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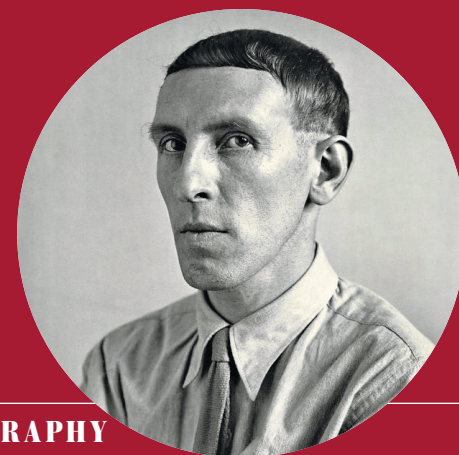


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VIEWFINDER

DAHLIA,
VICTORIA
ANN (2011)
BY KENJI TOMA



Japanese-born Kenji Toma makes a living as a still life photographer in New York, taking pictures for brands such as Dior, Tiffany and Apple. In his spare time, though, he photographs flowers, in tribute to the French artist Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759-1840), one of Marie Antoinette's official court painters, widely known as "the Raphael of flowers".

In 1827 - long after the Queen and her head had parted company - Redouté published his masterwork, *Choix des plus belles fleurs et de quelques branches des plus beaux fruits*, filled with hundreds of watercolours of flowers and fruits.

But where Redouté sought to make his specimens seem as life-like as possible, Toma has tried to achieve exactly the opposite: a crisp, plastic, idealised artificiality. Featuring nearly 100 images, Toma's *The Most Beautiful Flowers*, is published by Kehrer Verlag. kehrerverlag.com