

FRIDA
KAHLO
ART·GARDEN·LIFE

MAY 16 – NOVEMBER 1, 2015

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
August 26, 2015

NYBG Announces Extended Saturday Hours and Fall Programming for Frida Kahlo Exhibition

In response to popular demand, The New York Botanical Garden is expanding its Saturday evening hours to 8 p.m., starting on September 12, and adding additional *Frida al Fresco* evenings to its schedule of public programming and special events to enrich visitors' experience of the Garden-wide art and horticultural exhibition *FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life*. Programs include music and dance performances, a Mexican film series, concerts, lectures, and festivities, providing visitors with additional insights into Frida Kahlo's life and work and offering a view of Kahlo's Mexico from a wide variety of cultural perspectives.

FRIDA KAHLO: Art, Garden, Life is the first exhibition to examine the artist's keen appreciation for the beauty and variety of the natural world, as evidenced by her home and garden as well as the complex use of plant imagery in her artwork. Featuring a rare display of more than a dozen original Kahlo paintings and works on paper, this limited six-month engagement also reimagines the iconic artist's famed garden and studio at the Casa Azul, her lifelong home in Mexico City.

Regularly scheduled programming includes weekend music and dance performances ranging in genre from folk to mariachi to contemporary for the duration of the exhibition. The Garden is enlivened by renowned New York City organizations such as The Villalobos Brothers and Humberto Flores and Calpulli Danza Mexicana. The **¡Camára, Acción! Mexican Film Series** screens *Frida* (2002), Julie Taymor's Academy Award-winning biopic starring Salma Hayek, on Saturdays and presents a revolving series of current Mexican films and documentaries on Sundays.

Special events and holiday weekend celebrations include **¡Viva México! An Independence Day Celebration** (September 19–20) and **Día de los Muertos** (October 24–25 and October 31–

November 1). These weekend events include additional live performances, craft workshops, and other programs themed to holidays and celebrations. On select Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, **Frida al Fresco Evenings** invite guests to unwind after hours with a margarita at the Tequila Bar and fare from Stephen STARR Events such as tacos and other snacks inspired by Kahlo's kitchen, while shopping, enjoying live music, strolling to and through the Art Gallery, and visiting the exhibition in the Conservatory.

Schedule of Public Programs and Events

Regularly Scheduled Programming

Live Performances: Music and Dance of Mexico

Saturdays and Sundays, Outdoors and in Ross Hall

On weekends, the Garden is activated with music and dance performances ranging in folk to mariachi to contemporary from renowned New York City organizations.

- **Calpulli Danza Mexicana**, which celebrates the rich dance traditions of Mexico's diverse cultural history interpreted through its unique artistic vision.
- **Mexico Beyond Mariachi**, a leading provider of in-depth, educational, and entertaining performances and residencies that incorporate live music and dance from Mexico.

¡Camára, Acción! Mexican Film Series *In Ross Hall; 3 p.m.*

- *Every Saturday* Screenings of *Frida* (2002), Julie Taymor's Academy Award-winning biography of Kahlo, starring Salma Hayek.
- *Every Sunday* A revolving series of current Mexican films and documentaries that provide cultural context for the broader exhibition, presented in partnership with Cinema Tropical.

Textile Weaving and Gourd Carving Demonstrations: Artisans from Chiapas and Oaxaca

August 28–September 7: 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (exception: August 29, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. & 4–6 p.m.)

September 10–October 12: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.; Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Visitor Center

Artisans from Chiapas and Oaxaca demonstrate their age-old techniques in weaving, embroidery, and gourd carving. Using the backstrap loom, these textile artists evoke ancient motifs with natural dyes, striking a beautiful balance between traditional and contemporary. In August, visiting artisans carve and draw graceful designs onto gourds, or *jicaras*, communicating their personal and communal stories of celebrations, myths, and folklore. Visiting artisans are part of Tixinda—the Mixtec Indigenous Weaving Cooperative, the Unión de Artesana de Los Alto women's cooperative and Chamuchic, a supporter of indigenous arts. *A special presentation: Mixtec weavers of Oaxaca featuring documentaries of their lives and anthropologist Marta Turok will be held on Saturday, August 29.*

Guided Tours

Roaming Guides

Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Daily

Tour guides will be situated in key locations throughout the exhibition to answer visitor questions and provide more in depth interpretation.

Guided Tours of the Library's Art Gallery

Select weekdays

Guides will provide tours of the art exhibition in the Library.

Guided Tours of the Conservatory in Spanish

Select weekdays and weekends

Spanish-speaking guides will offer tours of the Conservatory exhibition.

Special Events and Weekends

Frida al Fresco Evenings

- *Select Thursdays and Fridays, 6:30–9:30 p.m. in the Visitor Center (Library Gallery open until 8:30 p.m.)*
 - August 27; September 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25; October 1, 9, 15, 16, 22 (LGBT night), 29, 30

Unwind after hours with a margarita at the Tequila Bar and fare from Stephen STARR Events such as tacos and other snacks inspired by Kahlo's kitchen. Shop, enjoy live music, stroll to and through the Art Gallery and visit the exhibition in the Conservatory.

- **Live Music** featuring **various musicians**:
 - **Adam O'Farrill's Stranger Days**
 - **Jarana Beat**
 - **Mariachi Flor de Toloache**
 - **Radio Jarocho**
- **Outdoor Performances**: One featured element per evening:
 - **Calpulli Danza Mexico**
 - **Laura Anderson Barbata's traditional Oaxacan stilt dancers, in collaboration with Los Zancudos de Zaachila**
 - **Lucrecia Novoa's Giant Puppets**

Summer Concerts

Thursday, August 27, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

In the Conservatory Tent and Courtyards

- **Gizel Xanath** with The Villalobos Brothers

Generous support for the Summer Concert Series is provided by Vivian and Edward Merrin.

Special Presentation: Mixtec Weavers of Oaxaca featuring Documentaries of their Lives and Anthropologist Marta Turok

Saturday, August 29, 1 p.m.

Ross Hall

Join us for a special screening of two powerful short documentaries about an endangered purple sea snail and the dye it produces, which is used in the traditional weavings created by Mixtec women in a remote village in Oaxaca, Pinotepa de Don Luis. Each of the screenings will be followed by a translated discussion with the people featured in the films, who will also demonstrate their craft of spinning and weaving. This is the first time these weavers and their wares have ever made an appearance in the United States. Their creations will be available for purchase during the event and at Shop in the Garden, with proceeds directly benefitting their community and cause.

Additionally, Marta Turok, Award-winning Mexican anthropologist and co-author of *Self-portrait in a Velvet Dress: The Fashion of Frida Kahlo*, along with immigrants rights attorney Patrice Perillie, Director of Mexican Dreamweavers, will share the story of the endangered marine snail *Purpura*

pansa, which lives off the coast of Mexico and is known for its *tixinda* purple dye. The snails are milked to create dye for hand-spun thread that is then woven on backstrap looms into colorful cloth that is coveted by textile aficionados around the world. As an advocate for the preservation of their habitat, Ms. Turok speaks of the snails' endangered species status and current threats to the millennial tradition of the Mixtec community. Ms. Perillie will share the process and values of womens' labor that goes into making each weaving, as well as the importance of supporting indigenous weaving cooperatives.

Live Performance Art: The Two Fridas

Saturdays and Sundays, October 3–4 and October 31–November 1, 1–5 p.m.

In the Britton Rotunda

An installation of specially commissioned artwork by contemporary Artist in Residence Humberto Spíndola, is on display in the Britton Rotunda of the Library building. Inspired by Kahlo's double self-portrait *The Two Fridas* (1939), Spíndola re-creates the dresses using a trompe l'oeil effect that closely resembles fabric. Special live performances with two male models posed wearing replicas of his paper dresses bring the painting to life.

¡Viva México! An Independence Day Celebration, September 19–20

Celebrating Mexican Independence Day and Hispanic Heritage Month with classic Mexican traditions, flower arranging workshops, live music, and artisan demonstrations.

- **Live Performances:** Calpulli Danza Mexicana and Mariachi Flor de Tolache
- **Poetry Reading with Rachel Eliza Griffiths**, *September 19, 2 p.m.*
- **Craft Workshop**, Frida Kahlo Flower Crown Making activity, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- **Giant Monarch Butterfly Puppets** by Lucrecia Novoa, 12–4 p.m.

Día de los Muertos Celebration, October 24–25 and October 31–November 1

On the exhibition's closing weekends in October, the Garden hosts a festival celebrating **Día de los Muertos** and Frida Kahlo as a painter and cultural icon.

- **Live Music**, *Conservatory Lawn*: Musical Artists in residence The Villalobos Brothers;
- **Performance Art**, *Conservatory Precinct*: A procession of larger-than-life skeletons, butterflies, and La Catrina, the grande dame of this colorful holiday;
Conservatory Plaza: Stilt Dancers of Los Zancudos de Zaachila, presented by Laura Anderson Barbata
- **Craft Workshop**, *Conservatory Courtyard*: Día de los Muertos mask making workshop and skull face painting

Poetry for Every Season Reading

Saturday, September 19, 2 p.m. in Ross Hall

Rachel Eliza Griffiths, a poet and photographer who teaches creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College, reads from the work of Octavio Paz, the acclaimed 20th-century Mexican poet featured in the Poetry Walk.

Co-presented with the Poetry Society of America

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*Major Support provided by:
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Mobile Media supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies

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This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

*Support also provided by the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation, Allwin Family Foundation,
Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Club Med, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation,
Mex-Am Cultural Foundation, Modelo Especial, National Endowment for the Arts,
New York Council for the Humanities, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of
Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Pineda Covalin, and Prestige Paints*

*Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent
those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

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 Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden 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, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org.

The New York Botanical Garden, 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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