

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

For Immediate Release



Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Presents *Garden Lights*

**Los Angeles-Based Artist Jorge Pardo to Illuminate Fairchild with
Dozens of Lamps From the Original Hammer Museum Installation**

**On View at Fairchild
December 1, 2012 – February 1, 2013**

Coral Gables, FL, October 3, 2012—Starting December 1, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will be illuminated with dozens of lamps by Havana-born artist Jorge Pardo. *Garden Lights* will be on view along Fairchild's glorious tree-lined path overlooking the Garden.

Renowned for his meticulous attention to craft and his eye for vibrant color combinations, Pardo's lamp works are delightful permutations of red, orange, and white and made of powder-coated steel. Reminiscent of blooming flowers romantically dangling from a tree, Pardo's installation will transform the Garden's tree canopy into a visual utopia.

"The design of the garden is dependent on light," says Nannette Zapata, Fairchild's Chief Operating Officer and Art Curator. "The tree canopy creates a gentle dappled light, and Jorge's lamps guide the visitors through the Garden's majestic vista. These works will

create a beautiful, interesting, and respectful juxtaposition amongst the leaves, especially at night.”

Jorge Pardo was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1963. His family moved to Chicago when he was six, and he moved to Los Angeles to attend Art Center at 19. Amid the Southern Californian art culture of the 1980s, Pardo found inspiration outside the traditional arenas of fine art. Looking to the innovative mid-century architectural treasures in the Hollywood Hills and the cross-pollination in an increasingly multicultural city, Pardo developed his unique and progressive view of the relationship between art and space. He has since created a striking body of work, made distinct by an uninhibited, interdisciplinary approach in which artworks evoke the function of everyday objects and speak to a more global identity.

Pardo’s aesthetic has long eluded traditional categorization. It is often described as a merger of fields in which art meets architecture and design. Pardo’s lamps, work surfaces, interiors, and buildings do more than cross disciplines; they delve into the dynamic between art and the space it occupies, creating a gestalt in which the negative space becomes part of the work. His art intermingles with commerce, work by other artists and him, enveloping the entirety of the space into a singular experience.

Garden Lights will be on view concurrently with *Sitting Naturally*, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden’s inaugural exhibition of the Design at Fairchild arts initiative.

About Jorge Pardo

Jorge Pardo (b. 1963, Havana, Cuba) studied at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and received his BFA from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions, including *4166 Sea View Lane*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1998); Fundació La Caixa, Barcelona (2004); *House*, Miami MoCA North (2007), traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland (2008); K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen (2009); and the Irish Museum of Modern Art (2010). Architectural projects and non-art specific spaces have included creating a café for the Leipzig Messe in Germany, a restaurant for the K21 Museum, and the re-design of the installation for the pre-Columbian collection at LACMA. His work is part of numerous public collections, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Tate Modern, London.

About the Art Program at Fairchild

Design at Fairchild: Sitting Naturally and *Garden Lights* is part of an annual exhibition that celebrates art and culture. The Art Program supports Fairchild’s conservation work and educational and scientific outreach programs and is committed to cultural enhancement in South Florida. Fairchild’s Art Program has exhibited the works of Will Ryman, Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, Yayoi Kusama, Mark di Suvero, Roy Lichtenstein, Dale Chihuly, Fernando Botero, Yoko Ono, and Kris Martin. The Fairchild Art Program is generously supported by The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Lin Loughheed and Aaron I. Fleischman, and the Cristina Grajales Gallery.

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. Fairchild's palm and cycad collections 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. 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. Additional information can be found at www.fairchildgarden.org and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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