About the cover

“It’s not black and white” is a phrase that we have used a lot during our many work discussions. It applies to most situations encountered in (PhD) life, but also to the rheumatic diseases that are (in)famous for their heterogeneity. Take rheumatoid arthritis: although all patients have swollen joints by definition, there are many interindividual differences, such as presence and absence of a type I IFN signature, and plenty other aspects that need much more PhD theses to be fully addressed.

The cover of this thesis symbolizes this heterogeneity: although they are all considered flowers, with a stem, leaves, and flower petals, every one of them looks different from the other, and they definitely are not black and white.