

CARLONE CONTEMPORARY
herman de vries
108 pounds of lavender flowers

Upper Belvedere
18 March to 13 September 2026



Installation view *CARLONE CONTEMPORARY*: herman de vries. *108 pounds of lavender flowers*
Belvedere, Vienna, purchased from the artist, represented by Galerie Sturm & Schober, Vienna.
Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna

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An intense fragrance fills the Carlone Hall in the Upper Belvedere: An elliptical formation comprising fifty-four kilograms of bluish-purple flowers is spread over the floor and so enters into a dialog with the frescoes by Carlo Innocenzo Carlone. In his Conceptual work *108 pounds of lavender flowers*, Dutch artist herman de vries has introduced a piece of nature into this Baroque setting. Acquired last year for the Belvedere's collection, the installation is now being presented in the CARLONE CONTEMPORARY exhibition series. A multi-sensory visitor experience thus unfurls beneath the illusionistic ceiling fresco.

General Director and curator Stella Rollig: *herman de vries knows how to make nature's tranquil presence palpable. His works invite us to pause and consciously absorb the sensory effect of the natural elements. 108 pounds of lavender flowers evokes a poetic dialog between the minimalist arrangement of lavender flowers and the opulent Baroque imagery of the ceiling fresco.*

Dutch artist herman de vries has held to his credo that nature is art for over fifty years. A trained botanist and landscape gardener, his artistic practice combines scientific methods such as observation, classification, and archiving with stories from mythology and philosophical perspectives. In his early career as a member of the artist group nul and in his Art Informel paintings, he engaged with fundamental structures of perception before turning increasingly to ecological issues in the 1970s. To this day he is a major exponent of Environmental Art.

At the heart of herman de vries's work is a direct encounter with nature, always guided by a deep understanding of and respect for the earth's natural resources. On daily explorations—for example in the Steigerwald forest in Germany and on his travels—he collects all manner of objects: flowers, stones, sticks, earth, bones, grasses, minerals, and more. He then groups these objets trouvés into sensory installations with a simplicity that has its own intrinsic aesthetic power. *108 pounds of lavender flowers* from 1991 is a compelling example of this approach: The elliptical formation of dried flowers spread across the floor fills the

space with color and scent. It creates a direct connection between the Baroque world of images and the experience of nature beneath the ceiling fresco of the Carlone Hall.

About herman de vries

herman de vries was born in Alkmaar in the Netherlands in 1931. The artist lives and works in Eschenau in Germany.

Exhibitions (selection): Somerset House, London; MuseumsQuartier, Vienna; Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin; Ernst-Barlach-Haus, Hamburg. In 1997 he participated in the Skulptur Projekte in Münster; in 2015 he represented the Netherlands at the 56th Venice Biennale. His work is in the following collections (selection): Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

The **Carlone Contemporary** series presents contemporary works in the Carlone Hall of the Upper Belvedere every six months. By engaging with the Baroque pictorial program of the hall's frescoes, artists create a dialogue between the mythological world of Apollo and Diana and the present day.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	CARLONE CONTEMPORARY: herman de vries. 108 pounds of lavender flowers
Curator	Stella Rollig
Assistant Curator	Johanna Hofer
Exhibition Management	Martina Pfeiffer-Carich
Duration	18 March to 13 September 2026
Location	Upper Belvedere, Prinz-Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna
Opening Hours	Monday to Sunday, 9 am to 6 pm Extended Opening Hours 9 am to 7 pm: 30 March - 12 April 2026 15 July - 31 August 2026
Art Mediation	Belvedere Art Mediation T + 43 1 795 57-134 M public@belvedere.at
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#CarloneContemporary

For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos please visit www.belvedere.at/en/press.