



# FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

1000 East Beltline Avenue • Grand Rapids, MI 49525 • 616 957 1580 • [meijergardens.org](http://meijergardens.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT

Amy Sawade  
Public Relations Specialist  
616-975-3155  
[asawade@meijergardens.org](mailto:asawade@meijergardens.org)

## 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — February 2, 2009** — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of nation's most comprehensive sculpture and botanic experience, is delighted to present its 2009 calendar of events. Incorporating Meijer Gardens' core mission of exploring the duality of art and nature, the year features world-renowned sculpture exhibition and exciting horticulture shows along with returning visitor favorites and educational programming.

### Sculpture Exhibitions

#### **Jonathan Borofsky**

*January 30 – May 10, 2009*

American sculptor Jonathan Borofsky is among the most significant artists of his generation and widely admired for his public commissions across the globe. His exhibition at Meijer Gardens presents an extraordinary opportunity to view his latest work, *Human Structures & The Light of Consciousness*, designed specifically for Meijer Gardens' galleries. Guests can walk around the large structural sculpture made of hundreds of brightly colored male and female figures. *Human Structures & The Light of Consciousness* as well as maquettes and prints related to the work will be on display.

- **Curator's Choice**

*Tuesday, February 3, 7 PM*

*Included with price of admission*

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park's Director of Exhibitions and Curator of Sculpture, Joseph Becherer, will guide visitors on a 45-minute tour of Jonathan Borofsky's exhibition while discussing the artist's background and the meanings behind his figurative sculpture.

- **Family Activities: Fun with the Figure**

*Saturdays in February, 1-3 PM*

*Included in price of admission*

Meijer Gardens offers a unique family-friendly workshop to experiment with figures similar to ones in the Jonathan Borofsky exhibition. Workshop attendees can draw inspiration from Borofsky's rainbow figures to by crafting with colored cellophane, incorporating math into art projects and making flip-books showing figures in motion. The workshop is hosted by Kati Kaszlavik of Grand Valley State University. Materials are provided and all ages welcome.

- **Big: A Short History of Colossal Art**

*Tuesday, March 3, 7 PM*

*Included with price of admission*

From the colossal statues of ancient Egypt and Rome to 25-mile-long contemporary earthworks, large-scale art has memorialized and awed many cultures. This lecture with Sue Eberle of Kendall College of Art & Design will address how and why enormous three-dimensional art has been such an enduring part of art history. Following the lecture, guests can explore the sculpture exhibition by Jonathan Borofsky and experience his monumental sculptures.

- **Perspectives**

*Tuesday, March 10, 7 PM*

*Included with price of admission*

An enlightening discussion of the Jonathan Borofsky exhibition will explore different perspectives of the Jonathan Borofsky exhibition. Guests can discover what David Hooker, President and CEO of Meijer Gardens, Ed McKee, Manager of Outdoor Horticulture, and Heidi Holst, Curator of Arts Education think about the colors, materials and figures used in the exhibition.

### **Alexander Calder: 1969 – The Fortieth Anniversary of *La Grande Vitesse***

*June 5 – September 7, 2009*

Alexander Calder (1898-1976), the pre-eminent sculptor of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, profoundly changed the course of modern sculpture and notions of public art. *La Grande Vitesse* in downtown Grand Rapids dates to 1969 and is among his most iconic works. The colossus is heralded as among Calder's masterworks and was America's first public sculpture project funded by the National Endowment of the Arts through the Art in Public Places Program. The exhibition, organized in collaboration with the Calder Foundation, focuses specifically on work from 1969, an incredibly prolific year for the artist. Mobiles, stabiles, ceramics, prints and drawings will be featured. Works related to *La Grande Vitesse* will be highlighted – including the artist's large-scale maquette for the sculpture.

### Seasonal Exhibitions and Events

#### **Winter Family Day**

*February 7, 2009 at 1-3 PM*

Bundle up and head to the Lena Meijer Children's Garden for an afternoon of frosty fun. Hot chocolate and loads of activities will keep you warm. Activities include winter weavings, a silly snow maze, "I Spy" winter walks, snow paintings, old-fashioned games, winter wildlife puppets, and of course, hot chocolate.

#### **Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming**

*March 1 – April 30, 2009*

A visitor favorite, Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming features hundreds of butterflies from tropical regions flying freely in the 6-story Tropical Conservatory. The 80-degree conservatory makes for a warm, winter escape in West Michigan with brightly colored butterflies to brighten up the gloomy winter. This is the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibition in the nation with over 40 different species of butterflies and moths.

#### **Summer Concert Series**

*June – September, 2009*

Eclectic selections of world-renowned musicians headline the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Concert Series at the Meijer Gardens Amphitheater. The intimate 1750-seat lawn setting is a great place to enjoy a picnic and great music in the summer weather. August begins the Tuesday Evening Music Club –in addition to the Summer Concert Series – a series featuring West Michigan's finest performers. The lineup will be announced in spring 2009.

#### **ColorFall**

*September 19 – October 31, 2009*

This annual celebration of the autumn season features an extensive chrysanthemum display with hundreds of flowering plants in both interior and exterior areas. Indoor highlights include varieties on display along the winding Scenic Corridor and the Seasonal Display Greenhouse, while outdoor plantings are featured in the English Perennial Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden and Volunteer Tribute Garden. Color tours, tram rides and seasonal children's activities offer a unique way to experience autumn.

#### **Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World**

*November 18 – January 3, 2010*

*Lighting Ceremony – November 17, 2009*

Experience the most magical time of year as Meijer Gardens transforms into a world of winter magic with the glow of 300,000 lights, more than 40 captivating international trees and displays, strolling carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides and more surprises than can fit under the tree. The *Gardens Holiday Express* train

exhibit, a holiday favorite designed by railway garden designer Paul Busse, winds its way through three separate indoor gardens.

### Horticulture Events

**Michigan All-State Bonsai Show, May 16 – 17**  
**Iris Show, May 30 – 31**  
**Spring Rose Show, June 20 – 21**  
**Daylily Show, July 18**  
**Standard Flower Show, July 17 – 19**  
**Dahlia Show, August 29 - 30**  
**Fall Rose Show, September 5 - 6**  
**Fall Family Day & Herb Festival, October 3 – 4**  
**Fall Bonsai Show, October 17 - 18**

### Education

#### **Earth Day Celebration**

*April 18 -19, 1-4 PM*

Celebrate Earth Day with Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in the Children's Garden with earth-friendly activities! Learn how worms do their part to recycle and then join in a fun worm hunt. Recycle newspaper into a pot, then plant a seed and watch it grow into a butterfly-attracting plant. Play our recycle relay and discover what items are recyclable. Add to our weaving project and compare it to birds' nests woven from reused materials.

#### **Secchia Lecture**

***“Beautiful Organic Gardens – Good for the soil, good for the soul”***

*April 29, 7 PM*

Horticulture expert David Howard will share insight on maintaining a productive, yet environmentally-friendly organic garden. Made possible by Peter and Joan Secchia, this lecture will explore practices such as composting and dealing with pests for any type of garden, size or budget. Howard is the former Head Gardener at Highgrove House, the private estate of Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla, and is an expert on organic and sustainable horticulture. The lecture is free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

#### **Please Note**

All exhibition dates and titles are subject to change. To confirm information, or to obtain additional information and images, contact Amy Sawade at 616-975-3155, or [asawade@meijergardens.org](mailto:asawade@meijergardens.org). Exhibitions are free with admission to Meijer Gardens. Hours are Sunday, 12:00 PM–5:00 PM; Monday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; Tuesday 9:00 AM-9:00 PM; Wednesday-Saturday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; unless otherwise noted.

#### **About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**

One of the nation's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves more than a half-million visitors annually. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1750-seat outdoor amphitheater, featuring an eclectic mix of world-renowned musicians every summer. The internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park features a permanent collection including works by Rodin, Oldenburg, Moore, Bourgeois and Plensa among others. Indoor galleries host changing sculpture exhibitions with recent exhibitions by Picasso, Degas, di Suvero and Chihuly. For additional information, please visit [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org).

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