



## THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
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### **Kiku: *The Art of the Japanese Garden* Heralds the Fall Season With Stunning Color and Beauty at The New York Botanical Garden**

#### **Magnificent Displays of Meticulously Trained Chrysanthemums, The Most Celebrated of All Japanese Fall-Flowering Plants, in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory**

*October 5–27, 2013*

From October 5 through 27, 2013, at The New York Botanical Garden, *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden* pays homage to *hanami*, the traditional custom of enjoying the ephemeral beauty of flowers, with magnificent displays of chrysanthemums. The show's centerpiece is an unforgettable presentation in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory of *kiku*, the Japanese word for “chrysanthemum,” the most celebrated of all Japanese fall-flowering plants, painstakingly trained to grow in a mesmerizing variety of shapes and styles. Special weekend events spotlight the arts of bonsai and ikebana, as well as *taiko* drumming, and celebrate the importance of flowers in Japanese culture. 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 contemporary styles join 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 Botanical Garden. *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden* provides 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.

#### **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*.



- ***Ogiku* (Double and Triple Stem):** These plants feature stems that can reach six feet tall, with one perfect bloom balanced on top. Each plant stem is bent, precisely arranged in diagonal lines that decrease in height from the back to the front of the bed.



- **Kengai (Cascade):** This technique features small-flowered chrysanthemums that are more typical of the wild varieties. 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.

### Contemporary *Kiku* Styles Also on Display

The *kiku* training techniques that have been used by Japanese gardeners for centuries have been adapted to develop new, experimental styles. The techniques that produce the well-known traditional forms of *kiku* display can also be used to develop increasingly inventive new shapes. The horticulturists at The New York Botanical Garden have grown several exciting styles this year.

- **Bonsai-like Tree**

The ancient Japanese art of bonsai, the technique of training and nurturing miniature potted trees and plants to create living sculptures, is celebrated in a new way with an unusual *kiku* display in which wood from the Garden's grounds supports a construction of anemone form chrysanthemums trained to mimic the shape of a meticulously manicured bonsai.

- **Bridge**

The curved form of this bridge-like display is the result of a new application of the training techniques used to form the traditional *kengai* (cascade). As the chrysanthemum plant grows, the branches are carefully woven into the mesh that forms the armature of the bridge. The chrysanthemums on the upper tier of the bridge are known as spoon form because each floret becomes round and spoon-like at the end. The lower tier consists of single form chrysanthemums.

- **Wall**

A chrysanthemum wall is the result of a new application of the *kengai* training technique. One side contains white blooms, while the other has yellow. The wall features the anemone form, recognizable for the prominent disc at the center of the flower head surrounded by small individual florets.

- **Grafted Topiary**

The topiary-like shapes are similar to the traditional *ozukuri* (thousand bloom). Rather than creating one large, round shape from a single stem, the Botanical Garden team has created a pyramid of different-colored chrysanthemums. The varied colors have been achieved through a process known as grafting. The art of grafting chrysanthemums has a long history in China and Japan. To graft chrysanthemums, the stock stem of a young, healthy plant is sliced down the center, and the tip of a plant with a different color is inserted into the slit. The joined area is then tightly wrapped to keep the ends moist, and in a few weeks the tips of each plant fuse and the grafted plant begins to grow.

### About the *Kiku* Designers

*Kiku* specialist and gardener Kodai Nakazawa oversees the training of chrysanthemums at the Garden in preparation for this spectacular fall display. He has been educated by experts from Tokyo's Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden.

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

## More to See Throughout The New York Botanical Garden

Some of the other activities to see and do at The New York Botanical Garden during Kiku: *The Art of the Japanese Garden* include:

### **Taiko Drumming**

Saturdays and Sundays, 1 and 3 p.m.

Thunderous and thrilling, the *taiko* (Japanese drum) has been called “the voice and spirit of the Japanese people.” From its roots in agriculture and use in the ancient music in shrines and temples, traditional *taiko* folk music is believed to have entertained the gods, attracted good fortune, driven away evil forces and insects, lent strength and courage to warriors, and celebrated life.

### **Roaming Guides**

Daily, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Get an in-depth look into *Kiku* from guides stationed throughout the exhibition.

### **Ikebana Weekend: The Art of Japanese Flower Arranging**

October 5 and 6, 12–4 p.m.

Japanese ikebana—“flowers kept alive—is a complex form of asymmetrical flower arranging. Join expert-led demonstrations of this timeless and elegant art and sign up for an Adult Education class on the subject.

### **Bonsai Weekend**

October 26 and 27

Beautifully crafted bonsai will be on display for one weekend only. Experts will be on hands to share tips and tricks on the care and training of these living sculptures.

### **Poetry for Every Season**

Co-presented with the Poetry Society of America

Support provided by the United States-Japan Foundation

The poetry reading was funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc. through public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

### ***Kiku* Poetry Walk**

Take a stroll along the Poetry Walk in the Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum, curated by renowned poet Jane Hirschfield. The poems highlight the Japanese arts of haiku and tanka, and are enhanced by the natural beauty of the surrounding tree collection, the first one established at the Botanical Garden, featuring pines, spruces, and firs, many of which are native to Asia.

### ***Kiku* Poetry Reading**

October 27, 2 p.m.

Celebrate the beauty of fall flowers and foliage and their significance in Japanese culture with poet Jane Hirschfield, who will read classic favorites as well as a selection from her own work.

### **Japanese Pop-Up Restaurant**

Friday–Sundays, October 5–27

Check [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) for hours of operation

Enjoy a Japanese-inspired dining experience by Stephen Starr Events. Sip sake and aromatic wines under Japanese lanterns, and choose from prix fixe or a la carte dining options from handmade paper menus featuring artful, sweet and savory dumplings, chilled noodles, traditional dishes, and fresh, delicate tempura. Sit counterside as Stephen Starr Events’ chefs prepare elegant bites of sashimi and sushi.

The New York Botanical Garden, the perfect place to view nature in every season, has been a vital New York City cultural destination since its founding in 1891. The Garden pursues its mission through its role as a museum of living plant collections arranged in gardens and landscapes across its National Historic Landmark site; through its comprehensive education programs in horticulture and plant science; and through the wide-ranging research programs of the International Plant Science Center. 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.

*Presenting Sponsor: Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)*

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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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