

THE

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# SANCTUARY

JEAN & ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES

## ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE AND PATTI SMITH



Robert Mapplethorpe, *Iris*, 1987. Courtesy of Graphicstudio, University of South Florida Collection and Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

**FLOWERS, POETRY, AND LIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 13–JUNE 26**

MARIE SELBY  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS





*“The concept that ties this all together is a simple yet powerful one: Photographs of nature, and of flowers in particular, resonate as art and also document the plant world.”*



Robert Mapplethorpe, *Orchid*, 1987. Courtesy of Graphicstudio, University of South Florida Collection and Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

Believe it or not, some people still debate whether photography is art. They maintain that the medium merely captures the reality of a given moment, and doesn't transport the viewer into a subjective reality as fine art can do by its very nature.

But we at Selby Gardens believe photography is an art form unto itself, every bit as compelling as painting, drawing, sculpture, and other expressions of an artist's perspective on life. It is also an indispensable tool for documenting the world's biodiversity. And that leads us to the heart of Selby Gardens' focus for our exhibitions in 2022. Welcome to "The Year of Photography."

As you will read about in this edition of *The Sanctuary*, we are beyond excited to feature the works of legendary photographer Robert Mapplethorpe in the Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series. Running from February 13 through June 26, *Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith: Flowers, Poetry, and Light* presents a curated selection of nature-inspired works by Mapplethorpe, one of the most significant photographers of the 20th century, along with lyrics and poetry on the same subject by rock-and-roll icon, poet, and author Patti Smith. Smith was certainly a muse for Mapplethorpe and often the subject of his photographs.

Many know about the more controversial aspects of Mapplethorpe's work focused on the counter-cultural movements of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. But the truth is, a large body of his portfolio showcases flowers. (He joked that they were easier to work with than human models!) I felt strongly that his work should be displayed in a botanical garden setting, which has never been done before.

Once we decided to create our main art show around a photographer, everything else for the year fell naturally into place. Our next show—from July through September—is *Flora Imaginaria: The Flower in Contemporary Photography*. It will feature contemporary artists and their photographic vision of flowers, with both indoor and outdoor components to the exhibition. I am pleased to tell you we will display works of some major names in photography from around the world.

Our 42nd Annual Juried Photographic Exhibition will then run virtually from mid-August through September. It's a wonderful event in which our visitors, members, and volunteers—everyday photographers as opposed to professionals—take photos of the Gardens and submit them for a juried show. Last but not least, our annual Orchid Show in October and November will showcase scientific photography of our rare orchid collection.

The concept that ties this all together is a simple yet powerful one: Photographs of nature, and of flowers in particular, resonate as art and also document the plant world. We are proud and delighted to share this vision with our visitors this year. We hope you will enjoy experiencing these dynamic, thought-provoking, and stunning photographic shows as much as we enjoy bringing them to you.

Warm regards,

Jennifer O. Rominiacki  
President & CEO

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To provide bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history

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A CONVERSATION WITH MASTER PLAN VISIONARY

# RICHARD ROARK



Richard Roark, a partner in the renowned landscape architecture firm OLIN, recently spoke to us about his studio’s comprehensive vision for Selby Gardens. OLIN, with offices in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, specializes in large-scale design of public spaces, parks, and gardens and has worked at such locations as other major botanical gardens, the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles, and the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.

“There’s such a tremendous bond between everybody who has a connection to Selby Gardens,” Roark says. “It’s very gratifying to be involved in such an important project for such an incredible institution.”



Here’s a Q&A with Roark about the Master Plan and the thinking behind it:

*What were your firm’s overall goals in creating this Master Plan?*

“Our initial task was to consider the high-level goals that Selby Gardens wanted to achieve. Their visitorship numbers are key to the institution, and they needed consistency and growth. At the same time, there was a desire to share more of the amazing things going on at Selby. And because the Gardens had developed organically over the years, there was a need to create a true center to the campus. Many of the buildings and structures needed to be refreshed, and new buildings needed to be constructed in a way to withstand a major storm event. Ultimately, the challenge was to be both visionary and pragmatic at the same time.”

*What were your considerations in creating a new center of the campus?*

“We felt it was vital to make it as easy as possible to reach the reception point when you arrive at Selby Gardens. It’s currently fairly deep into the campus, so the Plan places the reception area in a more central location. One of the things you think about is when people arrive at a place, you don’t want them to arrive with anxiety—like at airports. That was our first question. How do you make it intuitive to know where to go, and to give the Gardens more of a logical sequence? That was a huge consideration, and we’re very excited about the new layout.”

*Why will the Plan roll out in three stages?*

“When you move buildings around with new construction, it requires a complex choreography to maintain access and protect the wonderful trees, exhibits, and gardens. And finding room for facilities on this site was quite a challenge. As an example, you can’t free up space around the property for new construction

until you create a new place for people to park, so that has to come first. Once that’s complete [as part of Phase One], the second phase is the full build-out of the other new facilities. The third phase is about maintaining and renewing the gardens holistically. And, of course, you have to build as the facility stays open—hence the need for multi-phase choreography.”

*How will the new Living Energy Access Facility (LEAF) help Selby Gardens?*

“The LEAF will be a critical part of Selby Gardens becoming the first net-positive botanical garden complex anywhere in the world, with a 50,000-square-foot rooftop solar-panel array and a stormwater management system that will collect and clean water before it goes into the Bay. Also, by consolidating parking in this one structure, we actually double the size of the gardens and the open space that’s there, while allowing us to create a campus center where there wasn’t one before. We are reconfiguring the campus so that Palm Avenue will actually be more in the center—holding everything together.”

*Selby’s cutting-edge research work has largely been hidden from the public up to now. How will that change when the Master Plan is complete?*

“This institution’s relationship to research is of international importance, yet it’s almost a hidden story. Part of our planning was to reveal the researchers’ work, while also enabling these talented people to do their research. They had been working in tight quarters in older buildings. In our new plan, the research center will be attached to the Welcome Center, and visitors will be much more aware of the vital work being done. We will bring these two worlds—the botanical gardens and the scientific research—together in a dynamic way for visitors.”



## Noble Dendrobium

*Dendrobium nobile*

This plant in the Orchidaceae family is popular as a winter-flowering house plant. However, in Florida, the beauty of *Dendrobium nobile* is that it will grow virtually maintenance-free on a tree or palm as an epiphyte. Dendrobium orchids are bred to bloom profusely, beautifully, and reliably. This time of year, they steal the show.

It's best to mount on a tree at the start of the summer rains. After establishment, the noble dendrobium only needs a limited amount of watering during drought times, as it has very good water-storage ability.

### ABOUT

- Hybrids of *Dendrobium nobile* have flowers ranging in color from white to pink to purple and appearing in different sizes.
- Epiphytic or lithophytic plant native to southern China, the Himalayas, and Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam.
- One of the few orchids with herbal properties, it has been used in traditional Chinese medicines.



# WHAT'S IN BLOOM

## Walter's Viburnum

*Viburnum obovatum*

This Florida native grows as a large shrub or small tree, and its dense growth of evergreen leaves and ability to take radical pruning make this viburnum a favorite for hedges and topiary. Walter's viburnum is tolerant of wind and drought, making it perfect for the Florida landscape.

It sports showy clusters of small white flowers that emerge in early spring, creating a dramatic effect in the landscape. Walter's viburnum can be found in several locations on the Historic Spanish Point campus. It is particularly striking along the paved path near the Burial Mound.

### ABOUT

- Blooms attract butterflies, and fruit attracts songbirds.
- Dense vegetation also makes it an attractive home for song-bird nests.
- Suitable for many applications in Florida-friendly landscapes.



# TWO LIVES AND LEGENDS

# ENTWINED

The works of Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith will be showcased at Selby Gardens this spring.

If not for a series of chance moments in the summer of 1967, Patti Smith's life might have taken a far different course as she left behind a dreary factory job in Philadelphia for the boundless promise of New York City.

She would never have found a lost purse in a phone booth with enough money for bus fare to New York. She would never have stumbled upon a young man with dark, curly hair who tried to help her find a place to stay in the city.

She would never have recognized him weeks later at her bookstore job in Manhattan, striking up a conversation. And she would never have been rescued by him in Washington Square, when he ushered her away from a potentially dangerous date with a stranger.

It was almost as if Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe were destined to transform the course of each other's life, as readers learn from Smith's moving 2010 memoir, *Just Kids*, winner of the National Book Award. The worlds of poetry, music, and photography were enriched beyond measure by their unique relationship—as artistic collaborators, lovers, and then the fondest of friends.

In a rare and riveting exhibition, Selby Gardens will soon showcase their life together from '67 until each found success as an established artist. From February 13 through June 26, the Gardens will host *Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith: Flowers, Poetry, and Light*. The exhibition is curated by Dr. Carol Ockman, Selby Gardens' Curator-at-Large and the Robert Sterling Clark Professor of Art History Emerita at Williams College. In addition, on Tuesday, February 15, the Gardens will host "An Evening with Patti Smith"—a sold-out performance and conversation that will shed new light on Smith and Mapplethorpe's body of work and life together.

"This marks the first time that Selby Gardens has presented the work of a living artist and a contemporary photographer in this series," said Jennifer Rominiecki, President & CEO of Selby Gardens. "The exhibition will create an immersive experience, as our gardens and floral displays set the stage for a cultural encounter and exchange with two of the most iconic artists of our time."

Mapplethorpe's evocative work in black-and-white photography, masterfully incorporating light and shade, was initially honed with a simple Polaroid camera. His work—encouraged by Smith, just as he urged her to write and explore her music—brought him fame. With that came controversy: He was known for his chronicling of nudes and the counterculture of New York City. But Mapplethorpe, who was working with artistic collages and designs when he first met Smith, also photographed stunning still lifes, including flowers, with a special eye for orchids.

*Flowers, Poetry, and Light* marks the sixth edition of the Gardens' annual Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition Series, which explores artists' work through the lens of their connection to nature. This exhibition features Mapplethorpe photographs of orchids, hyacinths, and irises, along with excerpts of Smith's poems and lyrics on flowers and nature, in dialogue with new horticultural installations inspired by the artists' work.



Robert Mapplethorpe, *Hyacinth*, 1987. Courtesy of Graphicstudio, University of South Florida Collection and Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

The exhibition reunites Mapplethorpe, regarded as a giant of 20th-century photography, and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Smith in a garden setting, presenting works inspired by nature created during the countercultural movements of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s.

Selby Gardens' Tropical Conservatory, world-renowned for its collection of orchids and bromeliads, will be reimaged as a photographer's studio and gallery, in which living flowers will be dramatically lit and framed so as to evoke Mapplethorpe's unique aesthetic.

The Museum of Botany & the Arts will explore the relationship between Mapplethorpe and Smith through photographs of the artists, their friends, and intimates, as well as images of the places where they lived and worked. The exhibition culminates in a selection of Mapplethorpe's iconic flower photographs.

Throughout the grounds and gardens, installations of floral displays inspired by these seminal photographs will be accompanied by a poetry walk of works by Smith, excerpting verses from her poems and songs to underscore flowers as symbols of life, enticement, and rebirth.

"Through this unique and immersive installation, visitors will be able to explore Mapplethorpe's aesthetic strategies for capturing beauty, including his debts to classical sources and the specific ways he uses light, composition, and color in images of flowers," said exhibit curator Ockman.

"These principles of classicism, sensuality, and beauty will be echoed from the museum throughout the gardens and conservatory," she added, "and are highlighted by the resounding words of Smith, Mapplethorpe's once lover, close friend, and muse."

Brought together by chance one long-ago, New York City summer.

## ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE AND PATTI SMITH:

PEAK OF  
BLOOM

By Dr. Carol Ockman,  
Curator-at-Large, Marie  
Selby Botanical Gardens

*He dwelled, in dream, where grandeur dwelled...And he moved from world to world in the pursuit and prying of those eyes. Obsessively, wholeheartedly as he extracted the essence, the mystery of each world.*

—Patti Smith, “A Final Flower,” foreword to Robert Mapplethorpe’s *Flowers*, 1990



Norman Seeff, *Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith ("Patti with Cigarette")*, New York City, 1969.  
Photo Courtesy Norman Seeff.

For Patti Smith, poet, visual artist, global rock star, and soul-mate of the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, his images extract the essence of their subject. Each is a “perfect shot.” Critics and scholars say much the same: “What he looks for is...the *isness* of something...the strongest version of it” (Susan Sontag), “the moment of perfection” and “the peak of bloom” (Janet Kardon), and “the right decisive and enduring moment” (Kay Larson). Mapplethorpe himself asserts that “the work moves toward a kind of perfection.”

Soon we will have the opportunity to see for ourselves. Selby Gardens’ upcoming Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition, *Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith: Flowers, Poetry, and Light* (February 13–June 26, 2022), spotlights six Mapplethorpe photogravures featuring flowers and plants, on generous loan from the University of South Florida and Graphicstudio, Tampa, where he made them in 1985.

To be sure, the perfection of Mapplethorpe’s flowers has to do with the blooms he photographs. Seemingly eternal, these images are the opposite of the long tradition of *memento mori* still life intended to remind the viewer of the fleetingness of life. The only hint of transience in Mapplethorpe’s flowers is the fact that they are cut.

If “peak of bloom” helps explain their perfection, it hardly suffices. Paramount is the way Mapplethorpe presents his flowers to the viewer—the choices he makes. For example, when he photographs a bunch of flowers, they are all the same genus: irises, tulips, roses, simultaneously focusing and intensifying our attention. Alternately, he gives us a single blossom—an orchid or a calla lily. Head on, the bloom fills, or even overflows, the page, making it appear both monumental and precious.

Often, the flowers appear in a vase, generally from Mapplethorpe’s own glass and pottery collection. Some of the Venini glass is incised so that it diffuses light: the flower stems in the vase appear soft in contrast to the crispness of the blossoms. The photographer loved symmetry and asymmetry equally but loved balance even more. It is this sense of order combined with light—an otherworld glow, the dramatic play of light and shadow—that gives a sacred quality to Mapplethorpe’s flowers. They are his own blend of photographic tradition—from Julia Margaret Cameron to Edward Weston—and fashion photo shoots. As the artist himself puts it: “they don’t look like anyone else’s flowers.” And they don’t.

Describing her own idea of artistic excellence, Smith claims that art showed her it was possible to levitate yourself to your highest form. “What has always attracted me has been perfection, whether it’s a diamond or a Smokey Robinson song,” she said. Inasmuch as Smith and Mapplethorpe nurtured each other’s desire to be and to live as artists, their relationship achieved a kind of perfection.

Smith’s lyrical writings about Mapplethorpe’s flowers and their lifelong rapport pay homage to their friendship in ways no one else could. They will punctuate the exhibition in Selby Gardens’ Museum of Botany & the Arts, which will also feature photographs of Mapplethorpe, Smith, friends, and intimates, along with images of the places where the artists lived and worked. The Tropical Conservatory will evoke a photographer’s studio and gallery, while the Gardens will showcase stunning horticultural displays inspired by the artists’ work.

## PATTI SMITH'S RISE:

## POET TO PUNK STAR,

## BECAUSE THE NIGHT, AND BEYOND



Jesse Dittmar, Patti Smith

An iconic era of folk, rock, country, and punk music stirred to life in the corners of New York's Greenwich Village in the late 1960s and early '70s, with artists such as Janis Joplin, Tom Paxton, Todd Rundgren, Kris Kristofferson, and countless others making indelible marks.

And right there in the midst of it all, forging a career that would one day propel her into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, was Patti Smith.

Her 2010 memoir, *Just Kids*, is more than a poignant, award-winning account of her relationship with budding 20th-century photography giant Robert Mapplethorpe. It also chronicles a burgeoning scene that shaped popular music of multiple genres. An up-and-coming Bob Dylan, a major influence on Smith, even came to one of her early performances as she launched her career in the Village.

Smith, who will appear at Selby Gardens on February 15 for a sold-out performance and conversation billed as "An Evening with Patti Smith," wrote about Mapplethorpe's artistic embrace of flowers ("their sleekness, their fullness") in a farewell following his 1989 death. She sees his stunning floral portraits through the lens of a poet—not surprising, since she started out as both a poet and a visual artist.

Encouraged in her writing and eventually her music by Mapplethorpe, Smith became an influential force in the punk-rock movement with her debut album, *Horses*. The gold record was the first of 11 studio albums in her long career.

Of course, Smith is forever known for her collaboration with rock superstar Bruce Springsteen on the hit song *Because the Night*. Springsteen and the E Street Band were recording the *Darkness on the Edge of Town* album in 1977 at the same time Smith was making her album *Easter*—at the same studio and with the same producer, Jimmy Iovine. Springsteen had a basic idea for *Because the Night*, but the song was lacking in lyrics and not planned for the album. Iovine, wanting to give Smith a boost on her project, asked Springsteen if he wouldn't mind letting her work on the song and record it.

The Boss was glad to oblige. "I had a nice hook and a melody on a song that I could not finish the lyrics for," Springsteen said last year on his SiriusXM radio show. "So Patti took it and turned it into the hit it became, writing a beautiful love song for her husband, Fred 'Sonic' Smith...She turned it into something that I alone could never have created. And for that, I forever thank my lovely, lovely friend."

*Because the Night* was released in 1978, rising to No. 13 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, as well as to No. 5 in the United Kingdom. Numerous groups have since covered the song, including Natalie Merchant's 10,000 Maniacs, who enjoyed a No. 11 hit on Billboard's Top 100. In 1987, the song was named by British music website NME as one of the top 150 singles of all time.

Smith spent much of the 1980s in semi-retirement in Michigan, married to rock guitarist Fred Smith and raising their two children. After the tragic loss of her husband to a heart attack in 1994, she eventually moved back to New York City and re-started her career in the studio and on the road (even touring briefly with Bob Dylan).



Norman Seeff, Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe IV, New York City, 1969. Photo Courtesy Norman Seeff.

Smith was inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame in 2007, performing a rousing, celebrity-packed jam of her uplifting hit *People Have the Power*. The power of her own artistry in words, music, even photography has continued to connect with audiences worldwide—with Selby Gardens coming up.

In a touching remembrance in *Just Kids*, Smith writes about walking down 8th Avenue in New York with Mapplethorpe and hearing the song that truly launched her career—*Because the Night*—blaring from storefronts. She describes how he was smiling and walking rhythmically to the song.

"Robert was unabashedly proud of my success," she wrote. "What he wanted for himself, he wanted for us both."

# BUILDING ON TRADITION

Every Tuesday and Friday morning, you'll find a dedicated group of volunteers at Selby Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus. Some days they might have hammers in hand; other mornings they could be wielding a paintbrush or sander. But no matter the day's task, they're always hard at work keeping the site's boatbuilding heritage alive.

Boats have been built at the Historic Spanish Point campus since the 1870s. The Webb family brought Cedar Key boat-builder Frank Guptill to Osprey to help them build a large schooner for transporting produce to market. He stayed, married one of the Webb daughters, and built a boatyard on the property.

In the 1990s, a group of volunteers revived that boatbuilding tradition by rebuilding the boat shed and getting to work. Their first project was a sailing Sharpie—a type of sailboat—named *Lizzie G.* (after Guptill's wife). It was used to take youth sailing on Little Sarasota Bay.



Photo by Wayne Hoitt

In 2004, volunteers built a reproduction of *Magic*, the Webbs' powerboat that transported guests to their resort. The original *Magic* was lost in a 1921 hurricane, but volunteers had historical photographs as reference for the reproduction. The new *Magic* is used for tours of Little Sarasota Bay, providing a different way to experience the Historic Spanish Point campus.

The volunteers appreciate their role in connecting yesterday to today. "It ties things together," says Gordon Bloom, who serves as a volunteer captain for *Magic* and also helps with the boat's ongoing maintenance. "Having a traditional boatbuilding capability on this site ties into the whole tradition of the Guptill and Webb families. It's continuing that tradition, which is really fantastic."

Many of the volunteers have worked here for years, relishing the chance to give back while doing something they love. New England native Rene Bernier remembers asking for his first boat at five years old. "I've had a boat all my life," he says. But he never had the time to actually build one until he retired and started volunteering at the Historic Spanish Point campus.

"It's the camaraderie," says Wayne Hoitt, of what's kept him an active volunteer since 2014. "The people here are wonderful." New volunteer Paul Hagglund has been working on the restoration of *Cottontail*, a 20-foot wooden fishing boat built in the 1960s. In very poor condition when she arrived, the boat is looking better every day. "It's a nice little boat," he says. "We're just keeping at it."



The volunteers also recently built a Maine peapod, a double-ended traditional lobster boat, which has been lovingly named *Marie* for Marie Selby. Dozens of boats have been built at the site over the years; several examples are on display at the boatyard, while others have found new homes.

The pandemic-driven break from tours gave volunteers much more time than usual to do needed work on *Magic*, including redoing the floors and interior. "We've had the time to do it right," says volunteer George Creamer. "Normally, when she comes out of the water during the hurricane season, we've got maybe three months."

Bloom is glad that tours resume in January. "The *Magic* gives guests a whole different view of the property, that traditional view of the Webbs and Bertha Palmer when they used boats to bring people down here," he says. "You didn't have U.S. 41 back then."

Visitors also can watch the volunteers work and learn about their latest projects. "We give them the history of what we're working on," says Hagglund. "They seem to appreciate the fact that the boatbuilding heritage continues."

"This is where the action is," says Hoitt. "You can watch everything and talk to the volunteers doing it. That's worth a lot in my mind."

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

From boat builders and first mates to museum docents and horticulture assistants, the dedicated people of Selby Gardens make our world-class visitor experiences possible. Visit [selby.org](http://selby.org) to learn about open positions and volunteer opportunities at our two campuses!

# TAKING TO THE WATER

A new boat tour connects Selby Gardens' two campuses in an informative, scenic way.

Visitors who wish to enjoy Selby Gardens' two campuses on the same day don't have to travel by car to do so. A new boat tour now runs between the campuses on weekends in what promises to be a fun excursion entwining native nature, regional history, and the legacies of two iconic area women: Marie Selby and Bertha Palmer.

Each campus boasts its own scenic waterfront setting, and the new experience accomplishes a goal of linking the two campuses by boat—an idea that's been discussed since the Historic Spanish Point campus was adopted a year and a half ago.

The round-trip tour begins at Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus on Sarasota Bay, then travels south down the Intracoastal Waterway to Little Sarasota Bay, where the Historic Spanish Point campus is situated.

"It's 10 miles of beauty, and a kind of aquatic garden, if you will," says John McCarthy, vice president of Selby Gardens' Historic Spanish Point campus. "You're going to see birds; you're probably going to see some dolphins. Then you arrive at our Historic Spanish Point campus the way people did 100 years ago—by boat. It's an immersion in our gardens, our history, and the ecology of the area."



Captain Sherman Baldwin of Paradise Boat Tours



A rainbow hovers over Sarasota Bay

In a single experience, tourgoers have the chance to stroll the lush, colorful gardens of Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus, learn about the ancient history and pioneer past of the Historic Spanish Point campus, and spend peaceful time out on the water traveling along a picturesque mangrove shoreline.

It all makes for a classic "Florida" experience, whether you're a Sarasota local or a visitor to the area.

Selby Gardens has partnered with Paradise Boat Tours on the excursions. "It was just an instant, obvious winner to do this," says Capt. Sherman Baldwin, co-founder of Paradise Boat Tours. "It's a full experience where you get to see everything there is about our area—the native flora, the wildlife, our waterways. Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota and Historic Spanish Point campuses are steeped in local legacy, and to be a part of that is really just an honor for us."

The rich histories of the two campuses and the two women who helped make them what they are today include plenty of time out on the water. Marie and Bill Selby used to cruise around the state on their yacht/houseboat, and Bertha Palmer would take her boat up to Sarasota when she lived at what is now the Historic Spanish Point campus.

"The two campuses are already connected through their association with two leading women in the history of our community," says McCarthy. "Now we're connecting the campuses by water and building on the tradition of the ladies who created these two places."

For pricing, reservations, and other information, visit [selby.org](http://selby.org).

# SAVINING

Traditional Costa Rican rainforest masks that once helped save an indigenous tribe from extinction now serve as cultural art that is securing their environment and their future.



For the past 17 years, Selby Gardens has showcased the vibrant art of an indigenous tribe in Costa Rica through an annual exhibition and sale. That tradition continues with the 18th installment of The Rainforest Masks of Costa Rica, on display from January 8 to 30 in the Museum of Botany & the Arts.

The wonderfully detailed masks blend the history, culture, values, and aspirations of the Borucan villagers who craft them. Centuries ago, Borucan Indians found that their traditional masks of nature spirits helped fend off Spanish invaders. Today, the hand-carved, colorfully painted pieces have become a celebrated—and sustaining—art form that inspires the best in the Borucan people and in those who discover their culture through their creativity.

Many Borucans now make their living as mask and textile artists. The nearly 20-year relationship with Selby Gardens has helped them grow. “The Borucan villagers’ art is spectacular in its craftsmanship, creativity, and vibrancy,” said Allesandra Bravo, co-founder of Lucuma Designs, which curates the exhibit. “Equally amazing has been the support and patronage of Selby Gardens and the Sarasota

community. This exhibit has been instrumental in enabling their art form to flourish.”

The bonds between the Gardens and the tribe have generated other opportunities. The environmental theme in the villagers’ art has strengthened their message of conservation. As an indigenous community, the Borucans are linked to their land. According to Bravo, they have relearned to value their environment thanks to their art.

The economic gain the art form has brought to the village has allowed former farmland to regrow naturally. This has brought more biodiversity to the area, while increasing villagers’ awareness of their natural world. Artists told Bravo that once they began making masks with frogs, for example, they took extra care of them, needing to know how they were and the details of their coloring. (Before, they might have been mostly annoyed by their noise!) The tribe is even talking with Selby Gardens’ botany team about collaborating on an inventory of their forest.

“The art of mask-making is part of their cultural identity,” said Bravo. “They also see great importance in making their survival story known. Each piece of art is a vehicle or ambassador to share their story.”

Artists share thoughts about their work:



*“This work was inspired by the beautiful wild animals and their way of respecting nature. We must take care and protect the flora and fauna, as they are our wealth and make our mountains more beautiful.”*

– Emilio Granda Obando



*“Perhaps it is not an animal we find most attractive, but the crocodile comes to transmit a powerful message of recognition and survival for those who choose it as their spiritual guide.”*

– Emilio Granda Obando



*“With this couple of owls, and how in love and happy they look, I wanted to represent the love that exists between animals. Like all living beings on this earth, we all have feelings, right?”*

– German Morales Delgado

# FAOCE



*"We have a belief that hummingbirds bring good and positive messages when they visit us in our homes and gardens."*

– Deiner Maroto Lazaro



*"Since ancient times, the jaguar has been closely linked to the Boruca people and was considered a deity. Recently, we have found paw prints, and for our Boruca culture it is very important that we continue to share our territory with him."*

– Melvin Gonzales Rojas



*"With this piece I wanted to capture the interconnection that occurs around an orchid, reflecting the natural harmony and chain of life."*

– Domingo Rojas Morales



*"I got inspired by the marine life we have in our country, which we must conserve and take great care of."*

– Deiner Maroto Lazaro



*"I was inspired by the flora and fauna of our land and combined them into one piece to showcase the riches of our people."*

– Deiner Maroto Lazaro



*"The Borucas related the jaguar with the underworld and the night sun. They also considered it a symbol of power, life, and fertility. The sloth is a solitary and peaceful animal that invites us to take life calmly and quietly."*

– Emilio Granda Obando

# SEEING TO

If you see visitors strolling our Historic Spanish Point campus with their eyes glued to their smartphones or digital tablets, don't fret. They aren't ignoring the beautiful old Florida scenery around them. They're just experiencing it in a new way: augmented with innovative works of art created by 13 internationally renowned artists.

Since *Seeing the Invisible: An Augmented Reality Contemporary Art Exhibition* opened last fall, this groundbreaking experience has wowed Selby Gardens members and drawn curious new guests to our 30-acre Historic Spanish Point campus. Even Fox 13 Tampa Bay's intrepid reporter Charley Belcher spent a mind-expanding morning checking it out recently.

But it isn't only here that this art is on display. The same works have been installed at a dozen botanical gardens around the world—from Sarasota County to South Africa. That means, at any given moment, someone thousands of miles away could be interacting with the same piece as you, only in the unique landscape of another garden.

These photos give a glimpse of what some of the art looks like in its carefully curated settings at the Historic Spanish Point campus. But this is an instance where a cliché rings true: You simply have to see it yourself!

*Seeing the Invisible* remains on display at the Historic Spanish Point campus until August 2022. Go to [selby.org](http://selby.org) to download the free exhibition app before you visit.

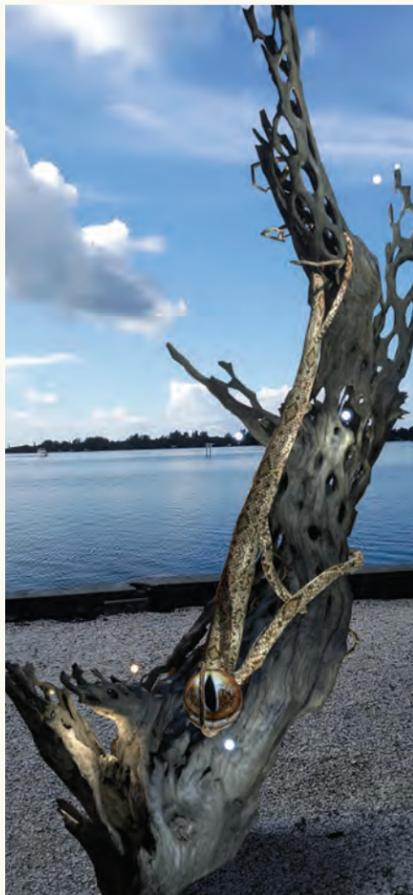
## BAYFRONT LUNCH

Lunch service is now available daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our Historic Spanish Point campus. Order from the **Michael's on East** food truck behind White Cottage, and then enjoy your meal on the porch or alfresco with views of Little Sarasota Bay!



Gulf Coast Community Foundation is the lead sponsor and SouthTech is the technology sponsor for Selby Gardens' participation in the exhibition.

# GETHER



*The* **SEEING  
INVISIBLE**

# PHASE ONE CAPPING CHALLENGE



More than 45 years ago, Marie Selby left her property in our care to preserve a bayfront oasis in the midst of downtown Sarasota. Since then, our Downtown Sarasota campus has become the world's only botanical research garden specializing in epiphytes, or air plants such as orchids and bromeliads. This bayfront sanctuary also preserves important local green space and historical structures that are central to our history in Sarasota.

Today, we are excited to be under construction for Phase One of our Master Plan at the Downtown Sarasota campus. We also are fortunate that so many supporters have recognized this promise and invested in this plan. With our ribbon-cutting less than two years away, a group of loyal Selby Gardens enthusiasts has issued a challenge to catalyze the final philanthropy needed to complete Phase One.

The Capping Challenge for Phase One will match every gift dollar-for-dollar up to \$2.5 million! That means your gift right now will be *doubled* while helping us preserve our history, safeguard our world-renowned research collections, and sustain the future of Selby Gardens—both environmentally and financially.

You can be a part of this transformation and help create a botanical garden unlike any other—one that serves as an international model and inspires millions of visitors. Naming opportunities start at \$2,500. To learn more or to make a gift today, contact us at [development@selby.org](mailto:development@selby.org) or 941.366.5731 ext. 223.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SCHOOL GROUPS RETURN

Selby Gardens is excited to welcome school tour groups back to our two campuses! Last November, 15 classes from Booker Middle School took the guided Mangrove and Estuary Exploration tour at our Downtown Sarasota campus—the first school groups we hosted in 20 months. In December, nearly 400 elementary school students visited our Historic Spanish Point campus for educational tours about the site's pioneer history and archaeology and early people.

We believe any subject can be taught in a garden. Our educational programs are standards-aligned, and we are committed to sharing our unique resources in an environment where every student feels welcome, engaged, and inspired. To learn more, visit our website and click Education & Programs.



### WELCOME, TATIANA!



Award-winning botanist Dr. Tatiana Arias has joined the Selby Gardens Botany team as an orchid researcher. Dr. Arias comes to us all the way from her native Colombia, where she

has been leading research on orchid genomics, horticulture, and conservation in a region with the greatest orchid diversity in the world.

“Bringing on a scientist of Dr. Arias’ caliber will further our ability to participate in scientific collaborations that expand the reach of our mission,” said President & CEO Jennifer Rominiecki. “Her work here will inform conservation efforts worldwide and enhance Selby Gardens’ position as an international authority on epiphytes.”

Dr. Arias pointed to Selby Gardens’ leadership in broadening and strengthening botanical research efforts by appointing scientists from around the world as one of the attractions to her new role. You can read more about Tatiana and her work at [selby.org/press-room/](http://selby.org/press-room/).

MARIE SELBY  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND PUBLIC

# PARTNERSHIPS

Investments made in Selby Gardens by community partners help us accomplish our mission to provide bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history.

To become involved, or for more information, contact our Development Team at [development@selby.org](mailto:development@selby.org).



THE CHARLES T. BAUER  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



THE ANDREW AND  
JUDITH ECONOMOS  
FOUNDATION

THE GARDENER  
FOUNDATION



ELAINE NICPON  
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MEDIA & IN-KIND PARTNERS





Robert Mapplethorpe, *Hyacinth*, 1987.

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Introducing “The Year of Photography”
- 3 MASTER PLAN  
Q&A with Lead Visionary
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Noble Dendrobium and Walter’s Viburnum
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Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith

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Tradition continues at Historic Spanish Point campus
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New tour connects campuses by boat
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Recognizing our many supporters



**DOWNTOWN SARASOTA**  
1534 Mound Street, Sarasota, FL 34236  
TEL 941.366.5731

**HOURS AND ADMISSION**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Christmas Day)

Members	FREE
Member Guests	\$10
Adults	\$20
Ages 5–17	\$10
Age 4 and under	FREE

\* Special pricing for Spring exhibition



**HISTORIC SPANISH POINT**  
337 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229  
TEL 941.366.5731

**HOURS AND ADMISSION**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Christmas Day)

Members	FREE
Member Guests	\$7
Adults	\$15
Ages 5–17	\$10
Age 4 and under	FREE

**MARIE SELBY  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS**

1534 Mound St., Sarasota, FL 34236

**SPECIAL EVENTS**



**Performances at the Point**

Wednesdays, January 12 and March 23, 2022 • 6:30 p.m.

Music by local artists after-hours at our Historic Spanish Point campus. Food and beverages available for purchase.

\$20 for members/\$25 for non-members



**Sunset Music Series**

Thursdays, January 27 and March 10, 2022 • 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Casual sunset concerts at the Sunken Garden on our Historic Spanish Point Campus. Food and beverages available for purchase.

Members only, \$10



**The Orchid Ball: Because the Night**

Saturday, February 12, 2022 • 7–11 p.m.

Sarasota’s premier annual gala celebrates the 2022 Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition, *Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith: Flowers, Poetry, and Light*, throughout the grounds of our Downtown Sarasota campus. Orchid Ball Chairs: Liebe Gamble, Ashley Kozel, Retta Wagner

Sponsorships start at \$2,500 and individual tickets are \$500



**Exhibition Evenings**

Wednesdays, February 23, March 9, April 13, and May 11, 2022  
6–8 p.m.

Enjoy an evening exploring *Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith: Flowers, Poetry, and Light*, with a cocktail reception and a performance by a leading Sarasota arts organization, such as SRQ Contemporary Dance, Sarasota Opera, Strings Con Brio, or The Sarasota Ballet.

Major Sponsor: **BMO**  **Wealth Management**

\$45 for members/\$50 for non-members

For up-to-date information and to purchase tickets, please visit [selby.org](http://selby.org).



**Garden Music Series**

Sundays, February 27, March 13, and April 10, 2022 • 1–3 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of local and international music in the bayfront setting of our Historic Spanish Point campus.

FREE for members and with regular admission



**Garden to Plate Wine Dinner**

Friday, March 4, 2022 • 6–9 p.m.

A casually elegant, multi-course dining experience on the Great Lawn of our Downtown Sarasota campus. Garden to Plate Chairs: Eileen and Howard Curd, Patricia and Peter Estes, Nora and Billy Johnson. Signature Sponsor:

Individual tickets are \$300



**Spring Lunch in the Gardens**

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Celebrity floral designer Kristen Griffith-VanderYacht will entertain over a delightful lunch in our bayfront setting. Event Chairs: Nikki Sedacca and Montana Taplinger. Series Chairs: Jean Weidner Goldstein, Teri A Hansen, and Margaret Wise.

Series Sponsor: **CHARLES & MARGERY BARANCIK FOUNDATION**

Sponsorships start at \$1,000 and individual tickets are \$150

**HISTORY IN A JAR**

Reflecting our Historic Spanish Point campus’ agricultural roots, Selby Gardens now offers a custom-branded orange marmalade for sale at both our Downtown Sarasota and Historic Spanish Point campuses! Our new Packing House Orange Marmalade, inspired by the same sweet treat produced by the homestead Webb family, is locally prepared and packaged. The generous 20-ounce jar is available for \$9 and serves as a delicious reminder of an old Florida favorite.

