



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
October 9, 2013

***Close: A Journey in Scotland***  
**Inspires with Landscapes Photographed by Allan Pollok-Morris**

**Exhibition at NYBG Documents Landscape Design and Land Art  
By Notable Contemporary Designers and Artists  
Including Ian Hamilton Finlay, Andy Goldsworthy, Jinny Blom, and Antony Gormley**

**October 12, 2013–March 16, 2014**



**Landscape design by Xa Tollemache of the keyhole path to Dunbeath Castle on the coast of northern Scotland. Photo by Allan Pollok-Morris.**

The New York Botanical Garden brings breathtaking Scottish landscapes to New York City with the photography of Allan Pollok-Morris in the exhibition *Close: A Journey in Scotland*, on view in the Botanical Garden's Ross Gallery from October 12, 2013 through March 16, 2014. *Close* features the creations of 21 notable contemporary designers and artists working in the Scottish landscape. The landscape design and land art featured range widely and include earthworks and labyrinths, gardens on grounds of private houses and castles, and sculptures located on land and by the sea.

The exhibition's use of the term "close" refers to a traditional Scottish word used to describe a landscape so inspirational that heaven seems closer to Earth in that place. When landscape photographer and journalist Allan Pollok-Morris learned that Little Sparta, a garden designed by Scottish sculptor, graphic artist, and poet Ian Hamilton Finlay, had been voted the most important work of art in Scotland, Pollok-Morris decided to travel his home country of Scotland in search of new works in landscape design and land art. *Close* documents Pollok-Morris's journey and celebrates the works of many notable designers and artists (some Scots, some not) working in the Scottish landscape. The photographs in the exhibition were featured in an installation mounted at the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. in 2011.

"These images record and magnify something of the particularity of manmade landscapes and gardens, endowed as they are with rich meanings and strong emotions by those who have made them and by those who now enjoy them," wrote the English landscape writer and critic Tim Richardson. "At the same time the wider Scottish landscape is honoured: a cloak of gilded grass, silvery granite, darksome evergreen, or a grey-white sea. This is the environment which palpably envelops and offsets the enclosed outdoor spaces, the

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**Labyrinth by Jim Buchanan etched in the sands by the River Nith in southwest Scotland. Photo by Allan Pollok-Morris.**

‘gardens’, in Pollok-Morris’s oeuvre.” Richardson wrote an essay for Pollok-Morris’s book *Close: Landscape Design and Land Art in Scotland*, which is available for purchase at the Botanical Garden’s Shop at the Garden.

### Landscape Design and Land Art Photographed by Pollok-Morris



Catherine Erskine and Elliott Forsyth’s work at Cambo House near St Andrews. Photo by Allan Pollok-Morris.

Cambo House owner Catherine Erskine and head gardener Elliott Forsyth redeveloped the gardens at Cambo, near St Andrews, and Forsyth’s primarily naturalistic planting style is highlighted in Pollok-Morris’s photos, showing lavender spherical flower heads punctuated by red flowers. Angelika, Dowager Countess of Cawdor has dedicated herself to bringing new life to Cawdor Castle in the Highlands, and one of Pollok-Morris’s photos of her work shows the historic castle as seen from the Flower Garden, which was laid out in the 18th century.

British sculptor, photographer, and environmentalist Andy Goldsworthy has been based in Scotland for the past 25 years and is represented in the exhibition with photos of his work *Penpont Cairn* (man-made stack of stones), on a hillside by Goldsworthy’s home village; his *Stone Coppice* at Jupiter Artland; and one of his *Millennium Cairns*, made on the moorland on the hills by Dunesslin Farm in Dumfriesshire. Landscape architect Charles Jencks’ work is inspired by prehistoric landforms as well as strange attractors, fractal geometry, and genetic organization. The botanical *Teeth Wall* and *The Black Hole Terrace* are a few of his works that are included in Pollok-Morris’s photographic documentation.

### Artists Featured in the Exhibition

*Close: A Journey in Scotland* comprises 40 photographs by Allan Pollok-Morris that feature work by Angelika, Dowager Countess of Cawdor; Jinny Blom; Jim Buchanan; Mary Ann Crichton Maitland; Peter Cool; Catherine Erskine and Elliott Forsyth; Alec Finlay; Ian Hamilton Finlay; Andy Goldsworthy; Antony Gormley; Penelope Hobhouse, VMH; Charles Jencks; Gerald Laing; Arabella Lennox-Boyd; Niall Manning and Alastair Morton; Zara Milligan; James Alexander Sinclair; Thomas Smith; and Xa Tollemache.

### About The New York Botanical Garden

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. For more information, visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) or call 718.817.8700.

*Exhibitions in the Ross Gallery are made possible by the Arthur and Janet Ross Fund.*

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 prices, 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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