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***The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism*, a Breathtaking Display of Orchids in Settings Inspired by the Bold, Multicolored Designs of Architect Luis Barragán, Runs from February 15 through April 27, 2025, at NYBG**

**On Select Evenings, Experience Orchid Nights, “the Lushest Bar in Town,” with the First on Saturday, February 15**

**A Photography Exhibit by Mexican-American Visual Artist Martirene Alcántara Captures the Essence of Barragán’s Vibrantly Colorful and Geometric Works**



Left to Right: *The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism*; Orchid Nights, featuring hellotones, “El Hijo de PueblaYork;” Martirene Alcántara, *Theia’s Legacy II* 2024, Archival giclée on etching paper

**Bronx, NY**—From February 15 through April 27, 2025, ***The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism***, the 22nd edition of the annual celebration of all things orchids at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), carries visitors to the vibrant setting of Mexico. Set off on a journey where the fusion of tradition and contemporary artistry takes center stage amid awe-inspiring displays of orchids and other eye-catching supporting plants. Wander through lush landscapes brought into vivid relief with thousands of flowers that showcase diverse ecosystems and rich culture. Among bright arrangements of orchids in settings inspired by the bold, multicolored designs of Mexican modernist architect Luis Barragán (1902–1988), come visit a paradise of tropical beauty—without ever leaving the Bronx.

On select evenings (February 15, 22; March 8, 15, 22, and 29; and April 5, 12, 18, 19, 25, and 26, 2025), **Orchid Nights**, called the “lushest bar in town,” are picture-perfect outings for adults 21 and over, featuring music and dancing, cash bars, and food for purchase among the energetic color and style of the exhibition. For more information about *The Orchid Show* and Orchid Nights, visit: <https://www.nybg.org/event/the-orchid-show-mexican-modernism/>.

In NYBG’s Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery, Mexican-American visual artist Martirene Alcántara presents *Homage to Luis Barragán: An Act of Poetry*, her series of still images capturing the essence of architect Luis Barragán’s vibrantly colorful and geometric works. Among shadow, light, and contrasting palettes, explore the inspiration behind the imaginative designs found in this year’s edition of *The Orchid Show*.

*The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism* brings Luis Barragán’s iconic architectural style to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory at NYBG. Barragán was a leading force in defining Mexican modernist architecture, adapting international ideas and trends using the organic textures, bright colors, and native flora of Mexico. Visitors will stroll among thousands of orchids, bringing the textures and forms of Barragán’s style to life with fountain features and colorful walls and lattices.

Mexico’s wide range of ecosystems contain 10–12 percent of the world’s species, making it one of the largest biodiversity hotspots on Earth. This includes more than 1,300 orchid species, about 40 percent of which are endemic—they are not found anywhere else in the world.

In addition to the expansive variety of lush and beautiful orchids, this year’s *Orchid Show* also highlights succulents, such as cacti and agave. While immersed in thousands of flowers, visitors will learn about orchids in the wild and NYBG’s ongoing worldwide orchid research and conservation. Orchids aren’t just found in exotic locations such as the tropics; they’re everywhere, including right here in New York State, and NYBG scientists are still discovering new species. On select weekend dates throughout the exhibition, visitors may learn about orchids and their care from NYBG’s horticulture staff.

*The Orchid Show* is a must-see for seasoned orchid enthusiasts and for NYBG newcomers alike, promising bold colors and a celebration of Mexico’s rich botanical history. On select evenings, Orchid Nights bring the vibrant beats of *cumbia* music, with *cumbia sonidera* dance parties led by a DJ and professional dancers and a celebration of traditional tracks and modern influences that create an immersive dance experience. hellotones, “El Hijo de PueblaYork,” is Bronx-born and at the forefront of a cultural renaissance underway for the Mexican diaspora in New York City, reimagining the *cumbia* genre and bringing it to new spaces. Born and raised in Queens and now based in Brooklyn, Mark Saldana, a.k.a.

Coolmarx, embraces all regional variations of *cumbia* in his community-based dance lessons—from *cumbia colombiana*, *ecuatoriana*, *peruana*, and *mexicana*.

Public programming during the exhibition includes:

- **Orchid Basics Q&A**

*Weekends and Wednesdays, February 15 to April 27, 2025; 2–5 p.m.*

*NYBG Shop*

While browsing NYBG Shop’s varied collection of orchids on offer for purchase, get tips from expert NYBG Volunteers for selecting the right one for any home—and how to successfully grow, rescue, and care for these exotic plants. It’s a great opportunity to start an orchid collection.

- **Meet the Orchid Experts**

*Select dates through April 27, 2025; 12–4 p.m.*

*Enid A. Haupt Conservatory*

*February 15\*, 16\*, 22, March 1\*, 8, 15, 16, 22\*, 29, 30, April 5, 12, 13, 19\*, 26, and 27, \* 2025*

*\* On indicated dates, in-person Spanish translation will be available.*

Learn about NYBG’s orchid collection from the stewards themselves: the NYBG Horticulture staff. These drop-in sessions offer the opportunity to meet the people behind NYBG’s impressive orchid collection and learn how the flowering Mexican plants and cacti in *The Orchid Show* were cultivated, cared for, planted, and designed.

- **The Orchid Show Sensory Table: Vanilla**

*Select weekends through April 26, 2025; 12–4 p.m.*

*Enid A. Haupt Conservatory*

*February 15\*, 16\*, 22, 23; March 1\*, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22\*, 23, 29, 30; April 5, 6, 12, 13, 19\*, 20, and 26, 2025*

*\* On indicated dates, in-person Spanish translation will be available.*

Some of the plants behind the familiar scents of chocolate, vanilla, and cinnamon can be found right in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Use the sense of touch, smell, sight, and even sound to identify these and other select botanical items at the Sensory Table.

- **Orchids of the Herbarium**

*February 23; April 6 and 27\*, 2025; 12–4 p.m.*

*Enid A. Haupt Conservatory*

*\* On indicated date, in-person Spanish translation will be available.*

Learn how orchid specimens are collected, preserved, mounted, and categorized with the staff members of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium. Admire the display of

specimens from Mexico; stay for a mounting demonstration; and try creating a specimen to take home.

NYBG Shop provides a multitude of top-quality orchids—from exotic, hard-to-find specimens for connoisseurs to elegant yet easy-to-grow varieties for beginners—along with orchid products and books for purchase.

For more information about *The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism* and Orchid Nights, go to [www.nybg.org/](http://www.nybg.org/).

### **About The New York Botanical Garden**

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has been a connective hub among people, plants, and the shared planet since 1891. For more than 130 years, NYBG has been rooted in the cultural fabric of New York City, in the heart of the Bronx, its greenest borough. NYBG has invited millions of visitors to make the Garden a part of their lives, exploring the joy, beauty, and respite of nature. NYBG's 250 acres are home to renowned exhibitions, immersive botanical experiences, art and music, and events with some of the most influential figures in plant and fungal science, horticulture, and the humanities. NYBG is also a steward of globally significant research collections, from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library collection to the plant and fungal specimens in the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest such collection in the Western Hemisphere.

The plant people of NYBG—dedicated horticulturists, enthusiastic educators, and scientific adventurers—are committed to helping nature thrive so that humanity can thrive. They believe in their ability to make things better, teaching tens of thousands of kids and families each year about the importance of safeguarding the environment and healthy eating. Expert scientists work across the city, the nation, and the globe to document the plants and fungi of the world—and find actionable, nature-based solutions to the planet's dual climate and biodiversity crises. With eyes always looking forward, they train the next generation of botanists, gardeners, landscape designers, and environmental stewards, ensuring a green future for all. At NYBG, it's nature—or nowhere.

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**The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org).**

**The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.**

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