



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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‘ORCHIDS: UTOPIA’ PLAYS WITH FIRE, WATER, EARTH, AIR

Columbus, Ohio— One of the most fascinating, beautiful and bizarre plant families takes center stage at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens for the *Orchids: Utopia* show (#fpcOrchids) from Jan. 13 through March 4.

New this year, the display of orchids will be concentrated in a central area of the Conservatory – the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse – in which thousands of orchids and other tropical plants paint scenes depicting ecological elements of earth, air, fire and water.

Fifty-one species of orchids are featured in the exhibition. The aesthetic beauty of this otherworldly scene can be appreciated by all audiences, yet keen observers might enjoy the special attention to detail. For example, “Yellow Star” orchids help create the “air” scenes; succulents, which are not only blue in appearance but also notable for storing water in their leaves, are featured in the “water” alcove.

Complementing this dream-like experience is the art exhibition, *In Loving Color* (#fpcGallery), open daily Jan. 13-Feb. 18 at the Cardinal Health Gallery. The artist, Julia Hamilton, has synesthesia – a rare phenomenon that, for Hamilton, allows her to see vivid colors and shapes when she listens to music. She paints what she sees using alcohol-based paint, which she sets on fire to create texture, then uses ink for finishing touches.

Visitors can get a deeper understanding of synesthesia through an interactive digital screen, which shows what colors Hamilton sees when reading or hearing certain letters, and a sound dome, with which visitors can listen to the music while enjoying the painting influenced by it.

Hamilton will give a live demonstration of her fiery technique on Feb. 15, 6-8pm. [Registration is required.](#)

Other Activities:

Orchids: Utopia also includes interactive, Family Fun activities on the weekends, details of which are available on the calendar page at www.fpcconservatory.org. Additionally, members of the Central Ohio Orchid Society will be onsite to answer questions during Orchid Sundays, held 1-4pm every Sunday of the exhibition.

More information about *Orchids: Utopia* and *In Loving Color* is available [here](#). To connect on social media, please follow @fpcconservatory on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#); or the Facebook event pages for [Orchids: Utopia](#) and [In Loving Color](#).



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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.