

NYBG

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The New York Botanical Garden Announces Fall Highlights Complementing Major Exhibition *KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature*, On View Through October 31, 2021

This Year's Popular Seasonal Pumpkin Displays Celebrate Yayoi Kusama's Pumpkin Passion, September 18–October 31, 2021

Kiku, Floral Sculptures Featuring Chrysanthemums, Reflect Colors and Patterns in Kusama's Artworks, October 2–31, 2021



Dancing Pumpkin, 2020. The New York Botanical Garden, 2021. Urethane paint on bronze.
© YAYOI KUSAMA. Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Victoria Miro, and David Zwirner. Photo by Robert Benson Photography

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) announced today fall seasonal highlights complementing its critically acclaimed exhibition *KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature*, on view through October 31, 2021. The exclusive presentation features work by internationally celebrated Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Showcasing the artist's lifelong fascination with the natural world, the exhibition is installed across the Botanical Garden's landscape, in and around the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, and in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building. NYBG's annual displays of varieties of pumpkins and gourds will be featured on the Haupt Conservatory Plaza and at the Mertz Library Building this year—each location a gateway to Kusama works within those venues—from September 18 through October 31. Magnificent *kiku* floral sculptures (*kiku* is the Japanese word for “chrysanthemum”) will be integrated with the *KUSAMA* exhibition in the Conservatory from October 2 through October 31. Advance, timed, limited-capacity tickets for the landmark presentation are required and are on sale at nybg.org/kusama.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Pumpkins Screaming About Love Beyond Infinity, 2017. The New York Botanical Garden, 2021. Mirrors, acrylic, glass, LEDs, and wood panels. © YAYOI KUSAMA. Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Victoria Miro, and David Zwirner

Kusama's Pumpkin Passion

The Garden's seasonal display of pumpkins and gourds returns with a delightful added dimension this year as *KUSAMA: Comic Nature* features several artworks depicting pumpkins, a longtime obsession for the artist since her childhood spent in the hothouses and fields of her family's seed nursery. Accompanying *Pumpkins Screaming About Love Beyond Infinity* (2017)—a mirrored cube reflecting an infinity of polka-dotted pumpkins—is a statement by the artist that reads, in part, “My pumpkins, beloved of all the plants in the world. When I see pumpkins, I cannot efface the joy of them being my everything, nor the awe I hold them in.”

Beginning September 18, 2021, NYBG visitors will encounter a wide variety of pumpkins, squashes, and gourds arranged on the Conservatory Plaza and at the Library Building. On the Conservatory Lawn adjacent to the Plaza, Kusama's monumental *Dancing Pumpkin* (2020) sculpture, which was created especially for the exhibition, greets visitors with its exuberant polka-dotted form.

Public programs dedicated to everything cucurbit—the pumpkin family name—will be available through October 31, from carving tips to fall recipes to decoration ideas. Check [here](#) for more details.

***Kiku* and Kusama in the Conservatory**

NYBG's beloved tradition of *kiku*—magnificent displays of chrysanthemums in astonishing forms, styles, and sizes—will be integrated with *KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature* and on view in select galleries of the Conservatory from October 2 through October 31, 2021. *Kiku* is the most celebrated of all Japanese fall-flowering plants, and this year's presentation complements the artist's signature polka-dot and bold patterned artworks that she attributes to her fascination with natural patterns she observes in the plant world.

The stunning *kiku* displays will be installed in dialogue with Kusama's *Starry Pumpkin* (2015), echoing the pastel colors of the sculpture's gold and pink polka-dotted mosaic surface, and in planting beds presenting vibrant red and orange varieties inspired by her painting *Alone, Buried in a Flower Garden* (2014).

In accordance with the training Botanical Garden experts received from *kiku* masters at Tokyo's Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and passed on to their colleagues, NYBG horticulturists work for 11 months each year to grow and meticulously train and shape chrysanthemum plants. Cultivated from tiny cuttings, the *kiku* are pinched back, tied to frames, and carefully nurtured. Flower buds develop as the autumn nights grow longer and, in October, the plants burst into vibrant blooms.

Several traditional *kiku* styles will be on display, including:

- *Ozukuri* (Thousand Bloom): In this highly complex technique, a single stem is trained to produce hundreds of blossoms simultaneously in a massive, dome-shaped array.
- *Kengai* (Cascade): This technique features small-flowered chrysanthemums. They are trained to conform to boat-shaped frameworks that appear to cascade downward like waterfalls for lengths of up to six-and-a-half feet. The result is a burst of hundreds of tightly clustered blooms.
- *Ogiku* (Single Stem): These plants feature enormous individual flowers perched at the ends of stems up to six feet tall.



Ogiku



Ozukuri



Kengai

Contemporary Dance Series

Fall programming highlights include NYBG's popular [Contemporary Dance Series](#) with Trainor Dance performing September 11 and 12 and October 2 and 3; Ballet Hispánico on October 9 and 10; and the Dance Theatre of Harlem on October 16 and 17. The outdoor performances are from 2 to 5 p.m. and are included with *KUSAMA Garden & Gallery Pass* or *KUSAMA Garden Pass* tickets.

About The New York Botanical Garden

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden is the most comprehensive botanical garden in the world and an integral part of the cultural fabric of New York City, anchored in the Bronx. Visitors come

to the Garden to connect with nature for joy, beauty, and respite, and for renowned plant-based exhibitions, music and dance, and poetry and lectures. Innovative children's education programs promote environmental sustainability and nutrition awareness, graduate programs educate the next generation of botanists, while engaging classes inspire adults to remain lifelong learners. The 250-acre verdant landscape—which includes a 50-acre, old-growth forest—and the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory support living collections of more than one million plants. Unparalleled resources are also held in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, the world's most important botanical and horticultural library with 11 million archival items spanning ten centuries, and William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest in the Western Hemisphere with 7.8 million plant and fungal specimens. Committed to protecting the planet's biodiversity and natural resources, Garden scientists work on-site in cutting-edge molecular labs and in areas worldwide where biodiversity is most at risk.

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KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature is presented by:

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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.