



New Features Planned for The New York Botanical Garden's Second Annual *Kiku* Flower Show and Cultural Exhibition

October 18–November 16, 2008

New *Kiku* Display Style, Bamboo “Clouds” Sculpture, Artwork from The Metropolitan Museum of Art Enhance Popular Celebration of Japanese Art, Life, and Culture

Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum, the elaborate flower show and cultural exhibition, returns to The New York Botanical Garden from October 18 through November 16, 2008. Last year, tens of thousands of visitors discovered the exquisite beauty of *kiku*—meticulously cultivated chrysanthemums in a traditional Japanese art that had never been seen before on this scale outside Japan. New features to this year's month-long show include a new *kiku* variety as one of four styles on display in the Courtyards of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, a new exhibition in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library gallery depicting the use of the chrysanthemum as a visual motif in Japan through several centuries, and a new bamboo sculpture by artist Tetsunori Kawana. Bonsai will be on display in the Conservatory's Seasonal Galleries until November 2 and in the Conservatory Courtyards until November 16. A wide range of programs for adults, children, home gardeners, and aficionados of Japan will celebrate the chrysanthemum and Japanese art, life, and culture.

The chrysanthemum (菊 *kiku* in Japanese) is revered throughout Japan, where it has been carefully cultivated and expertly trained into codified forms through floricultural techniques developed over 1,500 years. Cultivating and training *kiku* is exceptionally difficult, requiring expertise and constant attention throughout a 12-month growing period, during which time the plants are vigilantly watered, pinched, staked, and tied to grow in a variety of highly specialized shapes.

New Display of *Edo* Variety in Conservatory Courtyards

The flower show in the Haupt Conservatory Courtyards will feature distinct styles of *kiku* and other Japanese garden plants, including maples and bamboos. This year, *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum* will display four traditional styles of the Japanese chrysanthemum, highlighted by dramatic shapes, vibrant colors, and numerous blossoms.

The *ozukuri* (“thousand bloom” plants) feature hundreds of—if not quite a “thousand”—simultaneous blossoms in massive, domed-shaped arrays, all from a single plant. Another type, *ogiku* (“single-stem” plants), ranging up to six feet in height, present one single, perfect flower balanced atop the stem. Dozens of *ogiku* are arranged in diagonal lines to form disciplined color patterns. A third type, *kengai* (“cascades”), feature dramatic waterfall-like frames covered by small-flowered chrysanthemums.

New this year is a fourth style, *shino-tsukuri*, which displays *Edo* variety chrysanthemums (*Edo* is the ancient name for Tokyo), interesting shaped mums with blossoms that open wide, accentuating the two different colors of the flower inside and out. Each flower has three kinds of petals—quill, spoon, and flat. As the flower ages, the flat center petals curl inward like a pinwheel, dramatically changing the appearance of the entire flower. Each plant is trained with 27 thin rods into a shape that looks like “driving rain” (*shino-tsuku*), giving this form its name.

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Integral to the chrysanthemum display will be traditional Japanese garden pavilions or *uwaya* built according to centuries-old construction techniques utilizing bamboo and rope accented with swags of purple cloth and red tassels. In addition to providing shelter for the plants, these structures create an atmosphere of Japanese elegance and style. The *Kiku* exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden is an extensive presentation of chrysanthemums grown and displayed in this Imperial style rarely seen outside Japan.

New Library Exhibition Showcases Chrysanthemums in Japanese Art

The fall 2008 exhibition in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library celebrates the use of *kiku*, the emblem of the Japanese Imperial family and one of the cherished flowers of the people of Japan, as a versatile visual motif in Japanese art and artifacts through several centuries. *The Chrysanthemum in Japanese Art*, an exhibition of imaginative, stylistically intricate, and beautifully rendered representations of the chrysanthemum in many different media, will run from October 18, 2008, to January 11, 2009. The 32 objects on display will be on loan from exceptional collections of Japanese art outside of Japan: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Mary and Jackson Burke Foundation, and Mary Griggs Burke, as well as from several private dealers and collectors.

Among the objects on display that demonstrate the ubiquitous use of *kiku* imagery will be woodcut prints of Japanese women in kimonos decorated with *kiku* motifs, hanging scrolls with watercolor landscapes that incorporate *kiku* among autumn plants and grasses, folding screens, and a wide array of Japanese household treasures, including distinctive ceramic plates, refined lacquerware, a writing box, a picnic set, and textile stencils. Co-curators Dr. Miyeko Murase (Takeo and Itsuko Atsumi Professor Emerita, Columbia University, and former Special Consultant for Japanese Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art) and Stephanie Wada (Associate Curator of the Mary and Jackson Burke Foundation and the Mary Griggs Burke Collection of Japanese Art) are working closely with the Mertz Library's staff to design the exhibition.

New Bamboo Sculpture in Conservatory Courtyards

A popular feature of last year's *Kiku* exhibition was the towering bamboo sculpture by artist Tetsunori Kawana. This year, Mr. Kawana has designed a new monumental art piece made of bamboo that will evoke the image of clouds suspended above tall stalks in the Haupt Conservatory Courtyards.

***Kiku Matsuri* and *Kiku* for Kids Programming**

The Botanical Garden again will present *Kiku Matsuri*, a range of multi-disciplinary programming, including performances, workshops, demonstrations, an audio walking tour, and guided tours. In addition to the popular events from last year, such as ikebana demonstrations and traditional Japanese dance and music performances, new programming this year includes a kimono fashion show, sushi demonstrations, and Japanese paper dolls demonstrations.

Kiku for Kids, in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, features an array of hands-on activities for children and families that explore different aspects of traditional Japanese culture, including a tea ceremony just for children inside a beautiful replica of an authentic Japanese teahouse.

The Botanical Garden's Continuing Education program also offers a number of *Kiku*-related workshops, lectures, and courses.

Continuing a Multi-Year Cultural Exchange and Collaboration

This flower show and cultural exhibition is the culmination of a multi-year exchange and collaboration between Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden in Tokyo and The New York Botanical Garden. Under the direction of Yasuhira Iwashita, former Chief of the Chrysanthemum Department at Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, masters of chrysanthemum curation and propagation techniques at Shinjuku Gyoen have trained The New York Botanical Garden's horticulture staff, led by Gardener Yukie Kurashina, in traditional Japanese *kiku* growing and display. In the process of preparing the exhibition during this cultural exchange, the Botanical Garden has grown and cultivated an impressive Japanese *kiku* collection.

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, a 144-acre garden that blends English landscape, French formal, and Japanese traditional garden styles, was originally an Imperial garden entrusted with the cultivation of *kiku*, which is also featured on the crest of the Imperial family and a national flower of Japan. For nearly a century Japan has presented an annual fall Chrysanthemum Exhibition and developed original methods of cultivation and display.

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden—a 250-acre National Historic Landmark and one of the world's premier botanical gardens—is widely recognized for its floral and cultural exhibitions such as the annual *Holiday Train Show* and *The Orchid Show*, and the 2008 exhibitions *Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure* and *Moore in America: Monumental Sculpture at The New York Botanical Garden*. The Botanical Garden's exhibitions attract hundreds of thousands of people from the tri-state area and the nation as well as tourists from around the world, supporting the Garden's mission in horticulture, science, and education as a museum of plants.

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Exhibitions in the Mertz Library are made possible by the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, William D. Rondina and The Carlisle Collection, and The Kurt Berliner Foundation.

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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 Botanical Garden is open Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. 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, Rock and Native Plant Gardens, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$7 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. For more information about the Garden, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.nybg.org

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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