



**Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden**

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New Art Installations Deck the Halls at Botanical Gardens

Iowa artists Jenna Brownlee, Joel Ryser will exhibit

DES MOINES, Iowa (November 7, 2024) – The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden has long been known as the go-to spot for all things natural. But starting in November, art takes center stage with two brand-new installations adorning the Botanical Garden halls and conservatory.

“Blooming” and “Hot Glass” are now on display at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden from Iowa artists Jenna Brownlee and Joel Ryser, respectively.

Artist Jenna Brownlee is a Des Moines native, best known for her paintings and murals of flowers and botanicals using vibrant colors, contrast, depth and movement through refined brushwork. Her work has appeared throughout Iowa to enliven spaces and serve community needs, demonstrating that art is an integral, powerful and experiential tool that unifies, energizes and beautifies our communities. Her showcase of “Blooming” will be on display in the North Gallery through January 26. Her pieces of art are not for sale.

In the conservatory, “Hot Glass” adds color, pattern and shape to the botanical landscape through the use of cane and murrine glass techniques. Davenport-based artist Joel Ryser has perfected the art of glassblowing and now uses his talents to create stunning pieces for indoor and outdoor use. Hot Glass Inc. is a recognized 501(c)3 educational organization; proceeds from sales provide tuition-free glassblowing classes for at-risk youth and veterans. “Hot Glass” will be on display — and items will be available for sale — through March 30.

“As chillier weather sets in, the Botanical Garden becomes a warm, tropical escape,” said Kim Perez, president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. “We are thrilled to have two Iowa artists on display that add yet another enriching element of discovery and enjoyment to the Garden. Whether you’re joining us for a class, the day or one of our many special events, we’re excited to share our space with Jenna, Joel and their art.”

The Botanical Garden is gearing up for an event-filled holiday season, including its signature Champagne & Chocolate fundraiser, Dome for the Holidays illuminated light show, Botanical Blues, classes and more. Learn more about artists Jenna Brownlee and Joel Ryser, how to see their art on display and upcoming events, on the Botanical Garden [website](#) (bottom of page).

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About the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

*The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is a vibrant, 12-acre public garden in the heart of downtown Des Moines. Guided by a mission of exploring, explaining, and celebrating the world of plants, the Botanical Garden The Botanical Garden is more than a dome, is **the connection point** between plants, people and the natural world. It's a place where you can **be who you are, do the things you love** and **spend time** with the people who matter most. A place where anyone can explore, create, connect and **find their true nature**. The Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) privately governed, not-for-profit institution.*