



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Seasonal Highlights of *Monet's Garden* Include Water Lilies in Peak Flower and a New Display Inspired by the Artist's Paint Box Beds

**Much to See in The New York Botanical Garden's
Summer Evocation of the French Garden That Inspired the Impressionist Master**

***Monet's Garden* Runs through 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, offers visitors new reasons to visit during the summer months. This is the perfect time to view the Botanical Garden's living collection of water lilies at their peak in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory's Courtyard and to behold a nearby display of paint box beds influenced by the kind that Monet himself created to experiment with a diversity of flowers. The multifaceted Garden-wide exhibition, which has already attracted record attendance since it opened to the public on May 19, provides fresh attractions to delight new and repeat visitors now through October 21, 2012. *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 his living masterpiece, the garden on the grounds of his home in the Seine Valley northwest of Paris. An audio tour of the exhibition is narrated by the curator, Professor Paul Hayes Tucker, the world's foremost authority on Claude Monet.



Water Lilies in Peak Flower

The Garden's collection of hardy water lilies—Monet's most famous subjects—have blossomed into a spectacular array of shapes and colors 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. Amid pale pink, yellow, and white lotuses, 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.'

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A New Display of Paint Box Beds



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.

A Summer Palette of Flowers Inside the Conservatory

Inside the Conservatory's *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries*, the springtime installation from the opening weeks of *Monet's Garden* has transitioned to a summer parade of dahlias, sunflowers, and nasturtiums.

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 will be invigorated by the scent of roses and the sight of China-asters, black-eyed Susans, geraniums, and big-leaf hydrangeas.

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. The cool pastels of the previous season have been usurped by the hot yellows and warm oranges of summer flowers along the Allée as zinnias, cosmos, and hollyhocks grow overhead amid the roses. A Japanese footbridge dressed with mauve and white Asian wisterias extends over a picturesque pool, calling to mind Monet's water garden, encircled with willow trees, bamboo groves, and flowering shrubs.



As summer gives way to fall, visitors will be treated to a new wave of sensory delights as sunflowers, asters, sages, goldenrods, and dahlias take center stage. 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 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.

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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 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

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