



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Nancy Seijas-Kipnis
Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing
941.366.5731 x225 | 813.817.6731 cellular
nkipnis@selby.org

**SELBY GARDENS ANNOUNCES 2024 JEAN & ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION:
*YAYOI KUSAMA: A LETTER TO GEORGIA O'KEEFFE***

September 28, 2023 | Sarasota, FL – Marie Selby Botanical Gardens will present *Yayoi Kusama: A Letter to Georgia O'Keeffe* as the eighth iteration of its annual Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition, which examines the work of major artists through the lens of their connection to nature.

The exhibition, which will be on view from February 11 through June 30, 2024, at Selby Gardens' Downtown Sarasota campus, will explore the unexpected yet profoundly impactful mentoring relationship that developed between iconic artists Yayoi Kusama and Georgia O'Keeffe. The theme of the upcoming Goldstein Exhibition is the latest announcement of programming planned for Selby Gardens' [50th anniversary season](#).

"Our 2024 Jean & Alfred Goldstein Exhibition celebrates the work of Yayoi Kusama, who has become one of the world's most influential contemporary artists and cultural figures," said Jennifer Rominiecki, president and CEO of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. "The exhibition will emphasize the meaningful connection between Kusama and fellow artist Georgia O'Keeffe, based on their personal correspondence at a critical point in Kusama's artistic development. This show also will explore the ways in which the work of both artists is rooted in nature, befitting an art and horticultural experience set in a botanical garden."

***Yayoi Kusama: A Letter to Georgia O'Keeffe* | On view February 11 – June 30, 2024
Downtown Sarasota campus, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens**

In the mid-1950s, Yayoi Kusama was a young artist living in Japan, where her future was very uncertain. Seeking advice from a more established female artist, Kusama wrote to Georgia O'Keeffe, whose work she greatly admired but whom she had never met. To Kusama's surprise, O'Keeffe responded, thus establishing a correspondence that gave the young Japanese artist the courage to move to America and

pursue her career in New York City, which was then the center of the art world. Kusama's decision, with O'Keeffe's encouragement, forever changed the course of modern art history.

Selby Gardens' Trustee Keith D. Monda is serving as the key lender to the exhibition. Additional loans have been secured from Richard and Ellen Sandor and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

THE JEAN & ALFRED GOLDSTEIN EXHIBITION SERIES

MARIE SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS | 50th
YEARS

SEASON SPONSORS

Jean Weidner Goldstein • Marcy and Michael Klein • Cornelia and J. Richard Matson • Marianne and Bill McComb
Keith Monda and Veronica Brady • Drs. Joel Morganroth and Gail Morrison Morganroth • Jeannie and Tom Russell
Hobart and Janis Swan • Marcia Jean Taub and Peter Swain in loving memory of Ethel and Ron Taub



MAJOR SPONSORS

Beverly and Bob Bartner • Better-Gro • BMO Wealth Management • Betsy and Ed Cohen / Arête Foundation
Richard and Ellen Sandor • Steinwachs Family Foundation

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Peggy Allen and Steve Dixon • James and Maryann Armour Foundation • Sondra and Gerald Biller • Eileen and Howard Curd
Teri A Hansen • Katherine and Frank Martucci • Jennifer and Rob Rominiecki • Gwen and Tom Watson

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

BBJ Linens • Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors • Total Wine & More • Sponsored in part by the State of Florida,
Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts
Paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenue

About Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens provides 45 acres of bayfront sanctuaries connecting people with air plants of the world, native nature, and our regional history. Established by forward-thinking women of their time, Selby Gardens is composed of the 15-acre Downtown Sarasota campus and the 30-acre Historic Spanish Point campus in the Osprey area of Sarasota County, Florida. The Downtown Campus on Sarasota Bay is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads, ferns, and other tropical plants. There is a significant focus on botany, horticulture, education, historical preservation, and the environment. The Historic Spanish Point (HSP) Campus is located less than 10 miles south along Little Sarasota Bay. The HSP Campus, one of the largest preserves showcasing native Florida plants that are interpreted for and open to the public, celebrates an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida history. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is a Smithsonian Affiliate and is also accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

###