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Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean

EN



# Lisa Oppenheim

## Monsieur Steichen

Booklet in easy-to-read language

[mudam.com](http://mudam.com)

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# About the exhibition



**This guide is in easy-to-read English.**

**The exhibition is called:**  
“Monsieur Steichen”.

This is French and means Mister Steichen.

The artist of the exhibition is called Lisa Oppenheim.  
Lisa Oppenheim was born in 1975 in New York.  
She works and lives in that city.  
Lisa Oppenheim shows her art-work everywhere in the world.  
Big museums show her art-work.

**For example:**

- The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York.
- The Museum Centre Pompidou in Paris.

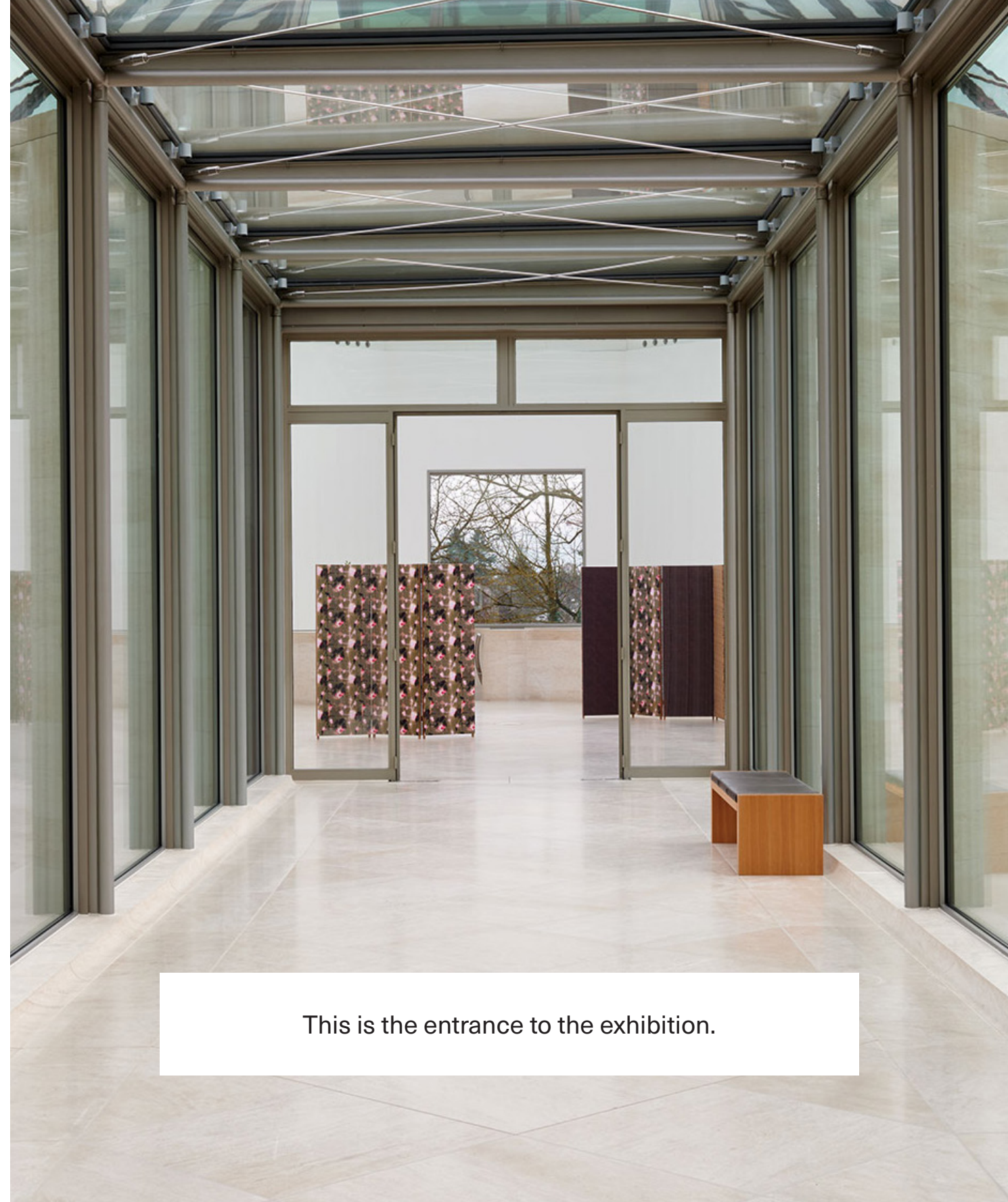
The exhibition is in the left corner in Mudam.  
You can see the exhibition until Sunday, 24 August 2025.

**You can get more information:**

- 📞 by telephone: 45 37 85 531
  - ✉ by email: [visites@mudam.com](mailto:visites@mudam.com)
- You can also book a guided tour.

**Guided tour means:**

Someone goes through the museum with you.



This is the entrance to the exhibition.



This is a room divider with fabrics by Lisa Oppenheim.



## The art-work of Lisa Oppenheim

Lisa Oppenheim makes photos since 2005.  
She uses different kinds of photo-techniques.

**For example** with fabric.

She is interested in the history of photos.

**She looks for ideas :**

- In libraries
- In museums
- On the internet
- In archives

**What is an archive?**


It is a place with old things.

**For example:** letters, images or films.

You keep them,  
to look at them later again.

She makes new art-works out of old photos.  
She mixes the past and the present.





This is a photo from an exhibition by Edward Steichen.

## The theme in the exhibition

Lisa Oppenheim looked at the art-work from Edward Steichen. Edward Steichen was a famous photographer from America. He was born in 1879 in Bavigne (Béiwen), Luxembourg. Bavigne is in the Eisleck near the Upper Sûre Lake. This is near Wiltz. When he was very young, his family went to America. He died in 1973 in America.

In the 1960s, he gifted two important exhibitions to Luxembourg. Edward Steichen made these exhibitions for the Museum MoMA in New York. One exhibition is called: The Family of Man. It is an exhibition in the castle of Clerf in Luxembourg.

Edward Steichen changed the photo-art. He mixed art-photos and publicity-photos.



In her art-works, Lisa Oppenheim makes something new out of the photos of Edward Steichen.

She uses the less known photos from Edward Steichen.

She is interested in the flowers of Edward Steichen.

Edward Steichen loved flowers a lot.

Especially the flowers “delphinium”.

Edward Steichen cultivated a lot of these flowers.

### **What is cultivating?**

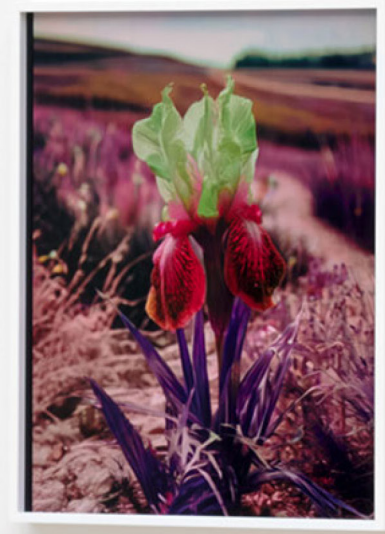
**Cultivating means:** You plant a plant and you take care of it.

Edward Steichen showed his flowers in the museum MoMA.

This was in the year 1936.

The museum showed real flowers as art.

This was the first time.





Lisa Oppenheim was also interested in the textile designs from Edward Steichen.

In the 1920s, he made designs for a textile company.

**The name of the company was:** Stehli Silks.

For these designs, Edward Steichen made photos of things.

Lisa Oppenheim worked with a fashion designer.

Together, they looked at the photos from Edward Steichen.

Then, they made new textiles together.

Lisa Oppenheim put the textiles on room dividers.

You can see 7 photos from Edward Steichen on the room dividers:

One photo of his mother, Marie Kemp Steichen.

3 photos of his ex-wives : Clara, Dana and Joanna.

3 publicity-photos from Edward Steichen.

On the level -1, you can see 18 photos.

The photos are in black and white.

These are tests by Lisa Oppenheim.

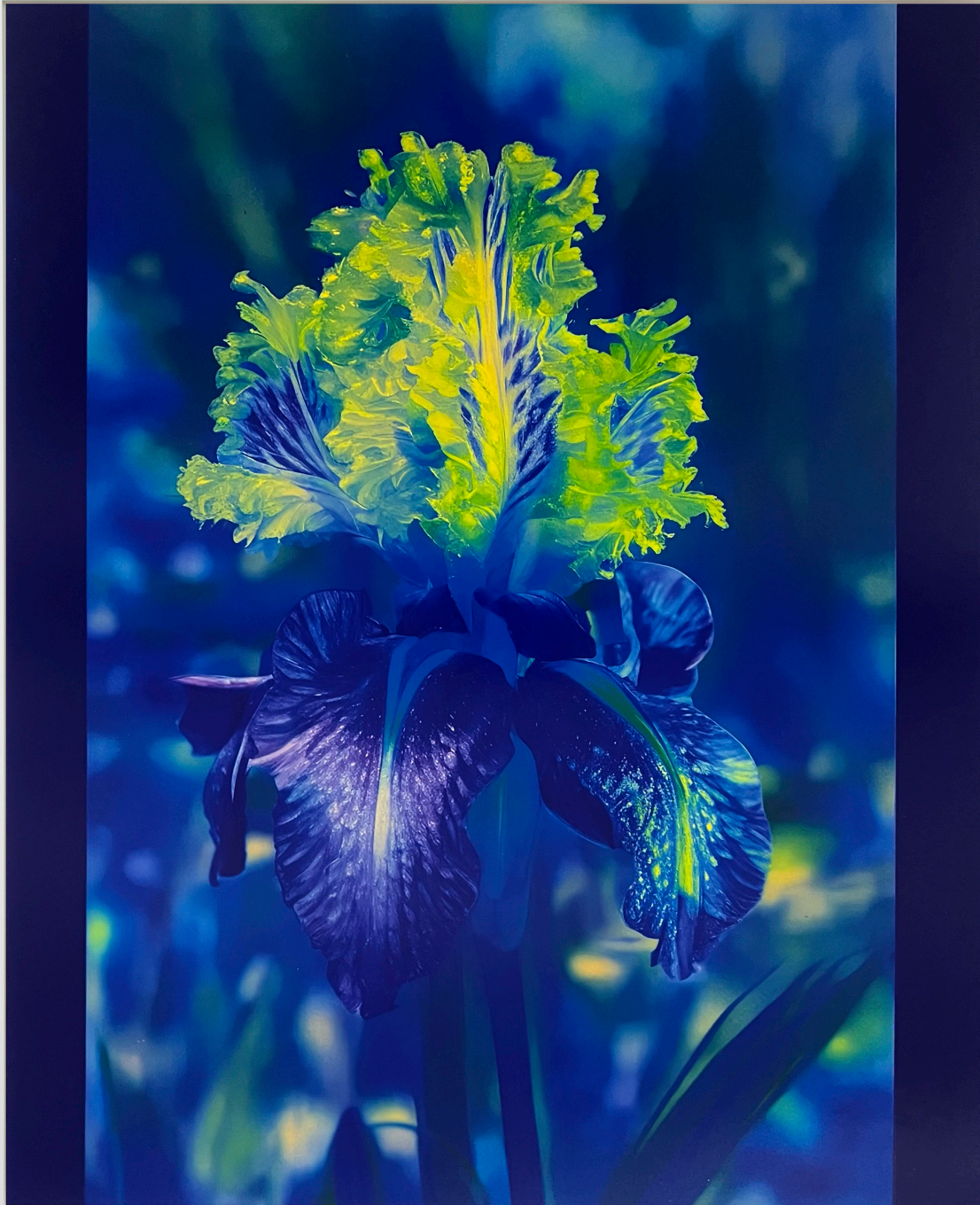
She did tests on flowers in her photo-laboratory.

She made pictures in the archives of Edward Steichen.



This is a room divider with fabrics by Lisa Oppenheim.





This is an Iris flower.

## A special art-work

One of her important art-works is called “Monsieur Steichen”.  
This is the name of a kind of flower.  
The name of the flower is: Iris.

A French botanist cultivated that flower.

### What is a botanist?

A botanist studies flowers.  
He knows what flowers need to grow well.

He cultivates new kinds of flowers.  
**For example**, he mixes 2 flower species together.  
He cultivated the flower for Edward Steichen.  
This was in the year 1910.  
This flower species **does not** exist anymore.  
There is **no** colour photo of that flower.  
We **do not** exactly know what it looked like.



**Lisa Oppenheim had an idea :**

She wanted to 'bring back' that disappeared flower.

For that, she used artificial intelligence (A.I.).

A computer mixed images of two Iris species.

The botanist mixed those 2 species.

They were used to create the Iris for Edward Steichen.

Then, Lisa Oppenheim used an old photo-print technique.

That technique is called « dye transfer ».

With this technique,

Lisa Oppenheim printed flower images in special colours.

Lisa Oppenheim made 32 different images.

Every image shows,

how the flower from Edward Steichen could have looked like.







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