

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
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***MONET'S GARDEN,***  
**A New York Botanical Garden Tribute to the Master,  
Highlights His Passion for Gardening and Its Influence on His Art**

**A Seasonally Changing Interpretation of the Garden That Inspired Claude Monet**

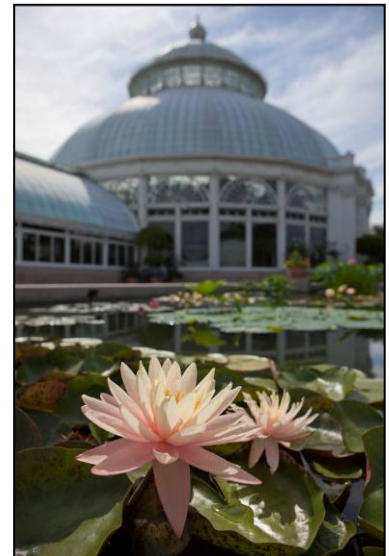
**Two Rarely Seen Paintings by the Artist,  
One Never Before Exhibited in the United States**

**May 19–October 21, 2012**

*“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.”*

—Claude Monet

[\*Monet's Garden\*](#), an exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden from May 19 through October 21, 2012, will examine the life and work of the Impressionist master by highlighting his passion for gardening and the inspiration he drew from his living masterpiece, the garden on the grounds of his home in Giverny, France. Among the many attractions of the exhibition will be two rarely seen paintings by Monet, one of which has never been displayed in the United States. Also on view will be Monet's own palette with colors on its surface similar to those visitors will see on his paintings hanging nearby, and rare photographs of him and his gardens, offering intimate insight into his world. *Monet's Garden* will be a multifaceted exhibition with components in several venues throughout the Botanical Garden and a rich assortment of programming that includes concerts, poetry, tours, film screenings, a photography exhibit, and family activities. The curator for this exhibition is Professor Paul Hayes Tucker, the world's foremost authority on Monet.



“The New York Botanical Garden is uniquely positioned among museums and cultural venues in America to mount an exhibition such as *Monet's Garden*,” said [Gregory Long](#), Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden. “We are very excited to present what is sure to be a beautiful and inspiring exhibition. We hope visitors will learn about the profound connections between art and nature.”

***Monet's Garden in the Conservatory***

“I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers,” said Monet. *Monet's Garden* will explore the legacy of the artist's idyllic gardens in Giverny, transforming the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory into a seasonally changing floral masterpiece of diverse plants, bold colors, and dramatic design. Starting in July, Monet's most famous subjects, water lilies, many of them the varieties he grew, will be featured in the Conservatory Courtyard Pools.

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Designed by Tony Award-winning set designer Scott Pask, a façade of Monet's house will offer a glimpse of the artist's view of his garden and the flowers he grew and depicted in his paintings. Other set pieces will include a re-creation of his iconic Japanese footbridge and his Grande Allée, draped with flowers.

During the summer, in the Conservatory Courtyard's Hardy Pool, the Garden's collection of water lilies will offer visitors the perfect chance to see firsthand the plants that Monet collected for his water garden and painted in his famous *Nymphéas* series. Interpretive signage throughout the Conservatory show, some featuring images of Monet's paintings, will provide the historical and artistic context for the flower displays.

### *The Artist in the Garden*



Claude Monet, *The Artist's Garden in Giverny*  
Yale University Art Gallery, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, B.A. 1929

The exhibition in the Rondina Gallery of the Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library will communicate Monet's personal engagement with his gardens as well as their intimacy and richness. One of the two Monet paintings on view depicts the iris garden at Giverny from the Yale University Art Gallery, capturing the intensity of the flower garden's colors, and the other from a private collection in Switzerland, depicting a dense arrangement of irises with such vitality as to leave no doubt about Monet's complete devotion to botanical affairs. The two are ideally paired and have never been displayed together in any exhibition. Also on view will be one of Monet's own paint palettes, on loan from the Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris. The palette was used to create his art, with colors on its surface similar to those visitors will see on his paintings hanging nearby.

### **More to Discover Throughout the Botanical Garden**

***Monet's Garden*** will also feature a Poetry Tour, *Monet to Mallarmé*, in the Perennial Garden, developed in collaboration with the Poetry Society of America. An audio tour will present commentary about the poetry as well as expert narration on Monet's work, his gardens, and the inspiration he drew from nature.

Photographs of Giverny in different seasons by Elizabeth Murray, who gardened at and helped with the restoration of Monet's estate, will be on view in *Seasons of Giverny*, an exhibit in the Garden's Ross Gallery. Her photographs will also be highlighted throughout the Conservatory flower show.

The New York Botanical Garden is collaborating with The Metropolitan Museum of Art on a customized iPhone application that will add an interactive element to the exhibition experience. Tour stops throughout the Conservatory and in the Rondina Gallery will provide additional information and images about the exhibition. A special feature will enable visitors to virtually view Monet paintings currently on display at the Met, and to link to the Met's Web site for further information on the pictures, complementing what visitors will see at the Garden. Available through the iTunes Store in early May, the app will also allow users to take Impressionist-style photos via their iPhone. Funding for the app was provided in part by Deutsche Bank.

On Saturdays and Sundays, visitors will enjoy the *Monet Double Feature*, screenings of Monet-related films. On select weekend days throughout the exhibition, *Monet to Mallarmé: The Salon Series* will present readings by contemporary poets of their favorite French Impressionist poetry along with their own nature-inspired work (co-presented with the Poetry Society of America).

Ticketed music events will include *Monet's Friends: A Chamber Music Concert Series*, pieces by Monet's contemporaries performed by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and *Monet Evenings Featuring Water Lily Concerts*, a chance for visitors to enjoy a cocktail while viewing *Monet's Garden*, then relaxing on the Conservatory Lawn for a live concert.

From May 19 through September 30, families can participate in *Observe and Create* in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, an opportunity for children to discover their inner artist with music, drawing, observation, and painting. Also on view will be an exhibit by students from Studio in a School.

An unforgettable departure from the everyday, The New York Botanical Garden is America's premier urban garden. Its special exhibitions, seasonal programs, and engaging activities inspire visitors of every age and interest. The Botanical Garden is an ever-changing living museum, and a showplace of natural beauty and wonder. In the setting of the Garden, visitors will witness how nature inspired Claude Monet and how he developed his art through his passion for gardening. For more information, visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) or call 718.817.8700.

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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 [nybg.org](http://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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