

Courtney Hayes-Sturgeon's works explores the unseen world as it exists outside our normal daily awareness. Hayes-Sturgeon uses biological imagery and ethereal environments as organic intersections of inner and outer space that exists around us "on micro and macro levels." Drawing from the natural world as well as contemporary advances in science concerning cellular forms, she portrays subject matter, such as amebae and flora and fauna, that appear to be floating in suspension.

Upon further consideration, these works recall the illustrations of early botanical publications or herbals, such as *A Curious Herbal*, 1737-39 by Elizabeth Blackwell. Here however, the artist is using plant and biological imagery symbolically, as repeating natural forms the flow lyrically into formations meant to comment on feminine qualities in nature such as reproduction. Hayes-Sturgeon joins modernists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in creating work that comes just short of rejecting the physical world around them, opting instead for more Freudian-inspired depictions based entirely on a dream-like state and mindset of the artist.



LET THEM EAT POPPIES | Oil on linen. 22" x 28"