

NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2019

Kiku: *Spotlight on Tradition*, NYBG's Acclaimed Fall Display of Meticulously Trained Chrysanthemums, Returns October 25 through November 17, 2019

Experience Traditional Japanese Taiko Drumming Performances on November 16 and 17



Kiku on display/The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden's distinctive and acclaimed **Kiku: *Spotlight on Tradition*** returns to the Bourke-Sullivan Display House from October 25 through November 17, 2019, with magnificent installations of chrysanthemums in awe-inspiring shapes and styles.

The chrysanthemum—or *kiku*—carries a centuries-long history as a treasured flower and horticultural passion in Japan, representing the apex of a craft that demands precision, care, and patience. NYBG's own *kiku* display is the result of all three. Expertly trained NYBG horticulturists spend 11 months caring for and coaxing these chrysanthemums, cultivated from single cuttings. The plants are pinched back, tied to frames, and carefully nurtured. Flower buds develop as the autumn nights grow longer, and in the fall the plants burst into bloom, a true celebration of the changing of the seasons. A timelapse video showing some of the meticulous work needed to grow these magnificent plants can be seen here:

<https://youtu.be/tCdlxraWyKE>.

Trained to grow into both modern and ancient forms, the *kiku* on display include the sculpted curves and twists of the bonsai style, and other contemporary shapes, plus a number of classic traditional styles, including *Ozukuri* (“Thousand Bloom”), a highly complex technique in which a single stem is trained to produce hundreds of simultaneous blossoms in a massive, dome-shaped array; *Kengai* (“Cascade”), featuring small-flowered chrysanthemums trained to conform to boat-shaped frameworks that cascade downward like waterfalls for lengths of up to six-and-a-half feet in a burst of hundreds of tightly clustered blooms; and more. The unforgettable presentation pays homage to *hanami*, the traditional Japanese custom of enjoying the ephemeral beauty of flowers.

During the final weekend, November 16 and 17, thrilling 30-minute performances of **Taiko Drumming** by the troupe Taikoza take place at 1 and 2 p.m. at the Leon Levy Visitor Center, creating a thunderous soundscape of traditional percussion. Taikoza has dazzled audiences worldwide with their electrifying sound since 1995, drawing from Japan’s rich tradition of music and performance.

The amazing floral sculptures on view at *Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition*, combined with the Botanical Garden’s brilliant 250-acre spectacle of changing leaves in orange, crimson, and gold beckon visitors to indulge in fall’s exquisite yet fleeting beauty.

Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition is part of NYBG’s year-long #plantlove series of exhibitions, programs, and projects exploring the essential connections between plants, people, and the environment.

Tickets and more information are available at <https://www.nybg.org/event/kiku-spotlight-tradition/>.

Lead Sponsor:
Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)

Sponsor:
J.C.C. Fund of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York

Additional Support provided by:
Tokio Marine America

###

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 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.

Contact: Nick Leshi at 718.817.8658, nleshi@nybg.org