

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

For Immediate Release



Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Presents *Chamberlain at Fairchild*

**Four monumental sculptures by John Chamberlain
On view at Fairchild
December 5, 2012 — April 30, 2013**

Coral Gables, FL, November 6, 2012—Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is pleased to announce *Chamberlain at Fairchild*, a wonderful addition to this year's art program.

Chamberlain at Fairchild will highlight four sculptures by John Chamberlain (1927-2011), created by the artist from 2008 to 2010. Up to fifteen feet high, the works are constructed from silver, green, or copper-colored industrial aluminum, which have been looped and flexed into quirky, biomorphic forms. These sculptures were recently on view at the Park Avenue plaza outside the Seagram Building in New York City.

From the mid-1970s, Chamberlain began fashioning miniature sculptures from household aluminum foil. In 2007 he started successfully transposing these miniatures into durable

materials on a large scale without sacrificing the lightness, directness, and spontaneity of the initial foil creations. Although he used materials other than his signature “art supply” of discarded metal car parts, these sculptures consistently reflect his lifelong concern with what he described as “fit.” The intricately tangled and woven parts ultimately resolve themselves in balanced, cohesive structures. Given their reflective and textured surfaces and powerful torque, the sculptures appear to be in constant flux as one walks around them. Changes in atmosphere and weather also impact their overall appearance.

“Chamberlain’s pieces will exhibit beautifully at Fairchild while making an interesting correlation with the plant life,” says Nannette Zapata, Fairchild’s Chief Operating Officer and Art Curator. “The twists, turns and shoots of his work resemble those of vines that grow wildly in rainforests. The natural ties that climbing plants make resonate with these sculptures in an almost idealized way.”

About John Chamberlain

John Chamberlain (1927-2011) was born in Rochester, Indiana. He attended the Art Institute of Chicago (1951-52) and Black Mountain College (1955-56) and moved to New York in 1956. His work is represented in many major public collections including The Art Institute of Chicago; Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas; Dia Art Foundation, New York; Menil Collection, Houston; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, Ludwig Collection, Vienna; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Modern, London; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He has had two retrospectives, both at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, in 1971 and in 2011. Chamberlain has been the subject of more than one hundred one-person exhibitions, including those at the Dia Art Foundation (1983); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1986); Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (1991); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1996); Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas (2005-06); and the Menil Collection, Houston (2009). His work has been included in numerous international survey exhibitions, including Bienal de São Paulo (1961, 1994), Biennale di Venezia (1964), Whitney Biennial (1973, 1987), and Documenta 7 (1982).

About Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is dedicated to exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants. Considered the greatest tropical botanic garden in the world, Fairchild exhibits some of the tropical world's rarest and most beautiful plants within the tapestry of an iconic landscape design. Fairchild is a one of the world's best science, conservation and education-based gardens and a recognized international leader in both Florida and international conservation. It has conservation programs in over 20 countries throughout the tropical world including the Indonesia, South America, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. Fairchild’s palm and cycad collections are considered the best collections in the world and are nationally recognized by the American Public Gardens Association. It is also home to the American Orchid Society. The Fairchild Challenge is the largest science-based education program in the U.S. reaching more than 150,000 schoolchildren. Fairchild hosts popular events like the Chocolate, Mango, Orchid, Food and Garden, Ramble, and Edible Garden Festivals, as well as an internationally acclaimed Art Program, GardenMusic Festival, concerts, plant shows and sales, and evening events and

is the cultural and community hub in South Florida. Fairchild is a not-for-profit organization with 45,000 members and over 1,200 volunteers.

Fairchild is located at 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Florida, 33156. Admission is \$25 for adults, \$18 for seniors, \$12 for children 6-17 and free to children 5 and under and Fairchild members. Information at www.fairchildgarden.org and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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