

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

the guardian

The bouquets behind history's most powerful handshakes – in pictures

Monica Tan



*Convention on Cluster Munitions, signed in Oslo, Norway, on 3 December, 2008.
Photograph: Taryn Simon/Gagosian Gallery*

In her new exhibition, *Paperwork and the Will of Capital*, the New York-based artist Taryn Simon has recreated the floral centrepieces arranged on the tables where 36 international agreements were signed, between 1968 and 2014. The work recalls 17th century Dutch paintings of ‘impossible bouquets’ — a fantastical arrangement of flowers that at the time could never naturally coexist, due to limits of season and geography, that have since been overcome. Simon says these bouquets ‘sat between powerful men as they signed agreements designed to influence the fate of the world’

Paperwork and the Will of Capital is at Gagosian Gallery, Rome, 14 April-24 June