

NYBG

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NYBG's *KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature* Will Offer Complementary Programming for All Ages, April 10 through October 31, 2021

Dance Series, Children's Activities, Pop-Up Performances, and More Kick Off This Spring



Pilobolus

Bronx, NY—*KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature* at The New York Botanical Garden features the work of internationally celebrated Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and explores her lifelong fascination with the natural world. Visitors of all ages can enjoy an engaging schedule of public programming throughout the run of the exhibition from April 10 through October 31, 2021. Spring highlights include a lecture by the exhibition's guest curator; a contemporary dance series; self-guided activities in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden; and pop-up performances featuring circus arts.

Lecture

Cosmic Nature: Embracing the Unknown

Thursday, April 15; 11 a.m.

Online

KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature guest curator Mika Yoshitake, Ph.D., discusses the organic forms central to Yayoi Kusama's unique vision that integrates nature and human nature, the earthly and the cosmic. Emphasizing the pivotal role of biomorphic imagery from both microcosmic and macrocosmic perspectives, Yoshitake examines the visceral impact of Kusama's artistic language and the ways life and afterlife profoundly coexist in the artist's lifelong journey of embracing the unknown.

Tickets: Member \$15/Non-Member \$18. Visit [here](#) for more information and to register for this online program.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Contemporary Dance Series

Saturdays and Sundays, April–June; 2–5 p.m.

Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Plaza, Leon Levy Visitor Center, LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building Lawn

A series of spontaneous outdoor performances celebrate the infinite possibilities of our connection with nature and each other:

- **Pilobolus**

April 10–11, 17–18, 24–25, and May 1–2

Pilobolus is a rebellious dance company whose repertoire tests the limits of human physicality to explore the beauty and the power of connected bodies. Since 1971 they have appeared in more than 65 countries, and have collaborated with some of the greatest influencers, thinkers, and creators in the world. 2021 will bring exciting new projects: outdoor performances, an adaptable and nimble touring show of classics called *Four@Play*, and a new edition of their sold-out outdoor “car art safari” this summer in Connecticut, now called *BLOOM: A Journey*—all while prepping the *Big Five-Oh!* anniversary tour this fall. They will perform excerpts from *Alraune* and *Pilobolus Is a Fungus*.

- **Trainor Dance**

May 8–9, 15–16, 22–23, 29–30, and Monday, May 31

Caitlin Trainor founded Trainor Dance in 2011 with a focus on robustly physical, interdisciplinary work. Trainor’s choreography maintains a commitment to highly musical, visually stimulating work, with soundtracks ranging from Mozart and electronica to breath and body percussion. With as much humanity as virtuosity, Trainor Dance maintains a through line of conceptual inventiveness and spirited performances. Trainor Dance deeply values community, creating dances for the theater, special locations, and extraordinary events through collaborative processes. Their repertoire includes pure dance, experimental dance, game-based and site work, and the company wants to share it with you.

- **Mark Morris Dance Group**

June 5–6, 12–13, 19–20, and 26–27

Formed in 1980, Mark Morris’s internationally renowned Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) has received “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity,” according to *Bloomberg News*. Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Dance Group. It has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996, and regularly collaborates with orchestras and opera companies around the world. The Mark Morris Dance Center was opened in 2001 to provide a home for the Dance Group, subsidized rental space for local artists, programs for local children and seniors, and dance classes for students of all ages and abilities.

Pop-Up Performances

Saturdays and Sundays, April–June; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Performing artists roam the landscape, complementing your journey throughout the Garden.

- **Bindlestiff Family Variety Arts**

The mission of Bindlestiff Family Variety Arts is to bring joy and wonder into the world. Bindlestiff celebrates tradition while maintaining an irreverent spirit, keeping circus arts current, accessible, and relevant through performances, support for emerging artists, and youth and community outreach.

Additional performers will be announced.

Kids Get Cosmic!

Daily, April 10–October 31; 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Everett Children's Adventure Garden

Self-guided activities in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden inspire children and families to explore and observe nature while learning about the life and work of Yayoi Kusama.

- **Nature Scavenger Hunt**

Pick up a Scavenger Hunt pamphlet with fun, self-guided activities, including a search for plants with the infinite dot patterns that inspired Kusama and her work.

- **Story Time**

Saturdays and Sundays; 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Enjoy a reading of *Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity*. Filled with reproductions of Kusama's art, this colorful book tells the story of an artist determined to cover the world with her dots, from here to infinity. (For ages 4–8)

Digital Experiences on the Bloomberg Connects App

The *KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature* digital experience on the Bloomberg Connects app is the on-site and off-site companion to the exhibition. Navigate to each on-site installation and discover more.

Bloomberg Connects is available for download on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

- **Patterns in Nature Tour**

The self-guided *Patterns in Nature Tour* highlights the similarities between the patterns in Kusama's artwork—from monumental polka-dotted pumpkin sculptures to abstract paintings that resemble cells magnified thousands of times—and the patterns that Garden scientists study in plants. Visitors will discover what the patterns of leaf placement, flower petals, and magnified laboratory specimens reveal about what makes species unique as well as how all living things are connected at the genomic level.

- **Learn More About Kusama's Profound Engagement with Nature**

Highlights include key moments in which Kusama's artistic language embraced natural elements.

For more information, including updates on ticket availability, please visit www.nybg.org.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, 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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[Images](#) available.