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Origami in the Garden

Columbus, OH—Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens presents a monumental sculpture exhibition, *Origami in the Garden*, from May 21 through November 13, 2016.

Origami in the Garden tells the story of the Japanese art of paper folding through large-scale sculpture created by American artist Kevin Box. The exhibition includes Box's own compositions as well as collaborative works with his wife Jennifer and origami masters Robert J. Lang, Te Jui Fu, Michael G. LaFosse and Richard L. Alexander.

"Origami presents a simple metaphor; we all start with a blank page, what we do with it is up to us and the possibilities are endless," said Box.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Each sculpture in the exhibition began as a piece of paper, but Box has found a way to transcend the impermanence of paper, while still capturing origami's intricacy, by using lost-wax casting methods and museum quality metals.

Sculptures of bronze, steel and aluminum are exhibited within the Conservatory's tropical plant collections housed under glass, and in outdoor courtyards. Of the 12 sculptures on view, highlights include *Master Peace*, a 25-foot-tall monument composed of 500 steel origami cranes, and *Painted Ponies*, a collection of four cast brass sculptures within a field of summer flowers.

Additional sculptures by Box and paper works by Michael G. La Fosse and Richard L. Alexander are exhibited in the Conservatory's Cardinal Health Gallery. An installation of more than 200 paper butterflies created by LaFosse and Alexander is suspended from the skylight in the Conservatory's Grand Atrium.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

A Japanese-inspired garden in the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse highlights the Conservatory's collection of tropical and hardy bonsai trees. In the fall, blooming chrysanthemums fill the Showhouse and courtyards with seasonal color.

A *History of Asians in Central Ohio* exhibit, on view May 7–June 26, 2016, tells the stories of nine Asian sub-groups in Columbus. Presented in partnership with the Asian Festival.

A children's interactive area features origami-inspired activities including a paper folding station. Additional family programming takes place every Saturday, 11am–2pm, and is free with admission.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Film Screening: *Between the Folds*

Saturday, May 21

The Veridian, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Between the Folds is a 2008 documentary film about origami, featuring notable origami artists Erik and Martin Demaine, Tom Hull, Éric Joisel, Satoshi Kamiya, Robert J. Lang, and Akira Yoshizawa. <http://www.greenfusefilms.com/>

Lecture: Robert J. Lang

Thursday, September 22

The Veridian, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Robert J. Lang is recognized as one of the world's leading masters of the art of origami. He is noted for designs of great detail and realism, and includes in his repertoire some of the most complex origami designs ever created. His work combines aspects of the Western school of mathematical origami design with the Eastern emphasis upon line and form to yield models that are at once distinctive, elegant, and challenging to fold. Lang will lead a lecture on origami art and its connections to mathematics, science, and technology.

Workshop and Lecture: Michael LaFosse

Saturday, October 8

The Veridian, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Michael LaFosse leads several paper-folding workshops for children and adults.

ABOUT KEVIN BOX

Kevin Box is recognized for capturing the delicate nature of paper in museum quality sculpture. Since the beginning of the 21st century, he has grown to become the featured artist in many of America's top fine art galleries and fairs. Box's work has received numerous awards and is held in prominent collections worldwide. In 2004, he was elected as the youngest member of the National Sculptors' Guild and was recognized by Southwest Art Magazine as one of the Top 21 Artists Under 31 in the southwest. With more than 20 works of art in public places, he is represented year round by twelve fine art galleries in North America. Box resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife Jennifer.

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ABOUT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers botanical collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns a signature collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly. *Light Raiment II*, a permanent installation by internationally recognized light artist James Turrell, illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn. fpconservatory.org

Origami in the Garden is made possible by funding from PNC Arts Alive, a multi-year, \$2.5 million initiative of The PNC Foundation that supports visual and performing arts groups with the goal of increasing arts access and engagement in new and innovative ways. Additional lead support is provided by The Columbus Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, and Nationwide Foundation.

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