



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lori Kingston

614.715.8150, lkingston@fpconservatory.org

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers a winter escape with *Orchids*

Columbus, OH— Colorful and delicate orchid blooms provide respite from winter's gray chill in Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' 2016 installment of its *Orchids* exhibition, on view January 9 through March 6, 2016.

A romantic, spring-like display of 1,200 orchids in soft hues creates a dreamy winter escape in the Conservatory's Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse. Orchids of all colors and forms, 50 types from nine genera and numerous intergeneric hybrids, are on view throughout the tropical plant collections. Visitors can learn more about orchids on Sundays, from 1 to 4pm, when members of the Central Ohio Orchid Society are available to answer questions and discuss the growing and care of orchids.

In the Cardinal Health Gallery: *De La Naturaleza*

Drawing inspiration or motifs from the natural world, 31 artists, including 17 from Central Ohio, will exhibit 46 clay artworks in a gallery exhibition on view alongside *Orchids*. The title of the exhibition means *of nature* in Portuguese and is curated by Columbus-based ceramic artist and instructor Eric Rausch. Entries were received from across the country. Artists from 12 states chosen by a jury that included Rausch and Sherrie Riley Hawk, owner of Columbus' Sherrie Gallerie.

Related Events:

Family Fun: Clay Workshop

Saturday, January 9, 11am–2pm

Opening day of *De La Naturaleza*. Artists from Central Ohio Clay Arts lead demonstrations and hands-on activities exploring clay art making. Free with admission.

The Collector Next Door

February 25, 6–8pm

Patrick Doust and Richard North, collectors of sculptural and functional ceramics for over thirty years, share advice about purchasing the best artwork within your budget. Free program.

All About Orchids

Sunday, February 28, 1–3pm

Learn the basics of growing and caring for orchids in the home environment. Demonstrations will cover repotting, diagnosing pest and disease problems, and special care for specific types.

\$50 members; \$60 non-members. Pre-registration required. Fee includes an orchid to take home.

New this winter

Beginning on Thursday, February 4 and continuing throughout the year, a weekly program for preschoolers and their favorite adult will be offered. Each Thursday morning at 10:30, the program will begin with a story and then move to an adventure or activity within the Conservatory's indoor and outdoor (weather permitting) spaces. The program is free with regular Conservatory admission.

About Central Ohio Clay Arts (COCA)

COCA exists to connect and support the people and organizations in Central Ohio that share a passion for the clay arts. COCA is a member-driven organization that serves as a central hub for clay artists,

collectors and enthusiasts.

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.

www.fpconservatory.org

###