

2008 SELECTED PRESS QUOTES
Kiku: *The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum*
Compiled by Nick Leshi, 11/07/2008

“Another chance is a precious gift, and The New York Botanical Garden has one for you: the extraordinary, blockbuster event *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum* will return...If you are familiar with The New York Botanical Garden, you know the staff imagines and stages only the best...What ultimately rivets the viewer and transforms conventional ideas about horticultural possibilities, however, are the real, live blossoms borne on plants whose forms defy belief...*Ozukuri* begins with one three-inch plant meticulously watered, pinched, staked, and tied over a period of 11-12 months to become a fabulous specimen of horticultural art...It is breathtaking...And so you stare, amazed at what perfection looks like...This exhibit of *kiku*, inspiring and never seen on such a spectacular scale outside Japan, is not to be missed.”

– **Tom Woodham, *Veranda*, “Kiku Culture,” Oct. 2008**

“The great New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx is staging its second *Kiku* flower show and cultural exhibition. Last year’s forerunner drew huge crowds and the virtuoso displays are even more sensational this year.”

– **Robin Lane Fox, *Financial Times*, “The Worldwide Chrysanthemum,” Oct. 11-12, 2008**

“There are mums and then there are mums...These perfect blooms, these Rockettes of traditional Japanese mum manipulation, all grow on a single plant...It is certainly an eye-catching spectacle, dazzling without being kitschy.”

– **Adrian Higgins, *Washington Post*, “A Bouquet of Blossoms Fit for an Emperor,” Oct. 23, 2008**

“(The *Kiku* exhibition) includes astonishing examples (of chrysanthemums), ranging from the huge, single flowers grown for the Japanese royal family to cascades of tiny blooms. If the stock market has you blue, go to the exhibition and drink in the uplifting display.”

– **Bill Cunningham, *The New York Times*, “Mum Madness,” Oct. 26, 2008**

“Last year, The New York Botanical Garden hosted an exhibit with the most extensive display of mums grown in the Japanese Imperial style ever presented outside of Japan. This year’s show...promises to be just as ambitious...The wonderfully colorful flower show runs through November 16 and will also include a gardenwide celebration of Japanese art and culture.”

– **Bill Cary, *The Journal News*, “The Bronx is Bursting: Mums on Parade,” Oct. 18, 2008**

“(Yukie Kurashina) has grown to love *kiku*, likening the flowers to supermodels who enjoy being exquisitely dressed and in the spotlight...The traditional displays show off the unique characteristics of each variety of flower perfectly.”

– **Sondra Wolfer, (*New York*) *Daily News*, “Spotlight on Yukie Kurashina,” Sept. 16, 2008**

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“Celebrate autumn’s flower, the chrysanthemum, at one of the many festivals across the country. Highlights include The New York Botanical Garden’s *Kiku Matsuri*, one of the most extensive Japanese chrysanthemum festivals outside Japan. It features meticulously cultivated specimens, including a single plant trained to produce hundreds of blooms at once.”

– **Melissa Ozawa, *Country Living*, “Chrysanthemums: A Garden Field Trip,” Nov. 2008**

“The chrysanthemum, known as *kiku*, is perhaps the most revered of the fall-flowering plants in Japan. For centuries the secrets of its cultivation were carefully guarded...The New York Botanical Garden learned the time-honored growing techniques and display styles to become the first garden outside of Japan to showcase the art of *kiku* in the Imperial style.”

– **Ken Druse, *Real Dirt: The Newsletter*, “Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum,” Nov. 2008**

“New for this year is the *shino-tsukuri* style, with dramatically shaped wide-open blossoms. So exquisite!”

– **Matt Schneiderman, *Time Out New York*, “Kiku Manga,” Oct. 16, 2008**

“Mums take center stage...Many gardeners take these reliable late-bloomers for granted, but chrysanthemums have a long, interesting history, and are celebrated here...in elaborate displays.”

– **Alice McGowan, *Horticulture*, “From Distant Shores: Fall Shows Celebrate the Chrysanthemum,” Oct. 2008**

“(Tetsunori Kawana’s bamboo sculpture) is meant to look like clouds suspended over tall bamboo stalks. The (Enid A. Haupt Conservatory) courtyard will be home to (The New York Botanical) Garden’s annual flower and cultural show, *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum*...The final product is spectacular.”

– **Dorian Block, (*New York*) *Daily News*, “Art of Stress Management,” Oct. 1, 2008**

“A rare seasonal event returns to The New York Botanical Garden: the celebration of the chrysanthemum...The four-week exhibit transforms the courtyards surrounding the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory with brightly colored, stylistically-shaped arrays...(Susan) Cohen has set the stage for the extraordinary flower display.”

– **Anne W. Semmes, *Greenwich Citizen*, “Greenwich Pair Helps Shape Japanese Chrysanthemum Time,” Oct. 17, 2008**

“Tomorrow will be the public opening of one of the most elaborate presentations of chrysanthemums in the imperial tradition ever seen outside Japan. This is the second year of an exhibition of this spectacular floral tradition. And last year’s display...was wonderful...Come early, come again, come and enjoy *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum*.”

– **Judy Glattstein, *BelleWood-Gardens.com Garden Diary*, “Kiku at The New York Botanical Garden,” Oct. 17, 2008**

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“The New York Botanical Garden presents *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum*, a can’t-miss show of giant proportions...Examine tea leaves with the little ones at *Kiku for Kids* or explore the sea of color at *Kiku* in the (Enid A. Haupt) Conservatory courtyards.”

– *NYCVisit.com*, “**Kiku at The New York Botanical Garden,**” Oct./Nov., 2008

“*Kiku*, the art of cultivating carefully shaped chrysanthemums, has been a closely guarded tradition. Last year’s festival (at The New York Botanical Garden) was the first event at which the horticultural techniques were displayed on a large scale, with a high level of authenticity, outside Japan.”

– **Tina Kelley, *NYTimes.com*, “Shaping the Chrysanthemums, a Rare Art,”**
Oct. 23, 2008