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Portfolio of the Lotus

Magic Arcana
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"Hard to imagine," mused Hanna, stroking the petal, "such a lovely flower inspiring such greed." (Lotus Petal)

It's not really that hard to imagine, Hanna. Powerful cards break the rules of **Magic** all the time, but way back in **Magic's** first set, **Black Lotus** didn't just break the rules—it ripped them into little pieces like so many plucked petals.

R&D exercises a little more caution with mana-for-free nowadays, but that doesn't mean that **Magic** is out of the lotus trade. Oh, no. Today we take a look at the cards and art associated with this famous flower.

The very word "Lotus" has an almost supernatural gravity in **Magic**. When John Avon painted a field of lotus flowers for the *Weatherlight* set's **Lotus Vale**, he took care to deliver the same sense of respect and awe. See that seed-pod in the center of each bloom? You'll see that a lot.



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Lotus Vale art by John Avon

Unglued and *Unhinged* both had "bigger and better Lotus" gags in them. Who could resist making a card *better* than the legendary **Black Lotus**? Of course, one of them you have to tear up to get that mana out and the other costs 15, but the original is pretty hard to top.



Take a look at Randy Gallegos's **Lotus Blossom**. The morning light of a Tolaria valley puts a coppery cast on the petals—a neat effect on this *Urza's Saga* iteration of the mana-generating artifact.



Lotus Blossom art by Randy Gallegos

Martina Pilcerova's **Gilded Lotus** takes the artifact-lotus a step further. This is how a mana-flower looks when grown on the metal plane of *Mirrodin*.



Gilded Lotus art by Martina Pilcerova

Lotuses aren't common—but their petals were back in *Tempest*. And when *Invasion* got a 4/4 flyer with five-color mana generation abilities—well, the flavor text explains it all.



Now look at *Time Spiral*'s Lotus Bloom by Mark Zug. See the characteristic pattern of the central seed pod and the subtly ridged petals? The coloration is important here as well—you'll learn more about the blue field in the background as you see more of *Time Spiral*.



Lotus Bloom art by Mark Zug



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