

For Immediate Release
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A Passionate Grower:
Heirloom Melons and Squashes from the Gardens of Amy Goldman
An Exhibition of Photographs by Victor Schrager

**In The New York Botanical Garden's
Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery
September 29, 2007 – September 1, 2008**

Thirty luminous color photographs of heirloom melons, pumpkins, squashes, and gourds will grace the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery at The New York Botanical Garden starting September 29, 2007. Photographer Victor Schrager's bold portraits are monumental, sensuous, and sculptural. A feast for the eyes, they celebrate the beauty and surprising range of colors, textures, and shapes of these ancient fruits.

Award-winning Photographer

Victor Schrager's work has been exhibited in numerous collections, galleries, and museums around the world, including the Whitney Museum of American Art. He is a frequent contributor to *Martha Stewart Living* and *House & Garden* magazines and he has collaborated with authors to create several visually arresting books. They include *Bird Hand Book*, with A. S. Byatt, and *Anatomy of a Dish*, by Diane Forley, which won the Best Photography award in 2003 from the James Beard Foundation.

While drawing on the long tradition of botanical imagery associated with medieval illuminated manuscripts, botanical illustration, and natural subjects by artists such as Albertus Seba, Pierre-Joseph Redouté, and Raphael Peale, Mr. Schrager's photographs also recall the botanical work of photographers Karl Blossfelt, Charles Jones, Edward Weston, and Irving Penn.

Passionate Grower

The heirloom specimens portrayed in the exhibition's photographs were grown by Amy Goldman. Ms. Goldman, a self-described "vegetable rights activist," works to preserve the agricultural heritage and genetic diversity of the world's fruits and vegetables. Her particular passion is for the family of Cucurbitaceae, to which melons and squashes belong.

Goldman is the author of *Melons for the Passionate Grower* (2002) and *The Compleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squashes, and Gourds* (2004), both collaborations with Victor Schrager. Both books are available at the Botanical Garden's bookshop. A third collaborative effort, *Home Grown Tomatoes*, will be published in summer 2008.

Ms. Goldman is president of the Board of Advisors to the Seed Savers Exchange and a member of the Board of The New York Botanical Garden.

Melons and Squashes: Wild, Domesticated, and Bronzed

Visitors can enjoy many different aspects of melons and squashes at The New York Botanical Garden. In the *Plants and Fungi: Ten Current Research Stories* exhibition on the 4th floor of the Library building, an

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exhibition case presents a glimpse of Garden scientist Dr. Michael Nee's plant explorations in remote mountain valleys of South America on the trail of the wild ancestors of today's domesticated squashes.

During the growing season, melons and squashes can be found in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden at the Botanical Garden.

And regardless of season, a series of stunning bronze sculptures by Amy Goldman are available at Shop in the Garden. They capture the allure of the marvelous shapes of heirloom gourds, squashes, and melons. Ms. Goldman has bestowed on this line of limited-edition bronzes the apt name of "Rare Forms." The sculptures are created through the "lost wax" process, used for thousands of years by artists in Egypt and China.

*Exhibitions in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery
are 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. For more information, including directions, admissions pricing, and programming, please visit www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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.

Contact: George Shakespear 718.817.8512 Images available.