



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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North Carolina Museum of Art Announces *Art in Bloom* Schedule of Events

Festival of art and flowers features floral masterpieces, classes, demonstrations, and more

Raleigh, N.C.—This March the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) presents *Art in Bloom*, its inaugural festival of art and flowers. The four-day event, March 19–22, features 45 floral masterpieces inspired by the NCMA’s permanent collection and created by world-class floral designers. The festival includes master classes, floral demonstrations, presentations by the floral designer for the Royal Family, family activities, a wine tasting, and many other events.

“We are always looking for different ways to present exceptional art and create memorable experiences for our visitors, and *Art in Bloom* is the perfect opportunity,” says NCMA Director Lawrence J. Wheeler. “This festival will not only highlight work by some of the best floral designers in North Carolina and beyond, but it will also allow visitors to view the works of art in our permanent collection in a new way.”

Designers featured in *Art in Bloom* include members of the American Institute of Floral Design (AIFD), the Judges Council of the Garden Club of North Carolina (GCNC), and professional and independent floral designers.

In preparation for *Art in Bloom*, the permanent collection in the Museum’s West Building will be closed on Wednesday, March 18. Iris restaurant and the Museum Store, however, will be open. The East Building and Museum Park will also remain open for visitors.

During the four days of *Art in Bloom*, tickets will be required for admission to the permanent collection in the Museum’s West Building. The East Building and Museum Park will remain open and free to visitors.

All proceeds from *Art in Bloom* support Museum programming and exhibitions and benefit the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. The presenting sponsor of *Art in Bloom* is PNC Bank.

Art in Bloom

March 19–22, 2015

West Building

\$15 Adults

\$10 Museum members

Free for children 6 and under

Tickets on sale now!

Schedule of Events

The NCMA will host a series of special events in conjunction with *Art in Bloom*, including an opening reception, presentations, lectures, master classes, family activities, and a wine tasting. Visitors can register for events online at ncartmuseum.org/tickets or by calling the Museum Box Office, (919) 715-5923.

Opening Reception

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Thursday, March 19, 6:30 pm

West Building

\$50 Members, \$65 Nonmembers

Sip champagne and savor gourmet crudités as live music pumps up the Iris lounge. Breathe in the aroma of the blossoms and experience the permanent collection in a whole new light.

Demonstrations

(continued)

Learn tips and tricks from celebrated floral designers, watch as they master the art and beauty of nature, or win a one-of-a-kind arrangement during an impromptu auction.

Ikebana Influence in Design with Hitomi Gilliam

**Thursday, March 19, 11 am
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$40 Members, \$55 Nonmembers**

The grace and simplicity of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging that emphasizes form and balance, is the inspiration for international floral expert Hitomi Gilliam. Hear tips to make her simple, elegant designs on your own.

Bringing the Garden Home with Steve Taras

**Thursday, March 19, 3 pm
West Building Lounge
\$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers**

Steve Taras of Watered Garden Florist in Raleigh demonstrates how he keeps the NCMA's Iris restaurant wall looking bright and fresh, and how you can bring the beauty home.

AIFD Presents *Ikebana: Classical to Modern* with Kyoko Petersen

**Friday, March 20, 11 am
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers**

Kyoko Petersen of the American Institute of Floral Design is a professor in the Ikenobo Ikebana school in Kyoto, Japan, the birthplace of ikebana. The presentation highlights classical ikebana arrangements along with newer styles introduced in the 20th century.

***Edible Flowers: Food in Bloom* with Jennifer Hicks**

**Friday, March 20, 3 pm
West Building Lounge
\$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers**

Jennifer Hicks of the NCMA's Iris restaurant shares tips and techniques for incorporating edible flowers into salads, sweets, and sips. Sampling encouraged.

***A Year in Flowers* with Shane Connolly**

**Friday, March 20, 6 pm
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$40 Members, \$55 Nonmembers**

Shane Connolly, floral designer for the Royal Family, shares his approach to keeping your life flower filled every day. Meet him at a book signing for *A Year in Flowers* immediately following in the Museum Store.

AIFD Presents *Tabletops That Rock* with Carol Dowd and Nelson Simpson

**Saturday, March 21, 11 am
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers**

Wow your guests at your next event or dinner party. Tricks and tips for taking ordinary floral arrangements to the extraordinary.

AIFD Presents *Spring Emerging* with Jody McLeod and Stephanie Garrett

**Sunday, March 22, 11 am
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers**

To the human eye, nothing is more captivating than the emergence of new life from Mother Nature. Join us for an interpretive design program devoted to this aspect of the botanical process.

Lectures

The Gardens of North Carolina

Saturday, March 21, 3 pm
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

Bryce Lane, host of UNC-TV's *In the Garden with Bryce Lane*, takes us on a visual journey through the beautiful public gardens of North Carolina.

Flowers in Art through the Ages
Sunday, March 22, 3 pm
East Building, Museum Auditorium
\$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

Museum lecturer Joseph Covington illuminates how flowers brighten many works in the NCMA's collection, from symbols in early religious art to botanical illustration.

Master Classes

Hitomi Gilliam, AIFD
Thursday, March 19, 1:30 pm
East Building, Blue Ridge Atrium
\$175 Members, \$200 Nonmembers

Create a floral masterpiece to take home in this hands-on workshop with world-renowned designer Hitomi Gilliam. Space is limited. Tuition includes floral materials. All levels of experience welcome.

About Hitomi Gilliam

Hitomi Gilliam, AIFD, is a Japanese Canadian floral designer, keynote lecturer, demonstrator, educator, and consultant in all aspects of the art and business of floral design. She has guest designed in North America, England, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, Bermuda, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, and Colombia. She is a Teleflora education specialist and a monthly columnist for *Flowers&* magazine.

Shane Connolly, Royal Florist – SOLD OUT
Friday, March 20, 1:30 pm
East Building, Blue Ridge Atrium
\$175 Members, \$200 Nonmembers

Create a floral masterpiece to take home in this hands-on workshop with world-renowned designer Shane Connolly. Space is limited. Tuition includes floral materials. All levels of experience welcome.

About Shane Connolly

Shane Connolly, born and raised in Northern Ireland, holds a Royal Warrant of Appointment to HRH the Prince of Wales and was responsible for the stunning floral designs at the wedding of William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. His passion for plants and gardening led to a career of more than 25 years as an artisan and craftsman. Connolly believes in honoring the seasons by using native flowers and greenery whenever possible and in working in harmony with the planet. He is equally happy in a garden, a palace, or a museum.

Lunch and Learn with Shane Connolly
Saturday, March 21, 11 am
East Building, Blue Ridge Atrium
\$225 Members, \$250 Nonmembers

Enjoy lunch catered by Iris, and then create a floral masterpiece to take home in this hands-on workshop with world-renowned designer Shane Connolly. Space is limited. Tuition includes lunch and floral materials. All levels of experience welcome.

Family Activities

A Walk in the Park
Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22
10:30 am both days
Meet at *Art in Bloom* ticket desk, West Building
Free with *Art in Bloom* admission

Explore the Museum's pond to understand how plants and thoughtful design come together to manage water flow and ensure sustainability for the Museum and Park. Recommended for children age 5 and older with an adult.

A World of Many Ecosystems

Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22

1 pm both days

Meet at *Art in Bloom* ticket desk, West Building

Free with *Art in Bloom* admission

This extended tour of the Museum Park leads to an old-growth forest near the I-440 bridge. Explore art in the Park and uncover some botanical treasures as we pass through different ecosystems. Recommended for children age 10 and older with an adult.

Origami and Paper Flower Art

Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22

10 am–noon and 1–3 pm both days

Meet at *Art in Bloom* ticket desk, West Building

Free with *Art in Bloom* admission

Fold, crease, and transform paper into water lilies and other sculptural flowers.

Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22

10 am–5 pm both days

Pick up a clue card at *Art in Bloom* ticket desk, West Building

Free with *Art in Bloom* admission

Follow the clues to find fragrant flowers and artful treasures in the galleries.

Stories in the Garden

Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22

11:30 am both days

West Building, North Courtyard

Free with *Art in Bloom* admission

Hear children's books about magical and colorful gardens inspired by famous artists.

Wine Tasting

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Friday, March 20, 5:30–7 pm

West Building Lounge

Free with *Art in Bloom* admission

Can you identify the floral notes in this selection of five wines? Dare to compare while surrounded by real-life bouquets.

Docent-Led Tours

Public Docent Tours

Thursday–Sunday, March 19–22

10:30 am and 11:30 am

Free tour with *Art in Bloom* admission

Works in the permanent collection take on a new character when seen next to a floral design. Uncover the joys of these intriguing combinations.

Private Docent Tours

Thursday–Sunday, March 19–22

1 pm and 2 pm

What inspired the floral designs and the works that influenced them? Discover some of the possibilities. Reservations required. Contact Christine Molesky at (919) 664-6785 or christine.molesky@ncdcr.gov.

**Special *Art in Bloom* Third Friday Tour with the NCMA Contemporaries
Friday, March 20
Happy Hour, 6:30 pm; Tour, 7:30 pm
West Building
Free tour with paid admission to *Art in Bloom***

Join us for a docent-led tour with the Museum's young professionals group. Registration required:
ncartmuseum.org/tickets, (919) 715-5923.

About *Art in Bloom*

Organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art

Presenting sponsor: PNC Bank

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About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.

About PNC

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