



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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CONTACT

Amy Sawade
Public Relations Specialist
616-975-3155
asawade@meijergardens.org

Meijer Gardens Named a Must-See Museum in the World by Author of “1,000 Places to See Before You Die”

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — May 13, 2009 — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park has been named one of the top 30 must-see museums in the world by Patricia Schultz, author of *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*. The recent article ranks Meijer Gardens thirteenth among other celebrated museums including the Guggenheim Bilbao, Museum of Modern Art, Van Gogh Museum, and The Getty Center.

Of the thirty must-see-museums, Meijer Gardens is the only institution with a focus on sculpture and horticulture.

“It is an incredible honor to be recognized for our blend of internationally acclaimed collections, exhibitions and gardens,” said David Hooker, President and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. “It’s truly wonderful how well they work together.”

“When it opened, we had no idea it would be as successful as Meijer Gardens is today,” said Frederik Meijer, Honorary Chairman and namesake of Meijer Gardens. “We are just enjoying what Lena and I are most passionate about, and it has far exceeded our expectations.”

Just fourteen years old, Meijer Gardens is one of the younger museums highlighted by Schultz.

“We are humbled to be in such esteemed company,” said Joseph Becherer, Director of Exhibitions and Curator of Sculpture. “It is inspiring to be among museums which have existed for decades, even centuries.”

“Being a sculpture park and botanic garden, we have the unique opportunity to place sculpture in natural environments while making gardens become works of art themselves,” said Steve LaWarre, Director of Horticulture.

In 2005, *The Wall Street Journal* wrote, “...There’s nothing quite like Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park this side of the Kröller-Müller Museum and Sculpture Park in The Netherlands.”

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park remains Michigan’s second largest tourist attraction and among the most popular cultural organizations in the Midwest.

The article “30 Must-See Museums” by Patricia Schultz was published in *Sky Magazine*’s May 2009 issue and is available at <http://deltaskymag.com>.

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.

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