

The Living Art of Robert Burle Marx Exhibition Opening June 8; Symposium on June 7

Q&A with Edward J. Sullivan, Ph.D., Guest Curator, and Raymond Jungles, FASLA, Guest Designer

Discover the fascinating life of Brazilian modernist Roberto Burle Marx (1909–94), one of the most influential landscape architects of the 20th century, and his contributions to environmental conservation and the visual arts. This first-ever large-scale horticultural tribute features immersive garden designs as well as a curated gallery of his paintings, prints, drawings, and textiles.



Sítio Roberto Burle Marx, the Brazilian estate where the artist lived and worked for decades.

Edward J. Sullivan, Ph.D., Guest Curator, is the Helen Gould Shepard Professor of Art History at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, where he currently serves as Deputy Director. His research interests include the art of Latin America, 19th- and 20th-century art of the Iberian Peninsula, and 17th- to 20th-century Caribbean art. Dr. Sullivan has published more than 30 books and exhibition catalogues on the art of Latin America.

Raymond Jungles, FASLA, Guest Designer, is the founder of Miami-based landscape architecture firm Raymond Jungles, Inc., recognized for excellence in the design and implementation of public and private projects. He graduated with a degree in landscape architecture from the University of Florida in 1981 and founded his firm in 1982. In his mid-20s, Jungles met his mentor, Roberto Burle Marx, in Miami and made annual and biannual visits from 1982–1994 to Burle Marx's Rio de Janeiro home, now a national monument.

[Learn more and register](#)

Following are excerpts of a recent conversation:

EJS: **How did Burle Marx approach the practice of landscape architecture?**

RJ: Landscape architecture is a fusion of art, nature, science, and the built environment. Roberto's genius was mastering and combining these elements in some of the most creative landscape designs in the modern age. His gardens were bold and they were strong, mimicking the Brazilian landscape that was the backdrop of much of his work.

EJS: **What inspired Burle Marx's genre-spanning body of work?**

RJ: I was really impressed by Roberto's range of creativity. From children's playgrounds, to art, to sculptural vine trellises, to murals, to incredible gardens, you could see his passion in everything that he did. He knew how to live, he knew how to have friends, he knew how to enjoy every moment of his life, and he was always creating. That's what gave him joy. And people gave him joy.

EJS: **What motivated Burle Marx's commitment to environmental conservation?**

RJ: Plants really moved him, as did nature and the Brazilian natural ecosystems. He would go to different parts of Brazil and collect plants that he would then use for propagation and study, and many plants that he discovered are given his name. His gardens were bold and they were strong, but so is the Brazilian landscape that was the backdrop of his garden. Roberto would often say we have a moral obligation to stand up against the destruction of the natural environment. He was always willing to drop whatever he was doing and become an advocate for the preservation of the Brazilian landscape.

EJS: **What is Burle Marx's personal legacy for you?**

RJ: The main thing that he told me that really stuck was "do what you like." He was all about living a full, productive life, and creating beauty, and being around the people he loved.

Join Edward J. Sullivan and Raymond Jungles in conversation with other experts at the Exhibition Symposium, *Roberto Burle Marx: A Total Work of Art*, on June 7 at 10:30 a.m. in Ross Hall.



Claus Meyer / Tyba

The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum. An oasis in this busy metropolis since its founding in 1891, the Garden is a dynamic, leading New York City cultural institution. A National Historic Landmark, the 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. More than one million annual visitors enjoy the Garden, not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and LuEsther T. Mertz Library to celebrations on Daffodil Hill.

The Garden is also a major educational institution. More than 300,000 people annually—among them Bronx families, schoolchildren, and teachers—learn about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through NYBG's hands-on, curriculum-based programming; 90,000 of those visitors are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,000 are educators from New York City's public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels.

NYBG operates one of the world's largest plant research and conservation programs, with 200 staff members—including nearly 100 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden's state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries.

NYC Cultural Affairs The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.

Exhibitions in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library are made possible by the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust. Additional support for Mertz Library exhibitions has also been provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and by a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Exhibitions in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery are made possible by the Arthur and Janet Ross Fund.

Garden News is published by The New York Botanical Garden. © 2019 The New York Botanical Garden. All rights reserved, March 2019. Volume 53, Number 1