

Immersive installation reflecting the global food system now on view at The New York Botanical Garden as part of major summer exhibition

*Conceived by information designer and Pentagram partner, **Giorgia Lupi**,
the installation conveys the global impact of food production and
consumption on the planet*

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Around the World's Table will be on view through September 11, 2022

An artful, immersive data visualization installation created by renowned information designer **Giorgia Lupi** and her team at **Pentagram** is now on view at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) as part of the garden-wide exhibition ***Around the Table: Stories of the Foods We Love***, examining the art and science of foodways and food traditions and celebrating plants as foundational to all culinary customs.

Around the World's Table will help visitors understand the global impact of food production and consumption on the planet. On display in the reflecting pool of the Palms of the World Gallery in NYBG's historic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the

installation is made up of 100 partially submerged sculptures representing the major food groups we consume, their share in the global diet, and their relative carbon footprint.

This is the first data sculpture conceived by Lupi, who is known for her human-centered approach to data visualization and storytelling.

“Our starting point for this project was to illuminate what we eat and where it comes from, with the aim of cultivating a deeper understanding of the potential and maybe even surprising impacts of food choices,” said Giorgia Lupi, Partner at Pentagram. “Ultimately, we want to spark questions. Where does our food come from? And how do our choices affect the planet—now, and in the future?”

Using the basin of the pool as a metaphor for the world, the size of the installation reflects the percentage of the world’s habitable land used for agriculture—roughly 50%. The color, height, placement, and features of the sculptures visually represent 2019 data on global food production and consumption gathered from the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization and Our World in Data—an open-source knowledge-sharing platform for scholars and researchers.

The work will be accompanied by a detailed legend to help visitors decode the installation and engage with the layered data behind it.

“We have an opportunity to tell nuanced and complex human stories with data. The parameters we chose to represent in the sculpture allowed us to offer multiple visual narratives for the visitor to interrogate and inquire on their own terms,” said Lupi.

Lupi, whose work is part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and has been exhibited in museums around the world, is a pioneer of data humanism, an approach she defines as transforming the abstract world of data into something that can be seen, felt, and tangibly connected to human behavior.

At a time when the U.N. has warned of a global food shortage, ***Around the World’s Table*** reveals the environmental impact of our food choices.

“***Around the World’s Table*** offers visitors to NYBG a unique opportunity to visually understand how the food choices they make can have far reaching environmental impact” says Jennifer Bernstein, CEO and The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden. “I hope that visitors to our summer exhibition of *Around the Table: Stories of the Foods We Love* will spend time with this illuminating work of art, and the related exhibition components on view at the Garden. We can all contribute to a healthier and more sustainable future through the everyday choices that we make about the food on our tables.”

The installation will be on view through September 11, 2022.

About Giorgia Lupi

Giorgia Lupi is an award-winning information designer whose work synthesizes data and storytelling in innovative ways to create unique and singular visual expressions. Since 2019, she has been a partner at Pentagram, the international design consultancy. In her practice, she designs engaging data-driven visual narratives across print, digital and environmental media that create new insight and appreciation of people, ideas, and organizations. Her vibrant and inspiring design work has empowered leading global organizations—such as Google, IBM, TED, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—to achieve their missions through data-driven storytelling.

About Pentagram

Pentagram is the world's largest independently owned design studio, with offices in New York, London, Berlin, and Austin. The firm and its partners create everything from graphics, brand identities, and advertising, to products, digital experiences, and installations. Pentagram has worked with many of New York's most iconic institutions and organizations, including the High Line, The Public Theater and Shakespeare in the Park, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Tribeca Festival, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), NYC Parks, Rockefeller Center, The New York Times, and many, many more. Other clients include American Express, Verizon, Citibank, Mastercard, Google, Netflix, Warner Bros., HBO, Starbucks, and Shake Shack.

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.

Image credit: Courtesy The New York Botanical Garden.

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