

NANCY HOFFMAN GALLERY

520 WEST 27TH STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001

Joan Bankemper

Joan Bankemper began a series of urns shortly after the Pandemic began. Having made commemorative urns during the AIDS crisis, the artist first seemed to have no choice but to continue that impulse and create what she calls funeral urns, hand coiled pots filled with forget-me-knots and bees. The work has gone full circle. While the urns are not dedicated to any specific person, they are imbued with both the sadness and death of the times as well as symbols of life as manifest in the proliferation of bees. These Urns are a marker or become a "monument" to this precarious moment, a memory for those who have passed, much like her Medicinal Urns she did in the 90's. The artist also reminds us the forget-me-not is the first flower to blossom after a hard winter, while in the depth of isolation the spring will come. The flowers the artist hand-builds to bedeck the urns speak for themselves: forget-me-knot, or "forget-me not" when I am gone.