NYBG

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Orchids Take to the Runway in *The Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion* at The New York Botanical Garden, February 17–April 21, 2024

21st Edition of NYBG's Iconic Annual Exhibition Will Feature Unique Designs of Collina Strada by Hillary Taymour, Dauphinette by Olivia Cheng, and FLWR PSTL by Kristen Alpaugh

Tickets for the Fashion-Inspired Celebration of All Things Orchid Go On Sale January 4, 2024, at <u>nybg.org</u>



Bronx, NY—The 21st edition of the iconic orchid exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), *The Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion*, will be a fashion-inspired celebration of all things orchid. From February 17 through April 21, 2024, visitors will be able to get up close to thousands of diverse orchids, amid dramatic, picture-perfect fashion installations in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, created by noted designers who have been inspired by the captivating nature of these flowering plants. Tickets for the 2024 presentation of the annual exhibition, which has been called "a feast for the eyes and senses," go on sale January 4, 2024, at <u>www.nybg.org</u>.

For *The Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion*, three visionaries will each present their unique perspective on the connections between the botanical world and fashion. Hilary Taymour is founder and creative director of Collina Strada, a fashion platform to promote climate and social awareness and foster self-expression. Olivia Cheng is designer and founder of fashion label Dauphinette, which is best known for its use of preserved botanicals and repurposed materials to create upcycled fashions. Kristen Alpaugh is FLWR PSTL, botanical artist, founder and creative director at Haus of Stems, the world's first on-demand botanical art atelier, known for her experimental botanical artwork and custom wearables.

Orchids have inspired designers such as Halston, Rodarte, and others across the globe for decades. They are one of the largest and most diverse families of flowering plants on the planet. To create *The Orchid Show*, horticulturists at NYBG will identify and assemble an extraordinary selection of these colorful and coveted flowers, including iconic and rare specimens from the Botanical Garden's collections, as well as from some of the finest growers in the world. The featured designers of *The Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion* will explore the beauty of these formidable flowers to create their striking and dynamic displays. Visitors will "walk the orchid runway" through immersive installations of thousands of orchids, where they can show off their own personal style, love for orchids, and fashion-forward connections to the natural world during on-site activations and ongoing public programs.

On select evenings during *The Orchid Show*, adults 21 and older can experience the exhibition through Orchid Nights, with music, cash bars, and food available for purchase.

At NYBG Shop, visitors to *The Orchid Show* may browse thousands of top-quality orchids, from exotic, hard-to-find specimens for connoisseurs to elegant yet easy-to-grow varieties for beginners, along with orchid products and books.

About the Guest Designers

Collina Strada isn't just a fashion label, it's also a platform for social issues and awareness created by Hillary Taymour, whose main concern is staying true to her craft, and staying on course to becoming a fully sustainable and radically transparent brand. Based and manufactured in New York, the brand's cult-status core pieces transcend trends. Taymour's designs are imbued with a fearlessly fluid attitude, re-inventing classics and unexpected details. Collina Strada embodies humor and youth. The brand DNA is now firmly cemented in the ability to look inward, even when loud and expressive on the outside. Season after season, Collina Strada's goal remains the same: to encourage self-reflection through clothing. How can you be the best version of yourself today? Showing each season on the official New York Fashion Week schedule, Collina Strada has reimagined their shows to spur others into action, tackling global problems from racism to politics. "We are in a crucial state of change right now and the more we do, the more we can impact others to take action," says Hillary Taymour.

Olivia Cheng is the founder and Chief Creative Officer of the luxury clothing brand Dauphinette. At age 19 and with only \$2,000.00, Cheng founded Dauphinette as a collection of upcycled outwear, calling it "The Happiest Brand on Earth." Since then, Cheng has parlayed her passion for under-appreciated and unconventional materials into everything from her famous resin-preserved jewelry to the couture-like pieces that go down Dauphinette's New York Fashion Week runways that feature 50% upcycled materials. In 2021, Cheng became the youngest designer to showcase her designs as part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's *In America: A Lexicon of Fashion* exhibit, and last year she was named to *Forbes*' 30 Under 30 Art and Style list. As Dauphinette's West Village flagship in New York City has quickly turned into one of the downtown crowd's favorite shopping spots, Cheng sets her sights on incorporating upcycling into the global luxury fashion vernacular, expanding the world of Dauphinette through activations in Los Angeles, Miami, Paris, and beyond.

FLWR PSTL, Kristen Alpaugh, is a pioneering botanical artist with a unique form of floristry through innovative techniques and approaches to the field. Her experimental work, a blend of natural beauty, fine art and high fashion, has graced the pages of *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Architectural Digest*, and *Vogue*. Alpaugh showcased her talents on HBO Max's *Full Bloom* in 2020 and, in 2022, made history at New York's Museum of Arts and Design with the groundbreaking exhibit

Flower Craft. In 2020, she founded Haus of Stems, the world's first on-demand botanical art atelier. This innovative venture ships luxury hand-painted flowers, adorned with FLWR PSTL's proprietary holographic finishes, to florists and floral enthusiasts across the U.S. and Canada. In the new and enchanting world of botanical art, FLWR PSTL passionately crafts stories that ignite the senses, encouraging viewers to lose themselves between the real and the rarified.

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.

For more information about *The Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion*, please visit: <u>https://www.nybg.org/event/the-orchid-show-florals-in-fashion</u>

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit <u>nybg.org</u>

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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