

Chicago Tribune



A REINCARNATION of the Floral Kind

BY JENNY B. DAVIS

A FORMER FILLER IS BEING REDISCOVERED by high-style floral designers. "Carnations have been slowly re-emerging as a popular flower," says Casey Cooper; owner of Botanicals in Lincoln Park. "A single flower variety used en masse can be stunning and is very current. Plus they have a lively, light fragrance."

In fact, Cooper is so enamored that she has included three carnation designs in her company's 2003 holiday catalog.

"I've had designers here trying to get me to use them for over two years, and I've always refused," she says, citing

memories of her first job, bundling bouquets of carnations and baby's breath for a chain florist back in Kentucky. "But I've come around to appreciate their visual impact."

She's not alone. Celebrity event designer Colin Cowe recently used carnations to anchor the design theme of a deluxe charity event in New York, attended by celebs such as Catherine Zeta-Jones. And the artist-slash-party-planning duo of David Stark and Avi Adler announce in their recently released book, "Wild Flowers" (Clarkson Potter, \$25), that they are "flower snobs" no longer—carnations are definitely back in bloom. 🍀

