

NYBG

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The New York Botanical Garden Announces 2020 Exhibition of Work by Yayoi Kusama, the First-Ever Large-Scale Exploration of the Artist's Profound Engagement with Nature

NYBG will be the only venue in the world for this singular Garden-wide exhibition revealing the artist's lifelong inspiration from the natural world

Unique opportunity to view a range of Kusama's mesmerizing art, including immersive experiences and new works created for NYBG

On view May 2–November 1, 2020



Kusama with Pumpkin, 2010 ©YAYOI KUSAMA. Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo / Singapore / Shanghai; Victoria Miro, London; David Zwirner, New York

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) today announced that its major 2020 exhibition will feature the work of internationally celebrated Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama (b. 1929). This landmark presentation—exclusive to NYBG and with initial support from Major Sponsor MetLife Foundation—will include works across the spectrum of her multifaceted practice—and introduce major new works created by the artist specifically for this exhibition.

Kusama's prolific artistic output and her profound engagement with nature will be represented in depth with multiple installations, including her signature mirrored environments and organic forms, colossal polka-dotted sculptures of flowers and pumpkins, mesmerizing paintings, and her first-ever participatory greenhouse installation that will be transformed over the course of the exhibition. Also on display, early sketchbooks portend Kusama's lifelong fascination with the natural world that continues to inspire her aesthetic. On view May 2 through November 1, 2020, visitors may experience her work throughout the changing seasons, making each return visit unique.

Carrie Reborra Barratt, Ph.D., CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden, said, "We are thrilled to present this unprecedented installation of Yayoi Kusama's work, including new sculptures made especially for our site. In a lifetime of finding inspiration in nature and pushing against boundaries and biases, she developed a unique lexicon for artistic expression. While these works appear as mostly abstract forms to viewers, they are manifestations of how she sees the universe, specifically the natural world. We are grateful to her for sharing her vision and helping us realize this once-in-a-lifetime display at the Garden for our visitors."

The expansive exhibition will be installed across NYBG's 250-acre landscape and in its historic buildings. A selection of works mounted outdoors will include monumental, site-specific sculptures. The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory will house a spectacular horticultural showcase honoring Kusama based on one of her hypnotic large-scale paintings. The LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building will feature several immersive experiences as well as present examples of her more intimate early work, including botanical sketches, works on paper, biomorphic collages, assemblages, and soft sculpture, providing a compelling study of the formative inspiration Kusama took from the natural world that has pervaded her work throughout her illustrious career.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a vibrant offering of public programming.

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum. An oasis in this busy metropolis since its founding in 1891, the Garden is a dynamic, leading New York City cultural institution. A National Historic Landmark, the 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. More than one million annual visitors enjoy the Garden, not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and LuEsther T. Mertz Library to celebrations on Daffodil Hill.

The Garden is also a major educational institution. More than 300,000 people annually—among them Bronx families, schoolchildren, and teachers—learn about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through NYBG’s hands-on, curriculum-based programming; 90,000 of those visitors are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,000 are educators from New York City’s public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels.

NYBG operates one of the world’s largest plant research and conservation programs, with 200 staff members—including nearly 100 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden’s state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries.

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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, 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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