



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
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**Claude Monet's Horticultural Masterpiece Re-created  
In The New York Botanical Garden's Seasonally Changing  
*Monet's Garden* Exhibition**

**Floriferous Panoramas in the Botanical Garden's Conservatory in  
Spring, Summer, and Fall Evoke the French Garden That Inspired the Artist**

**Featuring Water Lilies, Irises, Weeping Willows, and Other Favorites of Monet**

**May 19–October 21, 2012**

*"It took me time to understand my water lilies. I had planted them for the pleasure of it;  
I grew them without ever thinking of painting them."*

—Claude Monet

The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory will be transformed during *Monet's Garden* at The New York Botanical Garden into a seasonally changing floral masterpiece of diverse plants, bold colors, and dramatic design inspired by Claude Monet's idyllic gardens in Giverny, France. As part of the multifaceted Garden-wide exhibition from May 19 through October 21, 2012, examining the life and work of the Impressionist master, the flower show will highlight the artist's passion for gardening and the inspiration he drew from



*Photo by Alison Rosa*

his living masterpiece, the garden on the grounds of his home in the Seine Valley northwest of Paris. An audio tour of the exhibition will be narrated by the curator, Professor Paul Hayes Tucker, the world's foremost authority on Claude Monet and Impressionism.

In May and June inside the Garden's landmark Victorian-style glasshouse, visitors will see colorful vistas of irises, poppies, roses, delphiniums, and foxgloves. Evocative set pieces depicting Monet's Grand Allée and iconic Japanese footbridge will be surrounded by willow trees, bamboo groves, and flowering shrubs. During July and August, Monet's most famous subjects, water lilies, many of them the varieties he grew, will be featured in the Conservatory Courtyard Pools, while dahlias, sunflowers, and nasturtiums blossom in the Conservatory's *Seasonal Galleries*. The show continues in September and October with another seasonal burst of splendor with chrysanthemums and salvias flowering inside.

**The Conservatory's Homage Begins in Spring in *Monet's Garden***

Designed by Tony Award-winning set designer Scott Pask, a façade of Monet's house at the beginning of the visitor's journey will offer a glimpse of the artist's view of his garden and the flowers that served as his muse for many of his most famous paintings. As visitors walk past the vine-covered pink walls with bright-green shutters, familiar to anyone who has seen the original in Giverny, their senses will be invigorated by the sights and scents of spring aubretias, bellflowers, and poppies, as well as masses of Dutch, German-bearded, Japanese, and Siberian irises, which Monet immortalized in his art.

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A re-creation of Monet's Grand Allée from his formal garden known as *Clos Normand*, or Norman enclosure, will include a path of rose-covered arches with beds of lush, colorful flowers lining both sides. A Japanese footbridge dressed with mauve and white Asian wisterias will extend over a picturesque pool, calling to mind Monet's water garden, encircled with willow trees, bamboo groves, and flowering shrubs.

The blossoms of spring will give way to other vibrant plants as the seasons change during the run of the exhibition, both inside the Conservatory and in its Courtyard outside.

### **Witness the Water Lilies of Monet's Garden in Summer**

During the summer months, in the Conservatory Courtyard's Hardy Pool, the Garden's collection of water lilies will offer visitors the perfect opportunity to see firsthand the plants that Monet collected for his water garden and painted in his famous *Nymphéas* series, including the deep-pink *Nymphaea* 'James Brydon' and the magnificent yellow *Nymphaea Mexicana* (purchased by Monet as *N. flava*). Interpretive signage throughout the Conservatory show, some featuring images of Monet's paintings, will provide the historical and artistic context for the flower displays. Amid pale pink, yellow, and white lotuses in early summer, the water lilies will be a must-see attraction during *Monet's Garden*.

Inspired by Monet's habit of experimenting with color combinations in smaller raised beds before incorporating the flowers into his larger garden, the Courtyard will also feature several "Paint Box" beds from June through October, displaying a rainbow assortment of annuals, perennials, and tropical plants arranged by color, height, and season of bloom.

The Tropical Pool will showcase exciting examples of water lilies from warmer, tropical climates, the type that fascinated Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac, a pioneer in breeding and hybridizing water lilies. He introduced colorful varieties of the plant to Europe, and his visit to the World's Fair in Paris in 1889 sparked Claude Monet's love for the flower. Monet purchased some of the water lilies for his own garden from Latour-Marliac's nursery.

Inside the Conservatory, the cool pastels of the previous season will be usurped by the hot yellows and warm oranges of summer nasturtiums along the allée as zinnias, cosmos, and hollyhocks grow overhead amid the roses. Luscious fragrances from lavenders, lilies, and geraniums will fill the exhibition galleries.

### **Fall in the Conservatory Brings Even More Color to Monet's Garden**

As summer gives way to fall, visitors will be treated to a new wave of sensory delights as towering sunflowers, asters, sages, goldenrods, and dahlias take the stage for their attention. The roses on the Grand Allée arches are expected to flower again, and plumes of meadow rue and feathery grasses will be complemented by bursts of pale lavender.

### **The Conservatory Is Just the Beginning of Discovering Monet's Love for Nature**

The garden Claude Monet cultivated on his property from 1883 until his death in 1926 served as the inspiration for many of the artist's paintings. The Conservatory flower show will be just one part of the multifaceted exhibition, *Monet's Garden*, which features components in several venues throughout The New York Botanical Garden. Two rarely seen paintings by Monet, one of which has never been displayed in the United States, will be on view in the Rondina Gallery of the Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library. 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 provide intimate insight into his world. A rich assortment of programming during *Monet's Garden* includes concerts, poetry readings, tours, film screenings, a photography exhibit, and family activities, all offering new understanding of the life and work of one of history's finest artists.

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 as the date approaches. 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

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