

# SundayStyles

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## Arena

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### ART MATTERS

## Pearls of Glass

For his second American museum exhibition, the French artist Jean-Michel Othoniel says he shares “the hidden part of my work.” “Secret Flower Sculptures,” at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, explores the artistic process he began developing four years ago, when he was an artist in residence at the Gardner.

Mr. Othoniel created two site-specific sculptures: “The Peony of Shame” (above), which will be suspended from the ceiling in the Hostetter Gallery, and “The Rose in the Wind,” which will be installed on the Palace roof. (“The Peony of Shame” began as an original watercolor for T’s Picture and Poem series.) “The peony and the rose are the two most important flowers in the Isabella Stewart Gardner collection,” Mr. Othoniel said. “They are both beautiful and

sad at the same time.”

There will also be four new paintings as well as drawings and models of the Versailles commission. “Most people don’t understand how artists work, that inspiration comes from a chance meeting, a book, a trip,” Mr. Othoniel said. This spring, the new Water Theater grove design he created with the landscape architect Louis Benech will open to the public at the garden of Versailles. GAY GASSMANN