

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Information on concurring events and a list of participating floral designers from your area follows!

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM AND TOWER HILL BOTANIC GARDEN PRESENT THE 4TH ANNUAL *FLORA IN WINTER*, AN ART AND FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA

(WORCESTER and BOYLSTON, Mass., Jan. 12, 2006) — In the clutch of winter, two Central Massachusetts cultural institutions collaborate on an exhibition of fresh floral arrangements and artistic masterworks that conjure the sights and scents of a warmer climate.

Flora in Winter, on view Thursday through Sunday, Jan. 26-29, features fresh floral arrangements interpreting works of art at the Worcester Art Museum and symbols of the Roman Pantheon at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. Garden club members and floral designers from throughout Central New England have volunteered to create the arrangements. Visitors can admire 22 arrangements in the Worcester Art Museum's galleries and 20 arrangements at Tower Hill, as well as floral displays sponsored by area florists to adorn public spaces at the Museum. Guided tours at each location will be offered several times daily, and Tower Hill hosts a special luncheon and arranging demonstration at 12 p.m. on Friday. Special events celebrating **Flora in Winter** will be held at each institution throughout the week.

AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

At the Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., works of art chosen as inspiration for **Flora in Winter** floral arrangements vary from a Houdon sculpture, 13th-century stained glass, a covered silver cup given by Queen Victoria to her godchild, to paintings by Henri Matisse, John Singer Sargent, Gilbert Stuart, and others. The floral arrangements, alongside their inspiration piece, are placed throughout the Museum, inviting a leisurely exploration of the Museum's art spanning 5,000 years.

During **Flora in Winter**, a bust of the goddess Flora, a 17th-century Italian marble sculpture, takes center stage on the balcony of the Worcester Art Museum's Renaissance Court. According to ancient mythology, this

goddess of flowers, springtime, gardens and love was deified with a kiss from Zephyr, the west wind of spring. Flora symbolizes rebirth and the awakening of spring, as she scatters flowers cascading from her hair, lips and gown.

Viewing hours for **Flora in Winter** at the Worcester Art Museum are Thursday, Jan. 26, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 27, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AT TOWER HILL BOTANIC GARDEN

At Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, the symbols of the Roman Pantheon will be celebrated by floral creations displayed in Tower Hill's Main Entry, Alice Milton Gallery and Fern Gallery, adjacent to the lush subtropical blooms and greenery in the Orangerie.

FLORA IN WINTER ADMISSION

Regular admission fees apply at each institution. Admission is free to members of that institution. For others, Worcester Art Museum admission is \$10 adults, \$8 senior citizens and full-time students with ID, and free for youth 17 and under. Museum admission is free for everyone on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Tower Hill admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors ages 65 and older and youth ages 6-18. Admission is free for children under 6.

OTHER SERVICES AND AMENITIES

The Museum Café at the Worcester Art Museum and Twigs Café at Tower Hill offer light lunches. At the Worcester Art Museum, enjoy lunch Thursday through Sunday from 11:30 to 3 p.m. Twigs Café welcomes diners Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Museum Shop and the Shop at Tower Hill will be open all **Flora in Winter** hours and feature special items related to Flora.

Flora in Winter is sponsored by Flagship Bank and Trust and UnumProvident Corporation. Additional generous support has been provided by WCRB Classical 102.5 FM Boston and the Worcester Telegram and Gazette. Special thanks to Stop & Shop on West Boylston Street, Worcester.

About the Worcester Art Museum

A cultural jewel of New England, the Worcester Art Museum first opened to the public in 1898. Its world-renowned 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints and drawings is displayed in 36 galleries and spans 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from Egyptian antiquities and Roman mosaics to Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Its extensive year-round studio art and art appreciation program enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Sundays at 2 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric, a National Grid Company). The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum's web site at www.worcesterart.org.

About Tower Hill Botanic Garden

A tranquil refuge to delight the eye, expand the mind, nurture the soul and commune with the natural world, Tower Hill Botanic Garden is a year-round living museum of plants. Tower Hill is owned and operated by the Worcester County Horticultural Society, founded in 1842, with its mission to "advance the science and encourage and improve the practice of horticulture." The 132-acre site features formal and informal style gardens, a 4000-square foot Orangerie (greenhouse), meadows, woodland trails and a panoramic view of Mt. Wachusett and the Wachusett reservoir to the west. More than 60,000 visitors annually partake of Tower Hill's beauty, and several thousand participate in educational classes and programs offered by Tower Hill staff and invited lecturers.

Tower Hill Botanic Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors (65+) and youth (6-18), and FREE for Members and children under 6. Tower Hill is located at 11 French Drive, Boylston, Mass., exit 24 off Route 290. Free parking. For more information, call (508) 869-6111, or visit the Garden's website at www.towerhillbg.org.

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Editors: Information on concurring events and a list of participating floral arrangers and affiliated garden clubs follows. For more information, images or to arrange interviews and media visits, please contact:

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Michael Arnum, Tower Hill Botanic Garden

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FLORA IN WINTER
Jan. 26-29, 2006

CONCURRING EVENTS

Flora Euphoria! at Worcester Art Museum

Thursday January 26, 5–8pm

Celebrate *Flora in Winter* at this reception and fundraiser. Guests will enjoy the floral displays at their freshest. Live music by the WPI Woodwind and String Quartet, and a featured pianist, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar add to the evening's festivities. Free for WAM Members, \$7 for THBG Members; \$15 Nonmembers. No RSVP required. For information, call the Worcester Art Museum at 508.799.4406 x3205 or visit.

www.worcesterart.org

Ikebana and Beyond: Lunch and Lecture at Tower Hill Botanic Garden

Friday, January 27, 12-2:45pm

During this catered buffet luncheon, Sogetsu Ikebana expert designer Kaye Vosburgh will reveal the secrets of this venerable Japanese art form with a flower arranging demonstration. \$18 for THBG and WAM Members; \$22 Nonmembers. For reservations, call 508-869-6111 x24.

Mosaic Interpretive Challenge Demonstration at the Worcester Art Museum

Friday, January 27, 3-5pm

Watch four arrangers interpret the same mosaic in the Renaissance Court using the same materials, resulting in four different floral creations. The finished displays will be on view to enjoy for the rest of **Flora in Winter**. Free for WAM Members and free with general admission. No RSVP required. For information, call the Worcester Art Museum at 508.799.4406 x3205 or visit. www.worcesterart.org

Mozart Piano Candlelight Concert at Tower Hill Botanic Garden

Friday, January 27, 7:30pm (Snow Date: Saturday, January 28)

Tower Hill enhances the mood and atmosphere of **Flora in Winter** with a *Candlelight Concert* in honor of the 250th Anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birth, featuring pianist-members of Tower Hill, including Marian Hanshaw, Peter Metz, Kenneth Wolf, and vocalist Jan Seymour accompanied by Sydney Patten. \$20 for THBG and WAM Members; \$25 Nonmembers. Twigs Café will provide complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Call Tower Hill at 508.869.6111 x35 for reservations.

Sunday Concert at the Worcester Art Museum

Sunday, January 29, 3PM

The Performing Arts School will provide ambience for the final afternoon of **Flora in Winter**. Free for WAM Members and free with general admission. No RSVP required. For information, call the Worcester Art Museum at 508.799.4406 x3205 or visit. www.worcesterart.org

Flora in Winter Public Tours

Public Tours will be offered at the Museum and Tower Hill Botanic Garden. Free for Members and free with general admission. No RSVP required. The tour schedule is as follows:

Worcester Art Museum Public Tours:

Friday January 27 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00PM

Saturday January 28 11:00, 11:30AM, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00PM

Sunday January 29 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00PM

Tower Hill Botanic Garden Public Tours:

Friday, January 27 1:00PM

Saturday, January 28 1:00, 3:00PM

Sunday, January 29 1:00, 3:00PM

For private tours for groups of 10 or more, please call for more information: Worcester Art Museum
508.799.4406 x3130; Tower Hill Botanic Garden 508.869.6111 x25.

FLORA IN WINTER
Jan. 26-29, 2006

I. Participating Floral Arrangers

Home Town	Floral Arranger/Affiliated Garden Club
Framingham	Minal Akkad Framingham Garden Club
North Attleboro	Debbie Bottomley Angle Tree Garden Club
Stow	Betty Call Stow Garden Club
Worcester	Kae Collins Independent
Wellesley	Kathryn Costello Fox Hill Garden Club
Worcester	Kim Cutler Worcester Garden Club
Grafton	Susan B. Dewey Worcester Garden Club
Holden	Ken Bositis Independent
Worcester	Mary Fletcher Worcester Garden Club
Westford	Lois Frampton The Garden Club of Harvard
Uxbridge	Ann Hanscom/Virginia Deselms Blackstone Valley Gardeners
Worcester	Sally E. Jablonski Independent
Holden	Ulrike Lies and Arlene Sjosten Worcester Garden Club
Sutton	Beverly McClure Independent
West Boylston	Kathy Michie Worcester Garden Club
Shrewsbury	Joan Moreschi Shrewsbury Garden Club
Blackstone	Elaine A. Parisi Lexington Field and Garden Club
Sherborn	Harriet Pattison Sherborn Garden Club
Wayland	Bobbie Pavlic Independent
Acton	Thelma H. Shoneman Acton Garden Club
Worcester	Cathy Walsh Independent
Princeton	Robin D. Whitney Worcester Garden Club

II. Participating Florist Displays

Town	Florist Displays
Northborough	Bigelow Nurseries
Worcester	Bloomer's
Cambridge	Budding Genius/Jennifer Dorsey Designs
Charlton, Holden, Worcester	Camosse Masonry Supplies
Auburn	Central Massachusetts Flower Show
Shrewsbury	Danielson Flowers
North Grafton	Floral Elegance
Stow	The Floral Touch Studio by Betty Call
Douglas	Florist of the Valley
Oakham	Gardens by Lisa
Worcester	Herbert E. Berg Florist, Inc.
Worcester	Holmes-Shusas Florists
Sterling	Lilacs of Sterling
Charlton	Native Landscaping
Worcester	The Perfect Package
Westborough	The Plant Bazaar Florist
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury Garden Club
Northborough	Skaff Floral Creations
Worcester	Sprout
Grafton	Sweet Briar Florist & Perennials

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MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITY
FLORAL DESIGNERS TAKE OVER WORCESTER ART MUSEUM
TO CREATE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS INSPIRED BY ARTWORK

- EVENT:** *Flora in Winter* set-up day
- DATE:** Thursday, January 26, 2006
- TIME:** 7-10 a.m.*
- PLACE:** Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury Street, Worcester
- DESCRIPTION:** The burst of colors and scents of fresh flowers will fill the Worcester Art Museum's galleries as garden club members and florists from around Massachusetts set to the task of constructing 22 floral masterpieces for *Flora in Winter*.
- On Thursday morning, the floral arrangers will rumble through the Museum and into the galleries with shopping carts loaded with cut flowers, containers and other supplies.
- They each will create an arrangement that interprets a work of art in the Museum. The arrangements respond to the colors, texture, shape and mood of the selected works of art.
- Presented in collaboration with Tower Hill Botanic Garden, *Flora in Winter* is on view through Sunday, January 29.
- *Start times for floral arrangers are staggered between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. All arrangements will be complete by 10 a.m.*
- Please call Martin Richman at 508.799.4406, ext. 3022 to arrange a visit.*