



**New England
Botanic Garden**
AT TOWER HILL

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Patterns in Bloom, An Orchid Exhibition is coming to New England Botanic Garden

Over 2,000 living orchids will be showcased alongside large-scale sculpture work by artist Molly Gambardella February 10 – March 17

BOYLSTON, MA, January 16, 2024 – [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#) is filling its two conservatories with orchids in one of the most highly-anticipated annual plant exhibitions of the year. From February 10 to March 17, [Patterns in Bloom, An Orchid Exhibition](#) will showcase over 2,000 living orchids displayed in artful arrangements alongside the captivating, large-scale sculpture work of Connecticut-based artist [Molly Gambardella](#). During daytime hours or through a lineup of special events, visitors to *Patterns in Bloom* can escape the cold of the winter season and be immersed in bright colors, bold designs, and vibrant patterns that celebrate the artistry of orchids.

“Orchids are one of the most diverse plant families on the planet with over 28,000 known species,” says Lea Morgan, exhibitions manager for New England Botanic Garden. With its annual orchid exhibition, the Garden aims to provide guests with opportunities to explore different types of orchids in shapes, colors, and sizes they may never have experienced before. The event changes from year to year to feature different plants and different creative collaborators.

“We’re excited to partner with Molly Gambardella this year because her distinctive, orchid-inspired sculptures complement these incredibly varied plants so well,” Morgan says. *Patterns in Bloom* features more than 30 large-scale pieces by Gambardella and many smaller pieces as well.

A multidisciplinary artist, Gambardella’s innovative work has exhibited in galleries across the U.S. and been featured in numerous art publications. In 2023, she was an artist in residence for the Ark Project at Yellowstone National Park. Gambardella specializes in repurposing small, often discarded single-use items to create artwork that celebrates the natural world. To produce the colorful, larger-than-life orchid interpretations featured in *Patterns in Bloom*, Gambardella repurposed hundreds of plastic bags. Under the right amount of heat and pressure, the plastic bags transform into a tarp-like fabric that Gambardella can trace, sew, and shape into flower forms.

“One of the most important things to me about this exhibit is that each sculpture is entirely different,” Gambardella says. “In a world of mass-produced things, I hope visitors find inspiration in the diversity of my sculptures and the diversity of the plants. Orchids inspire me to appreciate the vast spectrum of colors in between. They remind me to stay true to my own unique patterns and colors, while also recognizing our shared roots in the grand ecological network of life.”

How to Experience *Patterns in Bloom, An Orchid Exhibition*:

- **Patterns in Bloom Opening Weekend, Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.:** Visitors can enjoy a weekend of live music, an artisan marketplace, and opportunities to hear from featured artist Molly Gambardella. On both Saturday and Sunday, from 11–11:30 a.m., Gambardella will give a presentation offering an inside look at her sculptures and her process. She will also be onsite for a meet and greet and questions from 2:30–4 p.m. This two-day special event is included with general Garden admission.
- **Orchid Walk & Talk, Wednesday, February 14, 21, and 28, 9 – 10 a.m.:** Learn more about the orchids of *Patterns in Bloom* with an early morning tour led by one of New England Botanic Garden’s horticulture experts. [Tickets must be reserved in advance.](#)
- **Exhibition Open Daily, February 10 – March 17, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.:** *Patterns in Bloom* is on display daily and included with general Garden admission.

To learn more about *Patterns in Bloom, An Orchid Exhibition* or to reserve tickets visit <https://nebg.org/patterns-in-bloom> or contact Public Relations Manager Liz Nye at lnye@nebg.org.

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About New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill is a nonprofit organization located at 11 French Drive in Boylston, Massachusetts. A regional destination, the Garden is operated on 200 acres by the Worcester County Horticultural Society, one of the oldest of its kind in the country, and is open to the public for garden viewing, trail walking, educational programs, private events, weddings, exhibitions, and more. This year New England Botanic Garden was voted "Top Botanic Garden in the U.S." by *TravelAwaits*. New England Botanic Garden is an [AAM-accredited](#) museum that includes an irreplaceable collection of plants and creates opportunities for visitors to experience the wonder of plants, learn about the natural world, and make joyful connections. Learn all about New England Botanic Garden including its history, mission, and its staff at www.nebg.org.

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