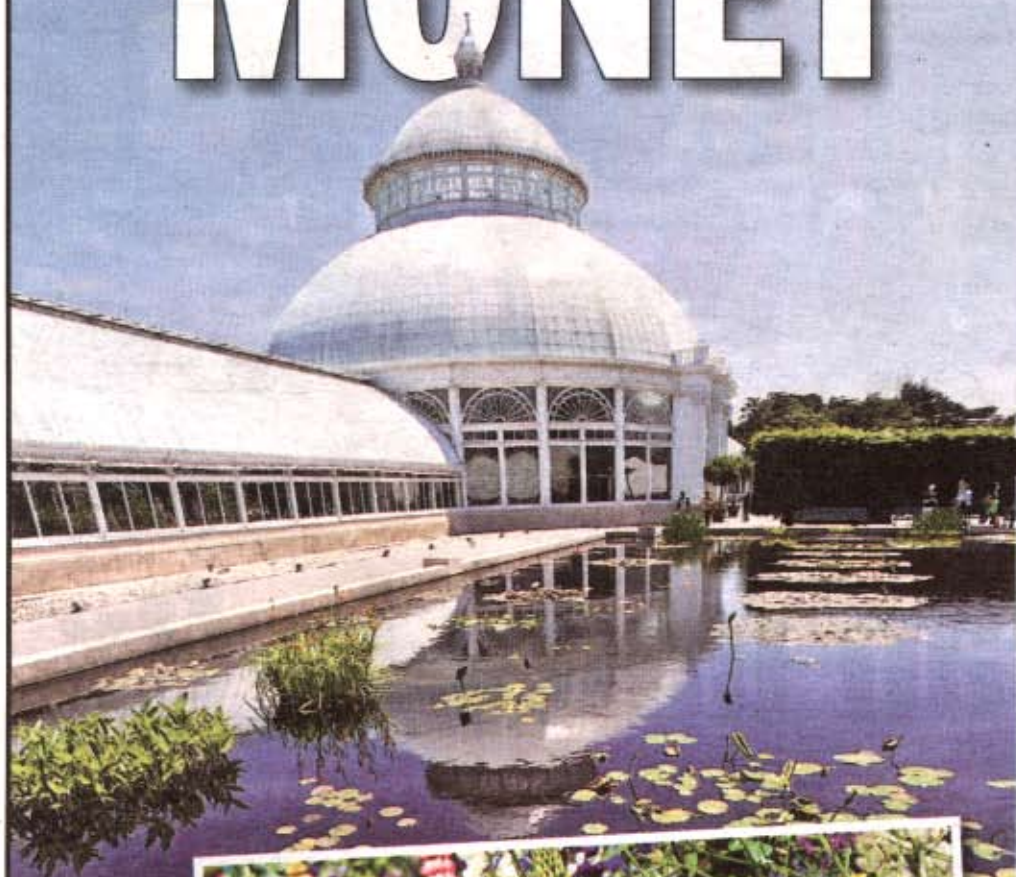


BRONX NEWS

MAGNIFICENT
MONET

The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory has been transformed to recreate Monet's home. Photos by Norman Y. Lono



BY TANYANIK SAMUELS
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE LUSH GARDENS that inspired Impressionist Claude Monet's paintings have inspired the newest exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden.

The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory has been transformed to recreate Monet's home in Giverny, France for the exhibition, Monet's Garden.

"With this exhibit, we tried to evoke the incredible beauty and complexity of Monet's garden and show how essential plants and gardens were to his life as a painter," said the garden's Todd Forrest.

The conservatory features sweeping stretches of colorful blooms such as hydrangea, violets, delphiniums and irises.

The display even recreates the iconic Japanese footbridge featured in many of Monet's paintings as well as the famed water lily pond. The garden's version of the water lily pond is expected to

be in full bloom by July.

The exhibition, which opens Saturday after three years in the planning, also includes "The Artist's Garden in Giverny" and "Irises," two rarely seen paintings by the Impressionist master. "Irises" has never been exhibited in the U.S.

"These gardens were an intimate part of his life and absolutely critical to his constant thinking about who he was, about what was important in the world and about his art," said Paul Hayes Tucker, a leading expert on Monet and Impressionism and professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Complementing the exhibition are a variety of programs including a poetry tour, film screenings, photographs of Giverny and family activities.

Monet's Garden is open from May 19 to Oct. 21 at the New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd. For more information, visit nybg.org.