



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release

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THE ORCHID SHOW: KEY WEST CONTEMPORARY

**12th Annual *Orchid Show* Brings An Award-Winning Modernist
Key West Estate Garden to New York**

**A Lush Tropical Garden, Vibrant Architecture, and Thousands of Orchids
Inspire with Beauty at The New York Botanical Garden**

Saturday, March 1 through Monday, April 21, 2014



The Orchid Show: Key West Contemporary, The New York Botanical Garden's 12th annual exhibition of orchids opens on Saturday, March 1. The dramatic beauty of a flourishing tropical garden combines with vibrant architecture to bring Key West's charm and ambience to New York. Running through April 21, the exhibition displays a mosaic of thousands of exotic orchids in the Botanical Garden's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in addition to offering a plethora of orchid and Key West-related programming, including tropical rock and island music performances, a Key West Poetry Walk, and Orchid Evenings.

The garden evoked in *The Orchid Show: Key West Contemporary* is inspired by a garden originally designed for Susan Henshaw Jones, President of the Museum of the City of New York, and Judge Richard K. Eaton. Landscape architect Raymond Jungles won a Residential Design Award of Honor from the American Society of Landscape Architects for the Jones and Eaton garden in 2005. Francisca Coelho, the Garden's Vivian and Edward Merrin Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions, is reimagining Jungles's design for this year's *Orchid Show*.

The exhibition is on view in the Conservatory's Victorian-style glasshouse and includes a magnificent walk through *A World of Plants*, the Conservatory's permanent exhibition. Orchids will be highlighted throughout the *Palms of the World Gallery*, *Tropical Rain Forest Galleries*, and the *Aquatic Plants and Vines Gallery*.

In the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries*, the centerpiece of *The Orchid Show: Key West Contemporary* features a re-creation of the Jones and Eaton Garden, with a green garden wall and



**The Jones and Eaton Garden. © Lanny Provo
Photography, Courtesy of Raymond Jungles, Inc.**

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a fountain flowing into a pool with stepping stones. At every angle, soaring angular pergolas and trellises will be enveloped by thousands of brightly colored orchids, including *Vanda* (rainbow orchids), *Dendrobium* (cane orchids), and *Cymbidium* (Asian corsage orchids). The modern angular architectural lines of the garden will lead the visitor to lush displays of flowers, palms, and other plants, including the everglades palm, Bismarck palm, area palm, bottlebrush, variegated mahoe, buttonwood, gumbo limbo, spineless century plant, and Christmas palm. Ferns and bromeliads comprise the beautiful understory of the exhibition.

Sleek geometric details of fountain walls, landing pads, a water garden, and benches blend with the natural look of plants and flowers. The gentle, lulling sound of the fountain adds to the relaxing environment. The pool garden at the lanai contributes a contemporary, modernist touch.

Through exhibition interpretation, *The Orchid Show* will also explain orchid diversity, “What Makes an Orchid an Orchid”, the history and conservation stories of rare and endangered orchids in the rain forests of the world, and information about Commodore Matthew Perry and the opening of Key West.

A Few Facts About Orchids

Orchids represent the height of evolutionary success in the plant kingdom. With more than 30,000 naturally occurring species, they are the largest family of flowering plants. Orchids are adaptable, diverse, and grow in almost every habitat—from semi-desert to Arctic tundra—on every continent except Antarctica. They come in a dazzling range of sizes, from miniatures with tiny flowers less than 1/16 of an inch in diameter to giants more than 25 feet tall with flower spikes up to 10 feet long. Orchids also come in an amazing array of colors and shapes. Some mimic bees, wasps, butterflies, and moths; others have unusual buckets, traps, and trigger mechanisms. These adaptations help ensure that insect pollinators visit the flowers. Because orchid flowers have specialized reproductive parts and their pollen is a single mass, individual grains of pollen cannot disperse as with other flowers. As a result, each orchid flower has only one chance to transfer pollen to another flower.

Orchids at the Garden

There are more than 6,000 orchids representing 2,273 taxa (different types) in the Garden’s permanent collection. The New York Botanical Garden has orchids from all of the floristic regions of the world, including Australia, Africa, South America, and Madagascar. Because the Garden is committed to orchid research and conservation, its scientists study the botany and ecology of orchids; what they discover is useful to conservation work that will ensure the future of these extraordinary plants in nature. The Garden’s resident orchid expert is Marc Hachadourian, Manager of the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections. With more than 15 years of commercial and specialized horticultural experience, he supervises the care of the botanical collections, including the extensive orchid collection and exhibition plants in the Nolen Greenhouses.

About Designer Francisca Coelho

Francisca Coelho graduated from the Garden's School of Professional Horticulture and began her career at the Garden 30 years ago, rising through the ranks to her current position of Vivian and Edward Merrin Vice President for Glasshouses and Exhibitions. Tropical plants and aquatics are her areas of horticultural expertise. Coelho was deeply involved in the restoration of the Conservatory from 1993 to 1997 and continues to take the lead in the restoration and preservation of this landmark structure and the development and display of its Living Collections. She leads Conservatory exhibition-related planning and implementation for the Garden and is known for her plantsmanship and design skills in developing, planting, and maintaining the permanent plant galleries and the high-style seasonal shows. These diverse, blockbuster horticultural exhibitions transform the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries* of the Conservatory with themes as wide-ranging as the orchid gardens and habitats of Singapore, Brazil, and Cuba, and last year's *Wild Medicine* exhibition, which reimagined the Western world's oldest botanical garden in Padua, Italy.

The Orchid Experience Continues Throughout the Garden

In venues across the Garden's 250 acres, *The Orchid Show: Key West Contemporary* offers visitors opportunities to learn about orchids through tours, a lecture, and Orchid Care Demonstrations; enjoy romantic evenings in the Conservatory; read and listen to poetry from Key West; and listen to live music:

- **Poetry for Every Season: Key West Poetry Walk**
In the Perennial Garden
Take a stroll through the Perennial Garden and view large poetry boards that highlight the work of the island's important 20th-century American poets who frequented Key West, including James Merrill, Richard Wilbur, and Elizabeth Bishop. An audio tour narrated by Alice Quinn, Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America, will accompany the Poetry Walk. Co-presented with the Poetry Society of America
- **Escape to Paradise: The Music of Key West**
**Saturdays and Sundays, March 1–April 20 (and Mondays, April 14 & 21),
1 & 3 p.m. (April 6, 1 & 3:30 p.m.)**
In Ross Hall
The sounds of tropical rock and island music transport the visitor to Key West with lyrics that evoke a warm, lush locale and a laid-back lifestyle, plus rhythms of the acoustic guitar, congas, and percussion instruments.
- **Q & A with Orchid Experts**
**Saturdays and Sundays, March 1–April 20 (and Mondays, April 14 & 21),
1:30–4:30 p.m.**
At Shop in the Garden
Gardening and orchid experts share their best secrets and explain the simple steps to healthy plants as they help you choose the right plant for your home.

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- **Orchid Care Demonstrations**
Saturdays and Sundays, March 1–April 20 (and Mondays, April 14 & 21),
2 & 3 p.m.
In the Conservatory GreenSchool
 This series of hands-on demonstrations show you how to grow and care for orchids at home. Topics vary each weekend and will cover popular inquiries such as Basic Orchid Care, Troubleshooting with Orchids, and Fantastically Fragrant Orchids.
- **Lecture: *Cultivating Beauty: The Ethnobotany and Biology of the Orchid Family***
Sunday, March 9, 4 p.m.
In Ross Hall
 For centuries, the orchid has held a special fascination in both horticulture and popular culture, perhaps unrivaled among cultivated plants. These charismatic and often enigmatic plants have fueled the minds and imaginations of scientists, horticulturists, and admirers alike—some even claiming to have been hypnotized and enslaved by their beauty. Join Marc Hachadourian, Curator of the Orchid Collection at the Garden, for a presentation of the extraordinary aura and mystery surrounding one of the world’s most celebrated plants. This lecture is presented by The Torrey Botanical Society.
- **Orchid Evenings**
Saturdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19 and Friday, April 18, 6:30–9 p.m.
In the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory
 Enjoy a cocktail while viewing *The Orchid Show* and its thousands of spectacular flowers. The unforgettable beauty of the setting makes for one of New York City’s most romantic date destinations. Your ticket includes a complimentary cocktail and special dinner offers at some of Arthur Avenue’s outstanding restaurants. Advance tickets are recommended and are available for purchase at nybg.org.
 Non-Member \$30/Member \$20 (Adults 21 and over)
- **Poetry for Every Season: Key West Poetry Reading**
Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m.
In Ross Hall
 In partnership with the Poetry Society of America and keeping with *The Orchid Show*’s Key West theme, this reading will highlight the work of the island’s famed poets. Tracy K. Smith will read works of Elizabeth Bishop; Henri Cole will read James Merrill; and David Yezzi will read work from Richard Wilbur. Reserve your tickets in advance at nybg.org to guarantee seating.

Orchids at Shop in the Garden

Located in the Garden’s Leon Levy Visitor Center, Shop in the Garden is a not-to-be-missed destination during *The Orchid Show*. Thousands of top-quality orchids, from exotic, hard-to-find specimens for connoisseurs to elegant yet easy-to-grow varieties for beginners, are available for purchase, along with orchid products for properly caring for new acquisitions and hundreds of orchid books.

During *The Orchid Show*’s run, cell phone tour stops at Shop in the Garden provide answers to frequently asked orchid questions and allow visitors to dial up care tips on watering and feeding, reblooming, and repotting for several specific types of orchids for sale at the Shop. On weekends, experts will be available in the Shop to advise visitors in selecting and caring for orchids.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. During *The Orchid Show: Key West Contemporary*, the Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and also open on Monday, April 14 and Monday, April 21. The best way to enjoy the Garden during *The Orchid Show* is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour. Weekends: \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and students with ID, \$10 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 free. Weekdays: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 free. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$13 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students with ID, \$3 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours, 718.817.8687. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org.

The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458.

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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