



NATURE'S

PALETTE

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

As European cities began to industrialise, impressionist painters like Monet and Liebermann retreated to the country to plant flower gardens to fuel their inspiration.

These oases of colour were the reference palettes for the artists who designed their gardens with the specific purpose of capturing their beauty on canvas. Some of the most valuable works of art of the last century depict flower gardens as their central theme.

Cities were created to separate us from nature. Yet, with our walls of tinted glass and struts of steel, we crave a lick of colour, in any form. If Monet were alive today, would we find him amidst the waist high Agapanthus, laying strokes of colour with a practiced arm wave towards a team of dedicated landscape workers?