

# NYBG

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## **During ...*things come to thrive...in the shedding...in the molting...*, NYBG Offers Complementary Programming for All Ages and Continuing Education Classes Inspired by Visual Artist Ebony G. Patterson**

A Richly Illustrated Catalog of This Major Site-Specific Exhibition Will Be Published in the Fall by Rizzoli Electa



(NYBG Photo)

**Bronx, NY**—In conjunction with ...*things come to thrive...in the shedding...in the molting...*, a major site-specific exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), complementary programming and classes will offer visitors further opportunities to engage with visual artist Ebony G. Patterson's unique perspective on formal gardens. A richly illustrated catalog, to be published in the fall, will reflect on the concept of gardens as human-made interventions in nature. As the first visual artist ever to embed within the institution for an immersive residency, Patterson worked directly with the Garden's grounds and collections to form a new body of work that includes sculptures, installations, and interventions with living plants. The exhibition is on view Saturday, May 27 through Sunday, September 17, 2023.

Here is the schedule of events and activities:

### **Ebony G. Patterson in Conversation with Thelma Golden**

*Thursday, May 25, 2023; 5:30–6:30 p.m.; Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall*

*Garden Member \$35/Non-Member \$39*

To celebrate the opening of ...*things come to thrive...in the shedding...in the molting...*, contemporary visual artist Ebony G. Patterson will discuss the exhibition and her work with

Thelma Golden, one of the leading curators of art of the African Diaspora. The result of a yearslong engagement with the Botanical Garden, Patterson has created spaces that evoke the natural world while simultaneously using beauty as an invitation to confront larger societal questions about race, gender, class, and violence. Her exhibition will provoke questions about what is traditionally considered beautiful and what is often cast aside as unwelcoming or threatening, seducing viewers into acknowledging darker truths lurking ominously beneath lushly planted surfaces.

- **Ebony G. Patterson** is an award-winning visual artist who works in a range of media to use beauty as a tool to address global injustices. Her work is held in the collections of major art institutions, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Pérez Art Museum Miami, and National Gallery of Jamaica. She was recently awarded the 2023 David C. Driskell Prize by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.
- **Thelma Golden** is Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, the world's leading institution devoted to visual art by artists of African descent. Under her leadership, The Studio Museum has gained increased recognition as a global leader in the exhibition of contemporary art, a center for innovative education, and a cultural anchor in the community. She has received numerous awards, fellowships, and honorary doctorates, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Barack Obama Foundation and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

### **Birds of a Feather**

*Saturday, May 27–Sunday, June 11, 2023; Weekday guided activities: 1:30–5:30 p.m.; weekends and Monday Holiday guided activities: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; self-guided outdoor exploration: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Weekend Storytime: 2:30 p.m.*

*Everett Children's Adventure Garden*

Kids can explore the ideas from Ebony G. Patterson's exhibition through creative activities in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. Patterson's multidisciplinary work uses unconventional materials to recreate the way we see gardens through collage, sculptures and site-specific installations. Children can create their own mini-tapestry using materials such as fabric, lace, and plant prints that honor Patterson's unique perspective on gardens. They can also learn about birds and their unique adaptations that Patterson references in her work and pot up their own lush pothos plant (*Epipremnum aureum*) that is a living example from Patterson's art.

### **Imagine the Plant**

*Weekends, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.; Leon Levy Visitor Center*

What if an extinct plant were still alive? Visitors can create their own colorful drawing to take home after learning about the extinct plant specimens artist Ebony G. Patterson studied in

NYBG's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium to create the cast-glass sculptures of these plants for the exhibition.

### **Things to Be Remembered: Interactive Art Project**

*Nathaniel Lord Britton Science Rotunda, LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building*

Visitors have the opportunity to reflect on what they witnessed or felt during their visit to ...*things come to thrive...in the shedding...in the molting...* by adding their sketches, notes, and thoughts to an always-evolving collective artwork that will remain on view for the duration of the exhibition. Adjacent display cases exhibit preserved specimens of extinct plants from the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium that Ebony G. Patterson researched during her immersive residency.

### **Vanishing Art: A Living Gallery**

*12–3 p.m. on select dates; various Garden locations*

During the exhibition, interactive demonstrations from chalk art to improvisational performance will take place at artistic pop-ups across the Garden's grounds that focus on sustainability in art and art that leaves minimal traces on the environment.

- **Pop-Up Chalk Designs**

*Saturday, May 27 & Sunday, May 28, 2023*

Chalk artists Ben Young III and Gracie Lee Brown create botanical drawings that will emerge across the Garden's landscape.

- **Floral Art**

*Saturday, June 10; Saturday, July 29; & Sunday, July 30, 2023*

Drawing from the natural world, Joshua Werber's work is an exploration of emotion through the act of creation. His work is driven by a desire to create unique pieces and environments through which the participant can experience transformation. He has taught in NYBG's Continuing Education program, and his work has been featured in *T: Magazine*, *VOGUE*, *ELLE India*, *The New York Times*, and *New York Post*.

- **Poetry Readings**

*Saturday, June 17; Sunday, June 18; Monday, June 19; Sunday, July 23; & Sunday, August 20, 2023*

Youth poets and their mentors at Urban Word, a New York City youth literacy organization, will read from their work and from pieces by celebrated poets who have engaged with the artistic work of NYBG exhibition artist Ebony G. Patterson.

## **NYBG's Continuing Education Program Offers Floral and Arts Classes Inspired by Ebony G. Patterson**

Visitors and lifelong learners can learn something new with a selection of classes inspired by NYBG exhibition artist Ebony G. Patterson. Subjects include compote arranging, making art with flowers, foraging for plants that can be used to make dyes and ink, and more.

For more information and to register, go to [nybg.org/learn](https://nybg.org/learn)

### **Exhibition Publication for *...things come to thrive...in the shedding...in the molting...***

Coming in fall 2023, a fully illustrated exhibition catalog published by Rizzoli Electa will include essays by Joanna L. Groarke, Vice President of Exhibitions and Programming at The New York Botanical Garden; Karenn Gore, founder and executive director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary; Abra Lee, a storyteller, horticulturist, and author; and Seph Rodney, Ph.D., visiting art critic at Yale Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and opinions editor at *Hyperallergic*. The volume will reflect on the concept of gardens as human-made interventions in nature, shedding new light on NYBG while providing new pathways for artistic engagement with the natural world. Images of works displayed in the Garden's landscape will be featured.

For more information, to sign up for ticket alerts, and to purchase tickets to *...things come to thrive...in the shedding...in the molting...*, please visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/ebony-g-patterson/>

### **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.

*...things come to thrive...in the shedding...in the molting...* is presented by:

Delta Air Lines

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Alturas Foundation supported the creation of *...fester...* as part of its Artist in Residence program. The Alturas Foundation Residency Program encourages artists to explore fresh directions and provides opportunities to develop new ideas over an extended period of time.

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LuESTHER T. MERTZ CHARITABLE TRUST:

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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. For more information, visit [nybg.org](http://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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