



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — Updated: May 29, 2009 — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of nation's most comprehensive sculpture and botanic experience, is delighted to present its 2009 calendar of events. Incorporating Meijer Gardens' core mission of exploring the duality of art and nature, the year features world-renowned sculpture exhibition and exciting horticulture shows along with returning visitor favorites and educational programming.

Sculpture Exhibitions

Alexander Calder: 1969 – The Fortieth Anniversary of *La Grande Vitesse*

June 5 – September 7, 2009

Alexander Calder (1898-1976), the pre-eminent sculptor of the 20th century, profoundly changed the course of modern sculpture and notions of public art. "La Grande Vitesse" in downtown Grand Rapids dates to 1969 and is among his masterworks. The colossus was America's first public sculpture project funded by the National Endowment of the Works of Arts in Public Places program. The exclusive exhibition, organized in collaboration with the Calder Foundation, focuses specifically on work from 1969, an incredibly prolific year for the artist. Works related to "La Grande Vitesse," such as the artist's rarely-seen large-scale maquette on exclusive loan from The Calder Foundation and original drawings of the colossus will be on display. Mobiles, stabiles, ceramics, and prints will also be featured.

- **Members Opening: Alexander Calder: 1969 – The Fortieth Anniversary of *La Grande Vitesse***

June 4, 7 PM

Listen to a discussion about the importance of Alexander Calder's "La Grande Vitesse" to the city of Grand Rapids. Nancy Mulnix Tweddale—the co-chair of the Mayor's Committee responsible for bringing Calder to Grand Rapids—will share details of the commissioning process for this controversial sculpture. Other panelists include Dr. Robert Blaich, member of the Commissioning Panel for the project; artist Billy Mayer, Mayor George Heartwell, and arts advocate Mary Ann Keeler. Moderator is Joseph Becherer, Director of Exhibitions and Curator of Sculpture at Meijer Gardens.

- **Calder and Grand Rapids (Lecture)**

June 16, 7 PM

How does a piece of sculpture become a cultural icon? Join art historian Kirsten Strom as she discusses how artist Alexander Calder changed the course of modern sculpture and ideas of public art. After the lecture, visit the sculpture galleries to discover the colorful world of Calder.

- **Downtown Sculpture Walk**

June 27, 11 AM

June 29, 12 PM

Meet in downtown Grand Rapids at La Grande Vitesse on Vandenberg Plaza. Join Joseph Becherer, Director of Exhibitions and Curator of Sculpture, for a discussion of Calder's iconic sculpture and a walking tour of public sculpture in Grand Rapids. Discover why Grand Rapids is called "Sculpture City." Plan to walk at least 10 blocks and be sure to dress for the weather. Tours should last about one hour.

- **Curator's Choice: a Calder Lecture with Joseph Becherer**

June 30, 12 PM

July 21, 12 PM

Learn the "inside scoop" from our Director of Exhibitions and Curator of Sculpture about Alexander Calder and his works from 1969, the year of *La Grande Vitesse*. Walk through the exhibition for a 30-minute tour, and then ponder the colorful and whimsical art over lunch on your own at Taste of the Gardens Cafe.

Lynn Chadwick: In Contact

Sculpture from the Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art, Ursinus College

October 9, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Lynn Chadwick (1914-2003) was one of several talented British sculptors who burst upon the international art scene in the late 1950s. He established a critically acclaimed body of work that continued to develop well into the late 20th century. Inspired by the career of Henry Moore, Chadwick's sculpture displays a fascinating evolution of personal images through powerful series of abstracted human figures, animals, birds and imaginary beasts. This retrospective exhibition, the first in the United States since the artist's death in 2003, features 43 sculptures and 5 lithographs from the permanent collection of the Phillip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College. Beginning with the highly geometric and strongly linear figures and beasts of the 1950s, this exhibition follows the chronology of the master's career through to the majestic and sensuous male and female forms of the 1980s. This exhibition is organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions in conjunction with Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

Henry Moore: Master Printmaker

The Lillian Heidenberg Gift to Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

October 9, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Although celebrated globally as one of the most influential sculptors of the 20th century, Henry Moore (1898 - 1986) was also a master draftsman and printmaker. Although he first experimented with printmaking in the 1930s, it became a significant part of his repertoire beginning in the 1960s. This exhibition draws from a collection of 24 master prints recently presented to Meijer Gardens by Lillian Heidenberg, one of Mr. Moore's primary gallerists. Moore explored many of his major sculptural themes in etchings and lithographs including seated and reclining figures, mother and child, and animals. This exhibition is the premier presentation of work from this important gift to Meijer Gardens.

Spirit and Form: Michele Oka Doner and the Natural World

January 29 – May 9, 2010

American artist Michele Oka Doner is widely celebrated for her sculpture, installations and public art projects, and is similarly acclaimed for her prints, jewelry and functional objects. Among the most versatile artists working today, the inspiration she draws from nature is the defining factor and unifying force across her repertoire in both formal and spiritual terms. This exhibition, Oka Doner's largest to date, examines the breadth of her endeavors from recent figurative projects in bronze and on paper to iconic functional objects in bronze and silver. Of special note will be her site specific installation of more than 1,500 recently completed ceramic soul catchers completed during her residency at the famed Nymphenburg porcelain studios in Munich, Germany. This exhibition is timed to coincide with the completion of *Beneath the Leafy Crown*, the expansive 1,200 square foot bronze and terrazzo floor commissioned by Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

Sculptors Celebrate the Legacy of Fred and Lena Meijer

June 4, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Through the generosity of Fred and Lena Meijer, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park has assembled one of the world's foremost collections of Modern and Contemporary sculpture. In honor of the Meijer legacy and in celebration of the namesake institution's 15th anniversary, contemporary sculptors represented in the permanent collection will be displaying new work in this unique gallery exhibition. From Louise Bourgeois and Deborah Butterfield, to Mark di Suvero and Antony Gormley, to Claes Oldenburg and Tom Otterness, many artists have developed a special affinity for Meijer Gardens and the Meijers themselves. This exhibition individually examines the present endeavors of numerous iconic masters from across the contemporary scene and collectively commemorates the breadth and depth of the permanent collection developed with the support of Fred and Lena Meijer.

Seasonal Exhibitions and Events

Kids' Tram Tours

Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays: June 10 – August 29

10:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:30 PM

Kids' Tram Tours are back! Two different rides offer an entertaining and interactive way to enjoy Meijer Gardens. "I Spy in the Sculpture Park" gets kids to think about sculptures in a new way. They can discover why artists chose to make the things they do and how a sculpture moves in water. An I Spy backpack encourages kids to look for details of sculptures they've never noticed before. "Alphabet Adventure" gets kids to investigate Meijer Gardens – alphabet style. They'll learn the letters as they visit the shade garden, farm garden and amphitheater. Tongue twisters, activities and songs are a great way to practice pre-reading skills during the summer. Each ride is \$3 for adults and \$1 for kids.

Fun at the Farm

Fridays: June 12 – August 28

Sundays: June 14 – August 30

1-4 PM

Gather bushels of family fun this summer at Meijer Gardens' Farm Garden! Children of all ages will have farm-time fun with "chore-challenges" like gathering eggs, hanging laundry and "painting" the barn. Enjoy farm pastimes like old-fashioned music, toys and relays. Also, work together on a cooperative quilting project. The farm is fun for everyone! Activities are all-ages and free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

Playful Baby Goats Weekend

June 13-14, 1-4 PM

Learn all about goats and their role in old-fashioned farming in this fun-filled weekend at Meijer Gardens' Farm Garden. Sample cheese, watch a cooking demonstration and discover what products are made from goats' milk. Pet lively baby goats and participate in playful games. Activities are all-ages and free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

Lena Meijer Children's Garden 5th Birthday Party at Meijer Gardens

June 20, 2009, 1-4 PM

Come celebrate the Lena Meijer Children's Garden's 5th birthday at Meijer Gardens. Birthday festivities begin at 1 PM. Acrobatic demonstrations, juggling, birthday hat-making, games, face painting, and a treasure hunt are all part of the fun. And don't forget desert! Other birthday activities will last all summer long starting June 8 and end August 30. Activities are all-ages and free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

Birthday Fun at the Lena Meijer Children's Garden

June 8 – August 30

Meijer Gardens celebrates the fifth birthday of the Lena Meijer Children's Garden with birthday activities all summer long! Come down to the Story Telling Garden and experience books, finger puppets and props (Weekdays at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM). Enjoy favorites such as "Diary of a Worm," "Turtle's Race with Beaver" and "The Very Busy Spider." Also, celebrate our fifth birthday with stories "The Birthday Box" and "The Secret Birthday Message." Daily Challenge Activities will also be occurring daily throughout the entire week between 11 AM and 12 PM. Mondays are "Outdoor Artists' Studio," Tuesdays are "Birthday Party Games," Wednesdays are "Fish out of Water," Thursdays are "Alice in the Children's Garden Wonderland," Fridays are "Music in the Maze," and Saturdays and Sundays are "Weekend Surprise." Activities are all-ages and free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

4th of July Stroller Parade

July 4, 1 PM

Celebrate America's birthday in the Children's Garden at Meijer Gardens. Decorate your strollers, your children and yourselves for our annual Children's Garden parade. Dolls and stuffed animals are welcome too! Prizes are awarded for the three most original creations. Free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

Amazing Honeybees Weekend

July 11-12, 1-4 PM

Get an up-close look at the world of a honeybee at Meijer Gardens' Farm Garden. Discover what's inside a real hive at the observation hive. See the beekeeper's unusual equipment. Learn how to communicate like a bee

performing a “bee dance” and have fun along the “busy bee” obstacle course. Taste different types of honey and much more in this bee-utiful weekend. Activities are all-ages and free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

Summer Concert Series

June – September, 2009

Eclectic selections of world-renowned musicians headline the 7th annual Summer Concert Series at the Meijer Gardens Amphitheater. The intimate 1750-seat lawn setting is a great place to enjoy a picnic and great music in the summer weather. Past performers include Lyle Lovett, The Doobie Brothers, B.B. King, Willie Nelson, the Indigo Girls, and many more.

- **The Derek Trucks Band with special guest Ruthie Foster**

Wednesday, June 10

Member: \$30, Public: \$33

One of the most critically acclaimed guitarists and the youngest musician to be named in *Rolling Stone's* list of Top Hundred Guitarists of All Time, Derek Trucks has completed his much anticipated sixth studio album with The Derek Trucks Band, entitled “Already Free.”

- **The Avett Brothers**

Thursday, June 18

Member: \$28, Public: \$30

The all acoustic The Avett Brothers combine folk, rock, bluegrass and country to create their infectious and upbeat melodies with three-part harmonies and introspective lyrics. The Avett Brothers' music has been compared to everyone from Buddy Holly and 1960s-era Beatles, to the Ramones and Nirvana.

- ***SOLD OUT***

Indigo Girls with special guest Brandi Carlile

Wednesday, June 24

Member: \$43, Public: \$45

Folk rock duo the Indigo Girls bring their Grammy-winning songwriting to the stage with effortless harmonies, honest and passionate lyrics, and infectious melodies. Their albums reflect a distinct style boasting complex and spiritual music, with influences from pop, punk and modern rock cataloging over two decades worth of revolutionary music.

- **The Wallflowers**

Monday, June 29

Member: \$35, Public: \$37

The Wallflowers' influence ranges from Tom Petty, The Clash and T-Bone Burnett, to Bob Dylan—father of front man Jakob Dylan. Their 1997 album *Bringing Down the Horse* produced hits like "6th Avenue Heartache" and the Grammy Winner "One Headlight." *Rebel, Sweetheart*—their fifth album—is the welcome re-introduction to a rock & roll band with a renewed sense of purpose.

- **Neko Case**

Thursday, July 16

Member: \$30, Public: \$33

Singer/songwriter Neko Case's trademark vocals, stark imagery and non-standard song structures won her the honor of 2006 Female Artist of the Year at the Plug Independent Music Awards. With roots in punk, her music has since been described as indie-rock, alt-country and "country noir," and her sixth studio album, *Middle Cyclone* debuted at #3 on the *Billboard* charts.

- ***SOLD OUT***

Lyle Lovett & His Large Band

Sunday, July 19

Member: \$62, Public: \$64

Always a highlight of the Summer Concerts at Meijer Gardens, Lyle Lovett is one of the all-time great American singer/songwriters and one of the most distinctive and original artists to emerge since the 80s. Lovett's Grammy award-winning music is beyond country with a wide range of instrumentation. His diverse collection of songs mixes gospel, blues, confessional rock, swing and Americana to weave

stories with a rare literary talent.

- **Keb' Mo'**

Thursday, July 23

Member: \$40, Public: \$42

Singer-songwriter Keb' Mo's musical roots embrace pop, rock, folk, and jazz while wrapped up in Mississippi blues. His slide guitar and acoustic mastery tell a story full of soul, human experience and emotion. The three-time Grammy award winner has collaborated with B.B. King, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Brown and Elvis Costello, among others.

- ***SOLD OUT***

- **Doobie Brothers**

Wednesday, July 29

Member: \$64, Public: \$66

As one of America's most-loved rock bands, the Doobie Brothers blend country, blues, jazz and rock in signature high-energy shows. Over 30 years and 22 million album sales, they have won multiple Grammy awards, earned numerous gold, platinum and multi-platinum albums, and were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2004.

- **Jeff Daniels, with Donna the Buffalo & Kelly Joe Phelps**

Monday, August 3

Member: \$38, Public: \$40

Movie actor and Michigan native Jeff Daniels shows off his wit and self-deprecating humor with a collection of contemporary blues songs like *When You're 50*. Sharing the stage is Donna the Buffalo, with their blend of reggae, rock, country, zydeco, Cajun, folk and old-time fiddle music; and Kelly Joe Phelps, whose country-blues and folk music delight with sounds of the banjo, steel guitar, fiddle and keyboard.

- **Earl Scruggs with Family and Friends**

Thursday, August 13

Member: \$38, Public: \$40

Bluegrass legend Earl Scruggs's career spans seven decades and he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards in 2008. A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Scruggs recorded such hits as "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" and "The Ballad of Jed Clampett," the popular theme of the TV show "The Beverly Hillbillies."

- **George Thorogood & The Destroyers and Jonny Lang**

Wednesday, August 19

Member: \$62, Public: \$64

George Thorogood's rock-and-roll hits "Bad to the Bone" and "Who Do You Love" have earned him a spot at the top of Billboard's blues chart. Renowned for live performances in small blues clubs, he earned Billboard's "Best Blues Album of the Year" in 2004, and has had four gold albums to his credit. Singer-songwriter Jonny Lang's mix of gospel, rustic country, Motown funk and jazzy folk earned him a Grammy and two platinum records early in his career. A professional musician since age 12, Lang has shared the stage with guitar legends like B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Aerosmith, Sting and the Rolling Stones among others.

- **Bon Taj Roulet: Bonnie Raitt & Taj Mahal Alone & Together**

Sunday, August 23

Member: \$68, Public: \$70

Nine-time Grammy winner, Bonnie Raitt is an accomplished songwriter, expressive singer and respected guitarist. A mix of blues, folk and soul led Raitt into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She has collaborated with many great musicians including Ray Charles, B.B. King, Tony Bennett and Eric Clapton. Raitt has become one of the best-selling artists and a legend in American music. Blues legend Taj Mahal's vibrant music spans four decades and represents a global perspective. A composer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, Taj Mahal is a two-time Grammy winner and will be inducted into the 2009 Blues Hall of Fame.

Tuesday Evening Music Club

Tuesdays, August, 7 PM

The weather isn't the only thing that's hot in August at Meijer Gardens. Separate from the Outdoor Summer Concert Series, Meijer Gardens brings you a full month of local pop performances on Tuesday nights in our amphitheater. Concerts are free to members and included with the price of admission for non-members.

- **Karisa Wilson, The Lollipops, The Icicles**, August 4
- **Grrropolis, Mason Proper**, August 11
- **Papa Vegas with special guest**, August 18
- **Sweet Japonic, Mid-Life Crisis**, August 25
- **Ralston & Friends**, September 1

Healthy Harvest Weekend

August 8-9, 1-4 PM

Celebrate the health benefits of the popular potato, nutritious blue berry and versatile zucchini at the Healthy Harvest at Meijer Gardens' Farm Garden. Watch cooking demonstrations and take home "staff picks" of favorite recipes. Learn how harvest foods grow and how to incorporate them into a healthy diet. Fun family activities include fishing for healthy veggies and digging for potatoes. Activities are all-ages and free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

The Connection: Summer Tailgate

August 18, 5-9 PM

Join members of The Connection, Meijer Gardens' newest membership level for young professionals of West Michigan, for an exclusive summer tailgate party! The private picnic in one of our outdoor gardens will have complimentary cookout foods, beer and wine. Then, enjoy the music of Papa Vegas in an outdoor concert in our amphitheater. Free for members of The Connection and \$25 for non-members. RSVP required. Please contact hmack@meijergardens.org or call 616-974-5222.

ColorFall

September 19 – October 31, 2009

This annual celebration of the autumn season features an extensive chrysanthemum display with hundreds of flowering plants in both interior and exterior areas. Indoor highlights include varieties on display along the winding Scenic Corridor and the Seasonal Display Greenhouse, while outdoor plantings are featured in the English Perennial Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden and Volunteer Tribute Garden. Color tours, tram rides and seasonal children's activities offer a unique way to experience autumn.

Heirloom Tomatoes Weekend

September 5-6, 1-4 PM

This flavorful weekend at Meijer Gardens' Farm Garden focuses on heirloom tomatoes. Sample six different varieties and watch cooking demonstrations by area chefs. Learn why tomatoes are a healthy choice and the best ways to enjoy them. Participate in fun activities such as a family tomato relay and terrific tomato toss. Activities are all-ages and free with paid admission to Meijer Gardens.

Christmas and Holiday Traditions Around the World

November 18 – January 3, 2010

Lighting Ceremony – November 17, 2009

Experience the most magical time of year as Meijer Gardens transforms into a world of winter magic with the glow of 300,000 lights, more than 40 captivating international trees and displays, strolling carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides and more surprises than can fit under the tree. The *Gardens Holiday Express* train exhibit, a holiday favorite designed by railway garden designer Paul Busse, winds its way through three separate indoor gardens.

Horticulture Events

Spring Rose Show, June 20 – 21

Saturday, 1–5 pm; Sunday, 12–5 pm

Enjoy hundreds of specimen rose blooms, including miniatures, hybrid teas, old garden roses and floribundas. Vote for the most fragrant rose and find fresh ideas on how to use roses in arrangements. Beginners are welcome to enter flowers in the "Novice Class."

If it's advice you're seeking, Grand Valley Rose Society members will be on hand to answer your questions and provide tips. Admission is free.

Daylily Show, July 18

9 am–5 pm

Like a daylily, this show lasts for just one day! Grand Valley Daylily Society displays hundreds of specimen blooms; miniatures, spider forms as well as some of the newest varieties. Vote for your favorite new daylily and have your questions answered by the experts. Free lectures on growing daylilies are offered at 11 am and 2 pm. Admission is free.

Standard Flower Show, July 17 – 19

Friday 1–5 pm, Saturday 9 am–5 pm, Sunday 12–5 pm

Kent Garden Club members showcase their talents and “green thumbs” at this judged flower show featuring innovative, inspiring and fun floral arrangements; unique table settings; specimen flowers and foliage. Admission is free.

Midwest Dahlia Show, August 29 – 30

Saturday 9 am–5 pm, Sunday 12–5 pm

From dinner plate-sized blooms to tiny button forms, be amazed by the huge range of colors, types and sizes of dahlia flowers. Join the Grand Valley Dahlia Society for a “Show Highlights” tour at 2 pm each day and discover some of the most unique, unusual, and impressive flowers in the show. Learn what the judges look for when awarding ribbons. Grand Valley Dahlia Society members will be on hand to answer all of your dahlia growing questions. Admission is free.

Fall Rose Show, September 5 – 6

Saturday 1–5 pm, Sunday 12–5 pm

Hosted by the Grand Valley Rose Society, this show features some of the finest fall roses. Vote for the most fragrant rose and see hundreds of specimen blooms along with rose flower arrangements. Rose Society members are eager to answer any questions about growing roses. Admission is free.

Fall Family Day & Herb Festival, October 3 – 4

Saturday, 10 am–4:30 pm, Sunday, 12–4:30 pm

Join us for fun and engaging family activities as we celebrate fall and the many uses for herbs. Members of the Midwest Michigan Herb Association provide an assortment of herb products to taste, conduct on-going demonstrations, and answer your questions about growing and preserving herbs. Local vendors provide unique and home-grown herb-related items for sale in our barn. Kid's art activities are available in the Children's Garden. Included with price of admission.

Fall Bonsai Show, October 17 – 18

Saturday, 9 am–5 pm, Sunday, 12–5 pm

West Michigan Bonsai Club will display a variety of bonsai, from well established older specimens to recently trained younger trees. Local vendors will be on hand, offering a variety of hard-to-find tools, supplies, books and plants. Admission is free.

Please Note

All exhibition dates and titles are subject to change. To confirm information, or to obtain additional information and images, contact Amy Sawade at 616-975-3155, or asawade@meijergardens.org. Exhibitions are free with admission to Meijer Gardens. Hours are Sunday, 12:00 PM–5:00 PM; Monday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM; Tuesday 9:00 AM–9:00 PM; Wednesday–Saturday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM; unless otherwise noted.

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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