

## **Anatomy of creation**

by Cynthia Penna

Gary Brewer's "floral" world might appear at first glance as a kind of anatomical exploration of the womb of the orchid: flower "par excellence", the most voluptuous, sensual, and bewildering flower in existence.

Brewer's lexicon, however, eschews any reference to a mere aesthetics of pleasure, just as it eschews "botanical" descriptivism of the flower. The organic and sensual form of the orchid is meant to speak to us of Nature's miracle, of the power of life and death, of eros as pure energy and the creative capacity that Nature contains within itself.

The macroscopic encounter with the inner body of orchids takes us on a journey into these gestation chambers in which we feel protected as in a womb; a journey as an exploration of the why and how of life.

The richness of the composition is fullness of image almost to the point of a baroque voluptuousness that is never decadent; there is no indulgence on meaningless decorativism; rather it is jubilation of a material that transcends the real datum and accesses the mystery of creation and life. Brewer's poetics is all about this ability of nature to always amaze us, to always be one step ahead of the intellectual capacity of the human being.

Brewer's Nature becomes an obsession with beauty, voluptuousness and Eros as vital energy.