

NYBG

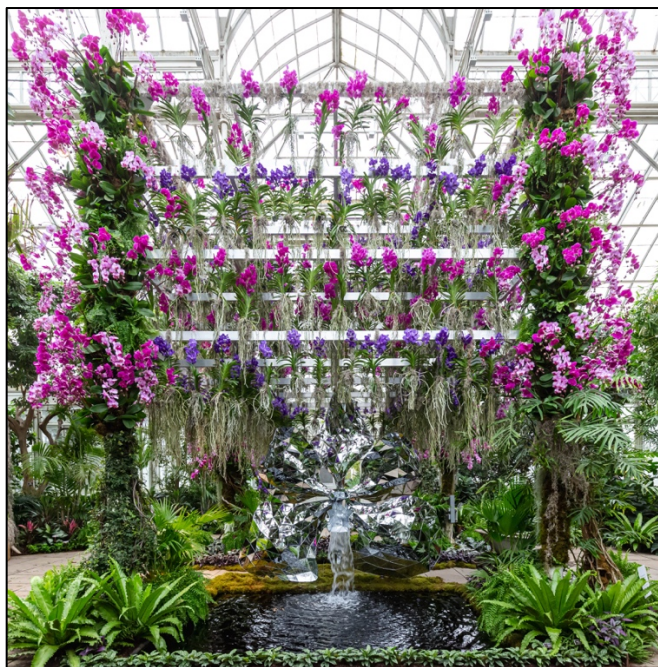
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Famed Floral Designer Jeff Leatham Brings His Bold and Colorful Vision to The New York Botanical Garden's 18th Annual *Orchid Show*

The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope Runs February 15 Through April 19, 2020



Designer Jeff Leatham, photo by Raphe Wolfgang



Vandas above a mirrored orchid sculpture

Bronx, NY—The popular orchid exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) returns for its 18th year with *The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope*. Thousands of orchids are on dramatic display in dazzling creations by lifestyle icon and floral designer to the stars Jeff Leatham. On view February 15 through April 19, 2020, Leatham's captivating designs and installations transform each gallery of the exhibition in NYBG's historic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory into a different color experience, like the turn of a kaleidoscope.

In the 2020 *Orchid Show*, thousands of orchids provide bursts of forms and colors—in purples, reds, oranges, and hot pink—revealed through overhead arches, vine-inspired ribbons, mirrored sculpture, and dramatic lighting, and other artistic embellishments. Leatham worked with horticulturists from NYBG, including Senior Curator of Orchids Marc Hachadourian, to assemble orchids from its 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 in breathtaking configurations.

“Color is the first and most important aspect of my work, always,” Jeff Leatham said when describing his creations for *The Orchid Show*. “I want every gallery to be a different color experience for visitors as they move through them, like looking into a kaleidoscope. I loved kaleidoscopes as a child. You start dreaming as you look through one. People have seen the interiors of the Conservatory already, but with this exhibition, I want them to look through them like never before.”

Visitors to *The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope* are greeted by purple vandas suspended above a 10-foot-tall mirrored orchid sculpture with a fountain of water streaming into a black pool. Other galleries and spaces of the exhibition, each designed in its own color scheme, include plantings of green and white cymbidiums amid grasses, yellow orchid arches, and a kaleidoscopic tunnel of lights.

About Guest Designer Jeff Leatham

Jeff Leatham is the award-winning artistic director of the Four Seasons Hotel George V, Paris, with studios also at the Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia at Comcast Center and the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills. He has been creating a sensation with his floral installations since he began his career in 1995. His work is a combination of his love for flowers and passion for design. Using shape, color, and simplicity, his creations are dramatic, bold, unforgettable statements that are always an integral part of the setting. Leatham has produced spectacular displays in Paris for nearly two decades, and in 2014, he was knighted with the *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*—the highest honor for artists and others who have made a significant contribution to French culture. His clients include Cher, Dolly Parton, Tina Turner, Oprah Winfrey, the Kardashians, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and many others. His publications—*Flowers by Jeff Leatham*, *Flowers by Design*, and *Jeff Leatham: Visionary Floral Art and Design*—remain best-selling design books worldwide.

Exhibition Programming Features Stylish Orchid Evenings, a Designer Talk, and More

During Orchid Evenings on select dates throughout the run of *The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope*, adults 21 and over can experience the exhibition at night with music, cash bars, and light bites. Princess Lockeroo, one of today's leading Vogue and Waacking-style dancer-choreographers, teams up with renowned musician Harold O'Neal for a fierce and fabulous performance. Come dressed in your boldest floral-inspired fashion and express yourself on the runway. Purchase a cocktail, beer, wine, and more from one of NYBG's

seasonal bars. Local flavors from the Bronx Night Market celebrate the city's diverse culture. Advance ticket purchase is recommended to guarantee admission to these signature events. Visit www.nybg.org/event/the-orchid-show/orchid-evenings/ for more details.

On Thursday, February 20, at 11 a.m., in NYBG's Ross Hall, hear Jeff Leatham discuss how he brings his floral designs to life. A Q & A session and booksigning will follow. [Registration](#) for "Floral Design Talk with Jeff Leatham" is required.

Other exhibition programming includes Orchid Basics Q&A on Saturdays and Sundays, 1–4 p.m. at NYBG Shop where staff help customers select the best orchid for the home, and Orchid Care Demonstrations on Sundays at 1 and 2 p.m. in the Haupt Conservatory GreenSchool, where orchid experts provide advice on how to choose and successfully grow these elegant plants.

Round out an *Orchid Show* visit at NYBG Shop and 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, along with orchid products and books.

For more information about *The Orchid Show: Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope* and to purchase tickets, please visit nybg.org.

Sponsors:

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The LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust provides leadership support for year-round programming at NYBG.

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

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. NYBG is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit 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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