital, the historical and the contemporary, and invites audiences into a space where these separate elements can coexist.

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