



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
October 12, 2012

***Monet's Garden* Enters Final Week at The New York Botanical Garden**

**Last Chance to Experience the Re-Creation of Claude Monet's Garden at Giverny—
Now Featuring Vibrant Colors of Fall—and Two Rarely Seen Paintings**

**Closing Weekend Highlights Include Poetry Readings and Final Concert in Series
Featuring Classical Compositions Created During Monet's Time**

***Monet's Garden* Closes on October 21, 2012**

The New York Botanical Garden's seasonally changing exhibition, *Monet's Garden*, inspired by Claude Monet's idyllic gardens in Giverny, France, concludes with a burst of fall color as well as a final concert and poetry reading during the closing weekend. This is the last chance to view the Botanical Garden's re-creation of Monet's living masterpiece, the garden on the grounds of his home in the Seine Valley northwest of Paris. The multifaceted Garden-wide exhibition opened to the public on May 19 and runs through October 21, 2012. An autumnal display of flowers in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and a final performance by members of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra in the *Monet's Friends: A Chamber Music Concert Series* beckons visitors to experience the exhibition again or for the very first time before it closes. *Monet's Garden* examines the life and work of the Impressionist master, highlighting the artist's passion for gardening and the inspiration he drew from nature. An audio tour of the exhibition is narrated by the curator, Professor Paul Hayes Tucker, the world's foremost authority on Claude Monet.



A Fall Palette of Flowers Inside the Conservatory

Inside the Conservatory's *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries*, *Monet's Garden*, which opened with a springtime display and transitioned into a summer spectacle, now concludes with a dazzling array featuring fall's finest dahlias, sunflowers, and chrysanthemums.

Designed by Tony Award-winning set designer Scott Pask, a facade of Monet's house at the beginning of the visitor's journey offers 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 those who have seen the original in Giverny, their senses are invigorated by the sight and scent of fall flora, such as asters, sages, and goldenrods. The roses are climbing on the Grand Allée arches, and plumes of meadow rue and feathery grasses are complemented by bursts of pale lavender.

– more –

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

The Poetry and Music of Monet's Contemporaries

The final poetry readings in *Monet to Mallarmé: The Salon Series* take place on Saturday, October 20, at 4 p.m. in the Jane Watson Irwin Perennial Garden. Visitors can hear contemporary poets reading their favorite French poets, including Stéphane Mallarmé, Arthur Rimbaud, and Paul Verlaine, and discussing the poets' influence on their own work. *Monet to Mallarmé* is co-presented by the Poetry Society of America. These programs are made possible by a gift from the Leon Lowenstein Foundation, Inc.

On October 21 at 4 p.m. in Ross Hall, *Monet's Friends: A Chamber Music Concert Series* offers visitors a chance to hear the classical compositions created during Claude Monet's lifetime. Members of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra will play selections by Claude Debussy and Gabriel Faure for the violin, accompanied by piano and cello. Tickets are \$25 for Non-Members and \$15 for Members. Advance tickets are recommended.

Water Lilies and Paint Box Beds Still on View

The Garden's collection of hardy water lilies—Monet's most famous subjects—are still in flower in the Conservatory Courtyard's Hardy Pool. The display, featuring many of the varieties of water lilies the artist grew, offers 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 of which features images of Monet's paintings, provides the historical and artistic context for the flower displays. The water lilies are a must-see attraction during *Monet's Garden*.

The Conservatory Courtyard's Tropical Pool showcases 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 Monet's visit to the World's Fair in Paris in 1889 sparked the artist's love for the flower. Monet purchased some of the water lilies for his own garden from Latour-Marliac's nursery, from which the Garden also acquired some of the water lilies featured in the exhibition, such as the hardy 'Paul Hariot' and the stunning 'Arc-en-Ciel.'

Inspired by Monet's habit of experimenting with color combinations in smaller, raised beds before incorporating the flowers into his larger garden, the Courtyard also features several paint box beds, showcasing a rainbow assortment of annuals, perennials, and tropical plants arranged by color, height, and season of bloom. Just as an artist may draw an image in a sketchbook prior to painting it on a canvas, Monet tested plants in small beds before introducing them to his main gardens. The range of bold colors and plant combinations in the Garden's nine paint box beds presents visitors with many ideas for their own home gardens.

The Conservatory Flower Show 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 is 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, are on view in the Rondina and LoFaro Gallery of the Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library. Also on view is Monet's own palette and rare photographs of him and his gardens, providing 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 or call 718.817.8700.

*Sponsored by MetLife Foundation
and the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust*

Generous support from the Karen Katen Foundation

Made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services

Supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities

*Made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts
with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature*

*Additional support provided by the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, The Kurt Berliner Foundation,
The E.H.A. Foundation, Inc., The Grand Marnier Foundation, Great Circle Foundation Inc.,
Leon Lowenstein Foundation, Inc., and Vital Projects Fund, Inc.*

Generous support for the Water Lilies and Lotus Collection provided by Vivian and Edward Merrin

###

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

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.

Media Contacts: Nick Leshi at 718.817.8658 or nleshi@nybg.org; Stevenson Swanson at 718.817.8512/8616 or sswanson@nybg.org — **Images available**