

# NYBG/125

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## ***Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden*, NYBG's Acclaimed Fall Exhibition, Returns with Magnificent Displays of Meticulously Trained Chrysanthemums**

October 8–30, 2016



*Kiku* in the Haupt Conservatory. Photo credit: © Robert Benson Photography.

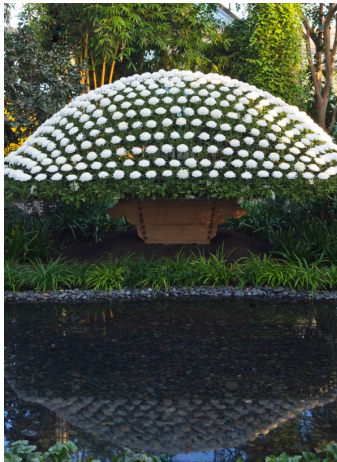
**Bronx, NY**—The New York Botanical Garden's distinctive and acclaimed fall exhibition, ***Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden***, returns to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory from October 8 through 30, 2016, with magnificent displays of chrysanthemums in awe-inspiring shapes and styles. *Kiku*, the Japanese word for “chrysanthemum,” is the most celebrated of all Japanese fall-flowering plants. NYBG's unforgettable presentation of *kiku*, painstakingly trained to grow in a mesmerizing variety of forms and sizes, pays homage to *hanami*, the traditional Japanese custom of enjoying the ephemeral beauty of flowers.

The amazing floral sculptures, combined with all of the Botanical Garden's natural attractions, beckon visitors to indulge in fall's exquisite yet fleeting beauty. Intriguing installations of traditional *kiku* displays pioneered by the chrysanthemum masters at the Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden in Tokyo and re-created by the *kiku* experts at The New York Botanical Garden provide the opportunity for visitors to learn about the fascinating history of this storied flower as it traveled from its native China to Japan and ultimately to the West. Special weekend programs spotlight the importance of flowers in Japanese culture.

## Traditional *Kiku* Styles on Display

Botanical Garden experts work up to 11 months each year to grow, train, and shape the *kiku* on display. Cultivated from tiny cuttings, the plants are pinched back, tied to frames, and carefully nurtured. Flower buds develop as the autumn nights grow longer, and in October the plants burst into bloom, a true celebration of the changing of the seasons. During *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden*, three traditional *kiku* styles will be displayed in the Haupt Conservatory:

- **Ozukuri (Thousand Bloom):** In this highly complex technique, a single stem is trained to produce hundreds of simultaneous blossoms in a massive, dome-shaped array. *Ozukuri* are planted in specially built wooden containers called *sekidai*.
- **Kengai (Cascade):** This technique features small-flowered chrysanthemums. They are trained to conform to boat-shaped frameworks that cascade downward like waterfalls for lengths of up to six-and-a-half feet. The result is a burst of hundreds of tightly clustered blooms.
- **Ogiku (Double and Triple Stem):** These plants feature enormous individual flowers perched at the ends of stems up to six feet tall.



*Ozukuri* photo by Robert Benson



*Kengai* photo by Robert Benson



*Ogiku* photo by Robert Benson

## About the *Kiku* Designers

This year's *kiku* team is led by Foreman of Gardeners, James Harkins, under the supervision of Marc Hachadourian, Director of the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections. James trained with and works alongside *kiku* expert Yukie Kurashina, who was educated by *kiku* masters from Tokyo's Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden. Marc curates NYBG's extensive groupings of living plants from around the world housed in the Nolen Greenhouses, the behind-the-scenes glasshouses where plants for the Garden's indoor and outdoor displays and science program are grown and maintained.

The exhibition is designed by Francisca P. Coelho, Vivian and Edward Merrin Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions, best known for her plantsmanship and key role in the design and development of high-profile horticultural displays in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

For several years, *kiku* expert Kodai Nakazawa, oversaw the intricate training of the chrysanthemums at The New York Botanical Garden along with Yukie Kurashina. A few modern forms, such as “Butterfly” and “Bridge,” will be included in this year’s exhibition, building on some of the experimental shapes that Kodai practiced while at NYBG. Today, Kodai is back in Japan, raising a family and enjoying success as one of the country’s greatest chrysanthemum masters. He was recently rewarded for his years of discipline and artistry with the recognition of becoming the *kiku* chief at Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, one of the premier destinations for chrysanthemum-lovers around the world.

### **More to See Throughout NYBG**

Other highlights at The New York Botanical Garden during *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden* include *taiko* drumming on weekends and daily roaming guides stationed throughout the exhibition. Other attractions include *ikebana* demonstrations, meditation walks, *haiku* workshops, and more. On October 15 and 16, during the Aki Matsuri Japanese Fall Celebration, visitors can participate in added activities throughout the Botanical Garden in conjunction with the opening of the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Maple Collection, which features prized specimens of Japanese maples.

Take a stroll along the Poetry Walk to view poems that highlight the Japanese art of *haiku* and *tanka*, enhanced by the natural beauty of the surrounding tree collection, the Arthur and Janet Ross Arboretum, the first one established at the Botanical Garden, featuring pines, spruces, and firs, many of which are native to Asia. The Poetry Walk is part of *Poetry for Every Season*, co-presented by the Poetry Society of America. Special poetry workshops will also be a part of the events on October 15 and 16.

Visitors can also enjoy two Kiku Evenings, October 8 and 15, separate ticketed events at which they can experience the stunning displays with traditional Japanese music while sipping a complimentary *sake* cocktail courtesy of TY KU, the leader in premium *sake* producing the best tasting, most awarded, and fastest growing Japanese *sake* in the U.S., authentically brewed in Nara, Japan, the birthplace of *sake*.

Details are available at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).

## Dining

During the *Kiku* exhibition, the Hudson Garden Grill, NYBG's full-service restaurant, will offer a Japanese-inspired, three-course prix fixe menu for \$35 per person. The entrée choices include miso-glazed cod, wagyu beef with soba noodles, or crispy fried chicken with pickled daikon and yuzu mayo. Enjoy more dining options at the Pine Tree Café.

## NYBG Shop

At NYBG Shop, *kiku* images adorn everything from placemats to silk scarves—and the plant shop will be filled with colorful mums, bonsai, and delicate Japanese maples for purchase.

Visit the Garden's Web site, [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org), for more information on all the offerings during *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden* and to purchase tickets.

*Presenting Sponsor: Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)*

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*Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.*

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**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)**

**The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458**

**The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.**

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