

NYBG

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New Commissioned Installations for *The Orchid Show* by Acclaimed Belgian Floral Artist Daniel Ost on View at The New York Botanical Garden

NYBG's 16th Annual *Orchid Show* Runs from March 3 through April 22, 2018



Floral Artist Daniel Ost



A Daniel Ost installation in *The Orchid Show*

Bronx, NY—The 2018 edition of *The Orchid Show* at The New York Botanical Garden, exhibiting commissioned works by acclaimed Belgian floral artist Daniel Ost, opens on March 3 and runs through April 22, 2018. Entering its 16th year, the popular exhibition, showcasing thousands of dramatically displayed orchids in the Botanical Garden's historic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, features a series of installations crafted by Ost, each a living sculpture that celebrates the individual beauty of these stunning flowers.

One of the world's leading floral designers, Ost uses flowers as a means of expression. He identifies himself as a *bloembinder*, the Dutch term for an artist who works with flowers. His large-scale artworks have been tailored to the unique environment of the landmark Victorian-style Haupt Conservatory, complementing the architecture of the building while creating a transformative, dazzling spectacle of color, form, and texture. Bamboo, arranged in grids and calling to mind the glass grids of the Conservatory, and clear tubing, meant to both evoke water and connect to the Conservatory's glass, are among the materials employed in his artful installations to which individual orchids are attached so that each flower and form can be seen and appreciated. The works pay homage to his training in *ikebana*, the Japanese art of

flower arranging. In *ikebana*, artists value the ideas of *wabi-sabi*, a philosophy that finds beauty in imperfection, asymmetry, and impermanence.

In the Conservatory's *Palms of the World Gallery*, an approximately 18-foot-tall sculpture by Ost complements the height of the 90-foot-tall dome overhead. In the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries*, his designs speak to the architecture of the glasshouse. Daniel Ost's designs afforded an opportunity to showcase the widest range of orchid diversity ever presented in *The Orchid Show*. In addition to orchids, Ost has selected a range of tropical plants to add color and botanical interest. These "orchid companions" include *Kalanchoe*, *Vriesea*, *Phormium*, *Croton*, *Dracaena*, and more.

To hear directly from Daniel Ost about his work on *The Orchid Show*, [view his video interview here](#).

Ost is celebrated worldwide for his eye-catching installations in private and public spaces, working with both living and cut flowers. His large-scale artwork has drawn comparison to that of renowned sculptors Anish Kapoor, Claes Oldenburg, and Andy Goldsworthy. In Belgium he has been called "the Picasso of flower arranging," and in France he was touted as "the international star of floral decoration."

Daniel Ost lives and works in Sint-Niklaas, Belgium, where he was born and raised. Ost trained in Belgium and the Netherlands before visiting Japan for the first time in 1983 when he befriended Noboru Kurisaki, one of the most prominent grand masters of *ikebana*, who became his mentor and teacher. He taught Ost that a single flower used the right way can have more impact than thousands of flowers used en masse. This concept is particularly evident in one of Ost's designs on view in *The Orchid Show*. While Ost has been heavily influenced by *ikebana* practice and philosophy, his work is an expression of his unique aesthetic and deep appreciation for the beauty of the flowers and other materials he uses to create his installations.

Visitors have a chance to see Ost's art firsthand at *The Orchid Show*, where the floral artist has worked with NYBG horticulturists to create a utopia of fragrance and color, assembling orchids from the Garden's collections as well as from some of the finest growers in the world. Orchids of seemingly every conceivable shape and provenance, including rare and iconic specimens, are on display.

During Orchid Evenings throughout the run of the exhibition, visitors experience music, dance, and unmatched beauty, with cash bars offering for purchase beer, wine, and cocktails, including the *Dancing Lady*, especially created for Orchid Evenings by *Edible Bronx's* head mixologist. Warm up around fire pits on Conservatory Plaza, then head into the glasshouse to explore the exhibition. Curated music by a live DJ creates the perfect atmosphere to explore

The Orchid Show. Alice Farley's whimsical Orchid Ladies roam the Conservatory. Orchid Evenings are from 6:30–9:30 p.m. on March 17, 24, and 31, April 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21, and are for adults 21 and over. The Hudson Garden Grill is open for meals and light bites before Orchid Evening festivities.

Orchid Show visitors may select from thousands of top-quality orchids, from exotic, hard-to-find specimens for connoisseurs to elegant yet easy-to-grow varieties for beginners, available for purchase at NYBG Shop, along with orchid products and books. Dining options include Hudson Garden Grill, NYBG's full-service restaurant, and at the Pine Tree Café.

For more information about *The Orchid Show* and to purchase tickets, please visit the Garden's Web site, nybg.org.

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Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.

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, bus, 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 pricing, 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.

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Images available.