

For Immediate Release
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***The Luminous Lens of Mick Hales:
Photographs of The New York Botanical Garden***

September 30, 2005–March 15, 2006

Never-Before-Seen Images of the Botanical Garden's Unique Seasonal Beauty

The exhibition, *The Luminous Lens of Mick Hales: Photographs of The New York Botanical Garden*, presents 23 magnificent, never-before-seen images captured by internationally renowned photographer Mick Hales during his recent year-long study of the Garden. The exhibition will be on view in the Botanical Garden's Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery from September 30 through March 15.

"The New York Botanical Garden is such a large garden, right in the center of a metropolitan area, with its own wild woodlands," notes Hales. "It's been there long enough to have its own history, which is significant."

In fact, the 250-acre historic site was first inhabited by Native Americans and has been protected since the 18th century. Among the exquisite vistas caught by Hales' lens are:

- The ancient Forest and meandering Bronx River under a fresh winter snow.
- Spring's cherry blossoms around the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the nation's largest Victorian glasshouse.
- Austrian pines lit by summer's rising sun.
- A sugar maple's warm autumn hues.

Ask Hales what his favorite part of the Botanical Garden is, and you sense that he is hard-pressed to single out just one area. "One of the backbones is the Conservatory, and the way it's used," he says. "The extent of the plantings in the permanent exhibition, and the way they change the temporary areas, there is always something worth seeing." The intimate Ross Gallery provides the ideal setting for viewing the beauty, color, variety, and expanse of the Garden's serene landscapes, as seen through Hales' keen eye.

"The best time (to photograph a garden) is always very early in the morning because the gardens are usually misty or have dew on them," explains Hales, whose career grew out of a love for the Devonshire landscapes of his childhood in England and the play of light over the moors. "There is a freshness, and the light is evocative, almost atmospheric." He developed an interest in photography around high school age, although it was not garden-inspired. "I first started photographing people on the streets, the people who didn't really have any advantages. It was sort of an escape for me when I was at a British public school."

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After studying at the London College of Printing, Hales continued to nurture his interest in urban portraits of the less privileged. “And then I returned to living in Devonshire and started doing a variety of photography, primarily landscapes,” he says. “Devonshire has two moors and sea on two sides, and farmland; it’s a very beautiful county.”

Twenty-three years ago, Hales moved to the U.S., where he settled in Manhattan. “One of the first people I started working for was Françoise de la Renta at *House & Garden*. “I worked with the magazine quite a long time.” In addition to gardens, he began photographing interiors and architecture.

Hales’ work has taken him around the globe to many of the world’s greatest gardens. His frequent travels have produced enough images to fill the 22 books and 200 magazine articles he has published. “My gift has been explaining spaces inside and outside,” he says. “I especially love the way light works within a garden or landscape; I love watching the light change.”

The stunning images included in *The Luminous Lens of Mick Hales: Photographs of The New York Botanical Garden* will transport you to a New York Botanical Garden that has never looked more enchanting. The Botanical Garden’s historic landscapes have some of the most beautiful natural terrain of any botanical garden in the world, including dramatic rock outcroppings, a river and waterfall, rolling hills, ponds, and a 50-acre remnant of the Forest that once covered New York City. Among its 48 gardens and plant collections are an outstanding rose garden, perennial garden, and rock garden, as well as superb collections of daylilies, orchids, conifers, and flowering trees. Throughout the Garden’s 114-year history, leading landscape and garden designers have contributed designs for individual gardens and collections.

Made possible by support from the Arthur and Janet Ross Fund

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road in the Bronx. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday holidays, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. April through October, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., November through March. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *Combination Ticket*, which includes grounds admission, the Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Tram Tour, and Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, and costs for \$13 for adults; \$11 for students and seniors; \$5 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free to everyone all day Wednesdays and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 718.817.8700, or to purchase tickets online visit our Web site at www.nybg.org

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