

20
27 FLORESCENCE



REFLECTIONS



16TH BIENNIAL • APRIL 27–28, 2027

EXHIBITOR GUIDE

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening; to share the advantage of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications; and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.

The purpose of a flower show is threefold: to set standards of artistic and horticultural excellence; to broaden knowledge of horticulture, floral design, conservation, photography, and related disciplines; and to share the beauty of a show with fellow club members and with the public.

—*The Garden Club of America Flower Show and Judging Guide, July 2024*



2027 FLORESCENCE

A Garden Club of America Major Flower Show

Tuesday, April 27

Wednesday, April 28

Presented by

The Garden Club of Houston

River Oaks Garden Club

Members of The Garden Club of America

and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Open to the Public

Susan and Faye S. Sarofim Campus

MFA **H** *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*



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FLORAL DESIGN

Monday, September 28, 2026 Registration opens

Monday, January 25, 2027 Registration closes

Monday, March 29, 2027 Plant list deadline

HORTICULTURE

Sunday, April 26, 2026 One-year ownership deadline

Sunday, July 26, 2026 Nine-month ownership deadline

Monday, September 28, 2026 Registration opens for classes 96 and 97

Monday, October 26, 2026 Six-month ownership deadline

Monday, January 25, 2027 Registration closes for classes 96 and 97

Tuesday, January 26, 2027 Three-month ownership deadline

Monday, April 12, 2027 Plant list deadline for classes 96 and 97

PHOTOGRAPHY

Monday, November 30, 2026

Registration opens for all GCA club members

Monday, February 1, 2027 Registration closes

Monday, March 1, 2027 Notification of photography jury results

Monday, April 5, 2027 Delivery deadline and final passing

BOTANICAL ARTS

Monday, September 28, 2026 Registration opens

Monday, January 25, 2027 Registration closes

Monday, March 15–Monday, March 29, 2027

Window for receiving mailed entries

Monday, April 26, 2027

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Hand delivery to the Museum and final passing

Monday, April 26, 2027

Floral Design Exhibitors

- 1:00–5:00 p.m. Delivery of containers and flowers to Beck Building
(5601 Main Street, porte cochere entrance).
1:00–5:00 p.m. Arranging in Beck Building galleries.
4:00–5:00 p.m. Passing in Beck Building galleries.

Botanical Arts Exhibitors

- 3:00–5:00 p.m. Hand deliver entry to the Museum and passing in place.

Horticulture Exhibitors

- 1:00–5:00 p.m. Cut specimens and **all** container grown plants entry/
passing in the MFAH Parking Garage and Visitor
Center, 1144 Binz Street.

Horticulture Exhibitors in Classes 96–97

- 1:00–5:00 p.m. Inspection and registration in the MFAH Parking
Garage and Visitor Center, 1144 Binz Street. Passing
is done in place in Beck Galleries 214 and 218.

Tuesday, April 27, 2027

Floral Design Exhibitors

- 7:00–9:00 a.m. Continued arranging/passing in Beck Building galleries.

Horticulture Exhibitors

- 7:00–8:45 a.m. Cut specimen entry/passing in the MFAH Parking
Garage and Visitor Center, 1144 Binz Street (container
grown plants entry for out-of-town exhibitors only).

Judges

- 9:30–10:00 a.m. Judges and Clerks briefing for Floral Design,
Horticulture, Photography, Botanical Arts,
and Education.
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Judging of Floral Design, Horticulture,
Photography, Botanical Arts, and Education.
12:00 p.m. MFAH opens to the public.
12:30–1:30 p.m. Judges' Luncheon and Flower Show evaluation.

The Art of French Floral Design

Sandra Sigman, author and owner/floral designer, Les Fleurs

Floral Demonstration*

2:30 p.m.

Law Building, Brown Auditorium Theater (1001 Bissonnet Street)

6:00 p.m. MFAH closes to the public

Reflections at Twilight

Cocktail Reception and Show Viewing*

6:30 p.m.

Beck Building (5601 Main Street)

**Reservation required*

Wednesday, April 28, 2027

8:00–9:30 a.m. Refreshing and maintenance of exhibits.

11:00 a.m. MFAH opens to the public.

Margot Shaw, founder and editor-in-chief of FLOWER Magazine

Lecture and Luncheon*

Law Building (1001 Bissonnet Street)

11:30 a.m. Reception

12:00 p.m. Lecture, Brown Auditorium Theater

1:00 p.m. Luncheon followed by book signing

**Reservation required*

5:00 p.m. *Reflections* show closes.

5:15–7:00 p.m. All entries removed and horticulture
cut specimens discarded.

Thursday, April 29, 2027

8:00–10:00 a.m. Container Return Committee at Museum. Photography entries are removed **ONLY** by MFAH personnel and will be available for pick up after 12:00 p.m. for in-town exhibitors from Helen Chambers (1804 Elmen St., Houston, TX 77019).

*Tickets to events are limited. Individual tickets go on sale Wednesday, February 10, 2027. To purchase tickets, call MFAH Development Special Events at 713-639-7581. Tickets are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON

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**THE GARDEN CLUB
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RIVER OAKS GARDEN CLUB

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THE GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON

RIVER OAKS GARDEN CLUB

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The Garden Club of America Rules

Please carefully read and follow GCA Rules, MFAH Rules, General Information, Division Guidelines, and Timetable for Exhibitors. All rules, as stated in *The Garden Club of America Flower Show and Judging Guide*, (FS & JG), 2026 edition, shall apply.

1. All plant material must be correctly identified with the botanical and common names, if possible. Accepted references for nomenclature are:
 - a. Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder:
<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
 - b. Royal Horticultural Society – Find a Plant:
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/search-form>
 - c. GCA Flower Show Committee – Botanical Nomenclature:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wf8rzsSQoGfhYshhyWKppYw4Uiv1ECkV/view>
2. The Garden Club of America expects all exhibitors to be aware of the need to promote the conservation of endangered and threatened plants. Plants collected in the wild and listed by Texas as rare may not be exhibited in any flower show sponsored by a GCA club. Cultivated plant material listed by Texas as rare may be exhibited if accompanied by a typed card stating that it has not been collected from the wild or collected out-of-state and giving information concerning its cultural requirements and propagation methods. Lists of endangered plant material will be available before the show, during passing from the Division Chairs, and online by searching for Texas's list of rare plants.
3. Plant material showing evidence of insects or disease must be removed immediately from the exhibition area. This rule will be enforced at any time during the show, whenever the problem is identified.
4. Fresh plant material must be in water or conditioned in such a way as to remain in pristine form while on exhibition.
5. Use of the following items is not permitted in Floral Design, Horticulture, and Botanical Arts entries: locally endangered or invasive plants, diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals of any kind, taxidermy, natural bird nests, feathers of any kind, coral, hooves, fur, hair (except wool), shells (sea, turtle, egg, etc.). The Photography Division is exempt from this rule, but all photographs must show respect for the natural world and be taken in an ethically responsible way. The database and information on invasive plants in Texas is available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_invasive_species_in_Texas.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Rules

The protection and preservation of the art is the top priority of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH). The following rules regarding all Florescence exhibits will be strictly enforced at all times. Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification and removal of an exhibit.

1. Safe distance from art must be maintained.
2. Pedestals, tables, and risers may not be moved or repositioned as they are all carefully placed by MFAH personnel. In addition, classes with dimension limits will be closely monitored for compliance.
3. If a floral design includes any found or foraged materials (e.g., branches, dried wood, or other natural materials) these components must be pretreated for insects by the floral supplier or by the designer. Safer Soap or Garden Safe nontoxic sprays are recommended.
4. The amount of water in floral supply buckets must not exceed three inches in depth. Floral supply buckets should always be placed on top of plastic on the floor. Floral supply buckets may not be placed on work tables, chairs, etc.
5. Squeeze bottle use is limited to participants in design classes only. Exhibitors are limited to one squeeze bottle with two inch maximum of water and must be filled by the MFAH watering teams.
6. Any additional water needed must be coordinated by MFAH personnel. The only exception to this rule is the official Florescence Preservation Committee. Bringing water into the galleries from restrooms or water fountains is strictly prohibited. Please note that drinking water, beverages, and food of any kind are not allowed in the galleries.
7. Misting or steaming of exhibits in the galleries is prohibited. Exhibitors may not mist/steam any material, including any material for Floral Design (whether a completed arrangement or backup material in buckets or boxes) or any material for Horticulture (whether container-grown, cut specimens, or completed Horticulture Designs). The only exception to this rule is the official Florescence Preservation Committee. The Committee will monitor the condition of exhibits overnight and maintain all in pristine condition.



THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON, RULES (continued)

8. Actively using paint or glue and applied design elements such as beads or glitter within the MFAH is prohibited. Paint, shellac, mastic, adhesive, glue, or any other such material, whether aerosol spray, non-aerosol spray, bottle, can, or jar is not permitted inside the MFAH. Glue guns, paint pens, and glitter pens are not permitted inside the MFAH. If you are using applied items, all such items must be adhered and all paint and glue fully dried and set before arrival at the MFAH.
9. There are a limited number of carts, so it is recommended that exhibitors bring their own properly identified cart. Carts must be stored under work tables overnight and must be removed from the MFAH for the duration of the Flower Show. The MFAH does not have a storage facility.
10. The MFAH does not have dumpsters on site, so any exhibitors who have large-scale trash, such as boxes, should plan to dispose of it offsite. Please clean up your work area; the MFAH is not able to clean up work areas.
11. Flash photography is prohibited in the MFAH. Exhibitors may not use flash photography in the MFAH.

Please help the MFAH ensure the safety of its collection for the generations to come.

General Information

1. Entries are open to all GCA club members, including provisional, and professionals in their disciplines, except as noted in the schedule.
2. All designs must be the original work of the exhibitor(s). Although techniques and components may be inspired by other designs, the application of the techniques and components must create an original design that is distinct from the inspiration.
3. Registration is required for all classes, with the exception of those in the Horticulture Division II that are weather dependent (cut specimens, etc.). Registration is online only, at flohouston.org. Classes will be filled in the order registration forms are received according to the online date and time. Confirmation of registration will be sent to entrants by email. Direct any questions to the Website Liaison/Registration Chairs.



4. Entering a show constitutes permission to use images of the exhibitors' work in all GCA channels of communication.
5. While The Garden Club of America, The Garden Club of Houston, River Oaks Garden Club, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, responsibility for damage, loss, or personal injury cannot be assumed.
6. Any clarification or change in the rules, as originally stated in the schedule, shall be communicated promptly in writing by the Division Chairs to all exhibitors in the class and, at the show, to the Judges and to the Passing Committees.
7. An entry card must accompany each entry. Entry cards will be available for download at flohouston.org, at the show, and upon request from the Entry or Division Chairs, in advance of the show. Information required on the entry card must be completed in black waterproof medium. Entry cards downloaded from flohouston.org should be printed on white cardstock.
8. ***The Passing Committee must pass each entry before an exhibitor may leave the show area.*** The Passing Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry that does not conform to the rules of the schedule. The exhibitor has the option of correcting the entry, if time permits. If not corrected, the entry cannot be judged, but may remain in place, marked "For Exhibit Only" with a brief, constructively worded statement explaining why it was not judged. The Judges may not disqualify any entry passed by the Passing Committee, unless evidence of insect infestation or disease is evident.
9. Once an entry is passed, the exhibitor(s) must leave the show floor immediately. The only exception will be Flower Show Committee members who have entered and been passed according to the timetable. A passed entry may not be touched again by an exhibitor until after judging and then only to carry out necessary maintenance.
10. Only participating Judges and Clerks, Clerks Chair, and members of the Ribbon Brigade will be allowed on the show floor during judging. Flower Show Chairs and Division Chairs should remain nearby but off the show floor until needed.

General Information (continued)

11. All containers and accessories must be inconspicuously labeled with the exhibitor's name.
12. A novice is an individual exhibitor who has not won a first-place ribbon or a GCA Special Award, in the division entered at a GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Major Flower Show. An exhibitor winning a first place in a GCA Flower Show is still considered a novice in a GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Major Flower Show or in another division of any flower show. In addition, an exhibitor who has won a first-place ribbon or Special Award in a GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Major Flower Show is no longer a novice in any level of GCA Flower Shows in the division won. Only individual novice exhibitors are eligible to receive the Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award or the GCA Novice Award. Novice award eligibility is marked on the entry card, confirmed at passing and then revealed after the initial judging.
13. A statement of intent, if required or permitted, must be submitted by the time of passing. The statement must be no more than 25 words, printed on the entry card. Notify Pre-Judged Entry Card Chairs if there are changes to your entry card prior to judging.
14. Photography exhibits must be removed **ONLY** by MFAH personnel and will be available for pick up on Thursday, April 29, 2027, after 12:00 p.m. for in-town exhibitors from Helen Chambers, 1804 Elmen Street, Houston, TX 77019.
15. For an additional charge, out-of-town exhibitor's entries in any Division may be returned by a shipping service. Please go to flohouston.org for information on all returns except Photography. Photography return information is in the Division III guidelines.
16. Entrance to the MFAH will be limited during staging and entry times. Name tags will be required for entrance and timelines will be strictly enforced.
17. At no time may an exhibitor touch any exhibit other than their own. An exhibitor may not touch their own exhibit once it has been passed until after judging.
18. All Judges' decisions are final.
19. All exhibits must remain in place and in show condition until fifteen minutes following the closing time of the show.

Division I: Floral Design

Enlightenment

Guidelines

Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, General Information, MFAH Rules, and Timetable for Exhibitors.

1. Advanced online registration is open Monday, September 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m. CST through Monday, January 25, 2027, 6:00 p.m. CST online at flohouston.org. For questions regarding registration, please contact the Website Liaison/Registration Chair.
2. An exhibitor is permitted only one entry per class but may enter more than one class.
3. The exhibitor(s) under whose name(s) the entry has been registered must create and complete the design. All participants must be listed on the entry card. Only listed exhibitors and show personnel may be on the show floor at the time of entry.
4. No more than two exhibitors may execute a design unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
5. If forced to withdraw, an exhibitor must notify the Division Chair and Class Consultant and find a substitute unless there is a waiting list for the class.
6. All designs must be executed at the show; complex components requiring extensive time for construction may be prefabricated and assembled during the allowed installation time at the show.
7. There are a limited number of carts; therefore, it is advised to bring your own, labeled cart if you need to transport your items. Please read all Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Rules, on page 15.
8. All entries must include fresh and/or dried plant material. Fresh plant material must be in water or conditioned in such a way as to remain in pristine form. Rooted plant material is allowed provided no soil is attached with the exception of pot-et-fleur classes. An entry is expected to be maintained in show condition.
9. Mechanics should not be visible unless they are an integral part of the design.



10. Anything not prohibited in the GCA Rules, Floral Design Division Guidelines, the MFAH Rules, or individual class descriptions is permitted.
11. Cut fruits and vegetables are not permitted. Food of any kind is not permitted. Neither fur nor hair, shells, or bones are permitted; see GCA Rules #5.
12. Accessories are permitted unless otherwise stated in the class description.
13. Pedestals may not be moved. Tops of pedestals may not be enlarged or draped. Floral designs have no height restrictions, unless specified. Pedestal dimensions are outlined in each class. All pedestals are white.
14. The MFAH does not have dumpsters on site, so any exhibitors who have large-scale trash, such as boxes, should plan to dispose of it offsite. **Please clean up your work area;** the MFAH is not able to clean up work areas.
15. Judging will be based on the principles of design: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale; and the elements of design: light, space, line, form, color, texture, pattern, and size. Creativity, distinction, and conformance to and interpretation of the class and schedule are also considered.
16. Color reproductions of works of art, where applicable, will be online at flohouston.org or mfah.org. It is possible the colors will not match the actual colors of the piece of art perfectly and the Judges will be made aware of this.
17. Museum collections are subject to change. If this occurs, the Floral Design Committee will notify exhibitors as soon as possible.
18. The amount of water in floral supply buckets must not exceed three inches in depth and two inches in squeeze bottles. Any additional water needed must be coordinated by MFAH personnel. Please read all Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Rules, on page 15.
19. A plant list with the botanical and common names along with a mandatory statement of intent, of no more than 25 words, should be entered using the entry form online at flohouston.org by *Monday, March 29, 2027*. Changes to the plant list may be made at the show. Notify the Pre-Judged Entry Card Chairs of any changes to your entry card before judging.
20. All entries must be removed on Wednesday, April 28, 2027, between 5:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. For an additional fee, an out-of-town exhibitor's entry may be returned by a shipping service. Please see Container Return Form at flohouston.org for additional information or contact Container Return Chairs.



21. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to Class Consultant and/or Division Chairs.
22. The scale of points by which all classes are to be judged:
(as per FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2026 Edition):

Conformance	10
Interpretation	20
Creativity	10
Design	
(Principles and Elements)	50
Distinction	10
Total	100

Division I: Floral Design

Enlightenment

Classes

Class 1.

Sarcophagus –

A Reflection on a Life Well Lived

6 Entries

Beck, Cullen Atrium

Entries No. 1–6

Create a design inspired by the *Sarcophagus Panel with the Indian Triumph of Dionysus*, a magnificent place of final rest; staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square top x 40-inch-tall pedestal. May not exceed 15 inches from the center of the pedestal. Viewed and judged from three sides.

Class Consultant: Stephanie Fox, c. 713-875-4664, xofsteph@gmail.com



*Sarcophagus Panel with the
Indian Triumph of Dionysus*

Roman, AD 180–195

Marble

34 1/2 × 85 3/4 × 9 1/2 in.

Museum purchase funded by

Lee and Joe Jamail in honor of

Caroline Wiess Law, 2003.53.1

Class 2.**Helmets – Then and Now****4 Entries****Beck, Cullen Atrium****Entries No. 7–10**

Create a helmet from a real or imagined time of war that might have been worn by the warrior women of the Amazon or their Roman counterparts; displayed on hat stand provided by the committee and staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square x 40-inch-tall pedestal; must include at least one reflective or metallic element. Viewed and judged from three sides.

Class Consultant: Tara Caldwell, c. 832-721-3741, tthmcaldwell@sbcglobal.net

Class 3. A Look to the Past**4 Entries****Beck Gallery 108****Entries No. 11–14**

Create an exhibition table design interpreting the American *Sideboard*, c. 1855.

Table size is 30 inches round x 30 inches tall. Table will be placed on a 36-inch-square x 5-inch-tall white platform, which may not be altered or embellished. Tablecloth not provided. Food and silverware are not allowed. Design may not extend beyond the platform's horizontal dimensions and must not exceed 10 feet in overall height from the floor. Viewed and judged from all sides.

Exhibition table: a display using the components of dining in an artistic presentation as a coordinated design. The practical service of food should not be implied.

(*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms*)

Class Consultant: Kelty Crain, c. 713-562-8808, keltycrain@gmail.com

*Sideboard*

American, c. 1855

American tulipwood,
northeast white pine,
black walnut, and marble
106 × 69 × 28 in.

Museum purchase funded by
Anaruth and Aron S. Gordon,
83.46

Class 4. Luminous Ladies

6 Entries

Beck Gallery 109

Entries No. 15–20

Create a monochromatic design inspired by one of the following pieces of art; staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square x 40-inch-tall pedestal. Design may not exceed 15 inches from the center of the pedestal. Gallery wall color is Benjamin Moore Marine Blue. Viewed and judged from three sides.

Monochromatic design: a design incorporating plant material of just one color, including shades and tints of the hue. A small amount of green foliage is allowed with the chosen single color. A small bit of attached conforming floral parts is permitted, e.g., the yellow center of a purple aster. Unless stated in the schedule, the container, bases and/or stands do not need to be the same color. (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms*)

Class Consultant: Renee Davis, c. 832-215-5766, rdominguedavis@hotmail.com



15. John Singer Sargent
Mrs. Joshua Montgomery Sears
(Sarah Choate Sears), 1899
 Oil on canvas
 58 1/8 x 38 1/8 in.
 Museum purchase funded by
 George R. Brown in honor
 of his wife, Alice Pratt Brown,
 80.144



16. Cecilia Beaux
Mother and Son, 1896
 Oil on canvas
 57 1/4 x 40 in.
 Museum purchase funded by
 Ann G. Trammell in memory of
 W. Bryan Trammell, Jr.,
 2024.996



17. John Singer Sargent
Lady Speyer, 1907
 Oil on canvas
 58 × 38 in.
 Sarofim Foundation Collection



18. William Chase
Lady in the Evening, c. 1893
 Oil on canvas
 29 × 24 in.
 Sarofim Foundation Collection





19. Robert Henri
The Pink Ribbon (Mary Ann Caferty),
c. 1927
Oil on canvas
24 × 20 in.
Sarofim Foundation Collection



20. Edmund Charles Tarbell
Woman in Pink and Green, 1897
Oil on canvas
47 × 35 1/2 in.
Sarofim Foundation Collection



Class 5. Glowing Gown

4 Entries

Beck Gallery 200

Entries No. 21–24

Create a design interpreting the gown on display using fresh plant material and some reflective elements; staged on a 14-inch-square x 36-inch-tall pedestal: viewed and judged from four sides. Photo of gown will be sent to exhibitor after registration.

Class Consultant: Sara Ledbetter, c. 713-854-5555, sara@ledbetterhome.net

Class 6. Circling Back

4 Entries

Beck Gallery 203

Entries No. 25–28

Challenge class for out-of-town Garden Club of America members at any level in the judging. Staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square by 40-inch-tall pedestal. Entry fee: \$95.00. For payment information, go to flohouston.org. Create a design using the components, mechanics, containers, plant material, and accessories supplied by the Flower Show Committee. Viewed and judged from four sides.

Class Consultant: Madeleine Elmer, c. 713-248-1638, madeleine@fleurdeviehouston.com

Class 7. Cognitive Reflection

6 Entries

Beck Gallery 207

Entries No. 29–34

Create a two-sided design; staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square x 40-inch-tall pedestal. May not exceed 15 inches from the center of the pedestal. Viewed and judged from four sides.

Two-sided design: a design organized in one or more containers that are joined to appear as one; opposing sides (back and front, never left and right) present a composition thematically linked. A concentration of components between the two contrasting design segments prevents one side from showing through to the other in their focal areas. Staged to be viewed from all sides and judged as one unit from the front and the back. (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms*)

Class Consultant: Elizabeth Stone, c. 713-539-4785, elizabeth@silverstone-events.com



Class 8. Layered Legacy

6 Entries

Beck Gallery 214

Entries No. 35–40

Create an Italian layered design interpreting the painting by Paolo de Matteis, *Allegory of Knowledge and the Visual Arts Crowning Parthenope, the Siren of Naples*. Staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square x 40-inch-tall pedestal. May not exceed 15 inches from the center of the pedestal. Viewed and judged from three sides.

Italian layered design: a contemporary version of a horizontal design in which plant material is stacked horizontally with additional placements of vertical and/or diagonal components. No focal point. (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms*)

Class Consultant: Wendy Askew, c. 713-540-1028, wwa@texaskew.com



Paolo de Matteis

Allegory of Knowledge and the Visual Arts

Crowning Parthenope, the Siren of Naples, c. 1685

Oil on canvas

144 1/2 × 99 5/8 in.

Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation, Houston

Class 9. Patterns in Life**4 Entries****Beck Gallery 215****Entries No. 41–44**

Create a stretch design interpreting the two portraits of Viscount and Viscountess Falkland. Staged on two pedestals 15 1/2-inch-square x 40 inches tall. Design may not exceed 15 inches from the center of the pedestal. Viewed from four sides; judged from three sides.

Stretch design: a design composed of two units of unequal size joined by a prominent stretch component. Length and strength of stretch component (which may extend in any direction) must be appropriate to other components and to its prominent role. Smaller unit must appear to have been forcibly pulled away from the larger unit. Dynamic tension is important. (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms*)

Class Consultant: Carole Bailey, c. 713-392-1681, cbaileybmt@aol.net



Paul van Somer
Elizabeth Cary, 1st Viscountess Falkland (1585/6–1639), c. 1620
Oil on canvas
86 1/2 x 51 in.
Sarah Campbell Blaffer
Foundation, Houston



Marcus Geeraerts the Younger
Henry Cary, 1st Viscount Falkland
(c. 1575–1633), 1603
Oil on canvas
85 1/8 x 50 in.
Sarah Campbell Blaffer
Foundation, Houston

Class 10.

Bright, Shiny, and New

27 Entries

Beck Gallery 220

Entries No. 45–71

A novice class open to provisional members of The Garden Club of Houston and River Oaks Garden Club only. Create a design based on one of the six reflections, staged on a white pedestal (dimensions provided below). Design may not exceed 12 inches from the center of the pedestal. Viewed and judged from three sides. Containers will be provided.

- A. Glow – 12-inch-square x 36-inch-tall pedestal
- B. Shimmer – 12-inch-square x 36-inch-tall pedestal
- C. Luster – 12-inch-square x 36-inch-tall pedestal
- D. Brilliance – 12-inch-square x 34-inch-tall pedestal
- E. Illumination – 12-inch-square x 34-inch-tall pedestal
- F. Radiance – 12-inch-square x 34-inch-tall pedestal

Class Consultant: Liz Wozencraft, 713-252-3720, lizwoz@att.net

Class 11.

Let Your Inner Light Shine

6 Entries

Beck Gallery 222

Entries No. 72–77

A niche class. A design staged in a white niche. Niche is 24 inches x 16 1/2 inches x 14 1/4 inches. Overall height is 68 1/8 inches. The niche opening is 44 1/8 inches from the floor. Acceptable alterations to niche include adding lining, battery powered lighting, and/or a top. Viewed and judged from the front.

Niche: a space enclosed on three sides used for staging a floral design.

(*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms*)

Class Consultant: Renee Davis, 832-215-5766, rdominguedavis@hotmail.com

Class 12.

Musings of the Modern Masters

6 Entries

Beck Gallery 223

Entries No. 78–83

Create a contemporary design inspired by one of the following paintings, staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square x 40-inch-tall pedestal. Design not to exceed more than 12 inches from the center of the pedestal. Gallery height is 15 feet. Gallery wall color is Farrow & Ball Dorset Cream. Viewed from four sides and judged from three sides.

Contemporary design: floral design not following traditional styles, using imagination and creativity to devise new approaches to the selection and organization of plant material and other components according to the principles and elements of design. (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms*)

Class Consultant: Sharon McNearney, c. 214-697-8063, spm9776@gmail.com



78. Giovanni Giacometti
Young Mother, 1910
 Oil on canvas
 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\times$ 22 in.
 John A. and Audrey Jones
 Beck Collection, gift of
 Audrey Jones Beck, 98.283



79. Louis Valtat
Madame Valtat, 1906
 Oil on canvas
 28 $\times$ 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.
 John A. and Audrey Jones
 Beck Collection, gift of
 Audrey Jones Beck, 98.308



80. André Derain
The Turning Road, L'Estaque,
 July 1906
 Oil on canvas
 51 $\times$ 76 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.
 John A. and Audrey Jones
 Beck Collection, gift of
 Audrey Jones Beck, 74.138



81. Raoul Dufy
The Three Umbrellas, 1906
 Oil on canvas
 23 1/2 × 29 in.
 John A. and Audrey Jones
 Beck Collection, gift of
 Audrey Jones Beck, 98.280



82. Kees van Dongen
The Corn Poppy, c. 1919
 Oil on canvas
 21 1/2 × 18 in.
 John A. and Audrey Jones
 Beck Collection, gift of
 Audrey Jones Beck, 98.279



83. Ernst Ludwig Kirchner
Moonrise: Soldier and Maiden,
 1905
 Oil on board
 27 1/2 × 19 1/2 in.
 John A. and Audrey Jones
 Beck Collection, gift of
 Audrey Jones Beck, 98.286



Division II: Horticulture

Radiance



Guidelines

Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, MFAH Rules, General Information, Division Guidelines, and Timetable for Exhibitors.

1. Advanced online registration for classes 96–97 is open Monday, September 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m. CST through Monday, January 25, 2027, 6:00 p.m. CST online at flohouston.org. For questions regarding registration, please contact the Division Chairs. A plant list with the botanical and common names along with a mandatory statement of intent, of not more than 25 words, should be entered using the entry form online at flohouston.org by Monday, April 12, 2027. Changes to the plant list may be made at the show. Notify the Pre-Judged Entry Card Chairs of any changes to your entry card before judging.
2. Entry cards are available for download from flohouston.org and from GCAMerica.org, or from the Horticulture Division Chairs or the Horticulture Committee in advance of the show and at the show.
3. Only GCA club members, Museum personnel, and plant experts approved by the Horticulture Division Chairs may be in the passing area of the Show. Only GCA club members may participate in the entry process. Each exhibitor bears the ultimate responsibility for her own entry.
4. Plant Inspection is the first station in the physical entry process. Plant Inspection closes at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2027, and no entries will be accepted at Plant Inspection after 8:45 a.m. Any entry presented at Plant Inspection after 8:45 a.m. may not be entered into the Show.
5. An exhibitor may submit two entries per class, provided each is a different species or cultivar.
6. Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months (October 26, 2026) unless otherwise stated in this schedule. Exceptions are as follows:
 - Classes 1–3 and 67–74: three-month ownership (January 26, 2027)
 - Classes 80–89 and Class 99: one-year ownership (April 26, 2026)
 - Classes 96–97: length of ownership waived. Not eligible for GCA Special Awards or Best in Show.

7. Entries eligible for the **Elizabeth Platt Corning Medal** and/or the **Louise Agee Wrinkle Horticulture Propagation Award** must have been grown by and in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months (October 26, 2026) and not won the award previously. Eligibility will be marked on the entry card and confirmed at passing.
8. All rooted entries propagated by the exhibitor must be identified with details of the method and relevant date(s) on an accompanying propagation card to be eligible for the **Louise Agee Wrinkle Horticulture Propagation Award** and **Elizabeth Platt Corning Medal**, if applicable. The propagation card should be downloaded from gcamerica.org and printed on cardstock.
9. Mats, stands, saucers, etc. are not allowed. Unobtrusive stakes and ties are allowed.
10. Classes may be subdivided, and entries moved and/or reclassified at the discretion of the Show Committee and/or the Judges. Once an entry has been passed, it may not be touched by anyone other than the Placement Committee, Horticulture Division Chairs, or the Clerks.
11. The maximum length of an entered cut specimen is 26 inches measured from the lip of the container to the tip of the stem of the vine, branch, or leaf, unless otherwise specified in the class description. Exceptions apply to Classes 75–78.
12. All cut specimens must be in show condition at the time of judging. Wilted specimens are subject to removal by the Horticulture Committee.
13. Containers are measured at the diameter or the diagonal of the widest point on the inside of the rim at the soil line. Containers may not exceed 10 inches. Exception to container size applies to class 83 which may not exceed 8 inches and class 99 which may not exceed 14 inches. More than one plant per container is permitted, provided it is the same genus or species, unless otherwise stated in this schedule.
14. Leaf shine or other commercial foliage enhancers are not permitted.
15. One key card (diagram or plant list) is required when multiple species or cultivars are exhibited in the same container and/or propagation information is applicable. Key card must be a 4 x 6-inch white unlined card completed in black waterproof medium. See gcamerica.org for required information. A 4 x 6-inch photograph with identifying numbers may be used.

16. Container-grown plants should be exhibited in clean terracotta clay pots. Disguised double-potting and top dressing are permitted. Plastic pots, if used, must be double potted inside a terracotta clay pot. Top dressing must not float when watered. Coffee grounds are not permitted as a top dressing. Moss is permissible as a top dressing. Must be exhibited in containers that are clean, unobtrusive, and compatible with the exhibit. Terracotta clay pots are preferred. To designate a preferred exhibiting side, exhibitors should mark the center back of the container with a white chalk mark "X."
17. The Horticulture Committee will provide containers and wedging materials for all cut specimens.
18. After registration, a dot with the entry number should be affixed to the container to ensure the entry card, if separated from the exhibit container during staging, can be returned to the proper entry before judging.
19. The Preservation Committee will water the exhibits if instructed to do so in writing. Notify the Horticulture Division Chairs at time of entry with instructions for watering.
20. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the Class Consultant and/or Horticulture Division Chairs. Questions regarding Classes 96–98 requirements may be directed to Judy Lee, judylee.tx@gmail.com, or Vaughan Clark, vaughancr@aol.com.
21. All exhibits must remain as placed and judged until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2027. Cut specimens will be discarded starting at 5:15 p.m. on April 28, 2027. Container plants must be picked between 5:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on April 28, 2027. The exhibitor is responsible for his or her own entries.
22. Scale of points by which the classes are to be judged should refer to the *FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows*, pgs. 30–41, 2026 Edition.



Division II: Horticulture

Radiance

Classes

Brilliance

CUT SPECIMENS (Classes 1–78)

Specimen(s) not to exceed 26 inches in length from lip of container to tip of stem (lip to tip rule), unless exception is stated in Class Description.

Classes 1–3. Annuals

An annual is a plant that normally completes its life cycle (germination, flowering, seeding, dying) in one growing season.

Three-month ownership requirement (January 26, 2027).

Flowering: In flower. Any foliage must be attached to the stem.

1. Single stem
2. Three stems, same species, or cultivar

Foliage:

3. Single stem

Classes 4–29. Perennials

A perennial is a plant that, by virtue of its biology, lives for more than two growing seasons. *An annual plant that grows for more than two growing seasons, is not a perennial plant.*

Flowering: One single flowering stem. Any foliage must be attached to stem.

4. *Hellebores*
5. *Monarda*
6. *Salvia*
7. Other

Flowering: Three stems, same species or same cultivar, in a single container. Foliage must be attached.

8. *Aquilegia*
9. *Echinacea*
10. *Justicia brandegeana*
11. *Rudbeckia*
12. *Salvia*
13. Other



Foliage: Single stem, foliage only.

14. *Begonia*
15. *Farfugium* non-variegated
16. *Farfugium* variegated
17. *Fatsia japonica*
18. *Philodendron*
19. Other

Foliage: Three stems, same species or same cultivar, in a single container.

20. *Hosta*
21. *Farfugium*
22. Other

Ferns: Single stem.

23. *Asplenium nidus*
24. *Cyrtomium*
25. *Dryopteris*
26. *Platycerium*
27. *Polystichum*
28. *Pteris*
29. Other

Classes 30–36. Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes, and Tubers

Definitions, per *GCA Flower Show & Judging Guide 2026* Glossary of Terms:

BULB is a modified underground stem, which is typically very short, flattened, and surmounted by a group of usually fleshy, non-green, scalelike leaves. Bulbs are sometimes covered by a thin, membranous layer, e.g., onions and tulips, or fibrous and reticulated, tunic, e.g., *Allium*, or the scales may be naked, e.g., *Lilium*.

CORM is a bulb-like, swollen underground stem stored with reserve food and bearing buds or growing shoots on its surface, e.g., *Crocus*, *Gladiolus*, *Cyclamen*, or *Colchicum*.

RHIZOME is a thick, horizontal stem (under or above the ground) that forms roots, stores food, and sends up leaves and flowering stalks.

TUBER is a swollen underground stem, usually rounded, with buds or "eyes" from which new plants or tubers are produced, e.g., potato.



Classes 30–36

Flowering: Single flowering stem with or without attached foliage.

Bulbs:

30. *Hippeastrum*
31. *Iris*
32. *Lilium*
33. Other
34. Corm
35. Rhizome
36. Tuber

Classes 37–39

Foliage: Single stem, foliage only:

37. *Alocasia*
38. *Colocasia*, noninvasive only
39. Other

Classes 40–46. Roses

One stem or spray with at least one attached leaf, containing 5 leaflets.

40. Species roses
41. Old-garden roses (prior 1867)
42. Grandiflora
43. Hybrid tea
44. Shrub
45. Climbing
46. Other

Classes 47–55. Woody Plants

Flowering or Fruiting

Single branch not to exceed 26 inches from lip of container to tip of stem.

47. *Benthamidia* (formerly known as Cornus)
48. *Duranta*
49. *Gardenia*
50. *Hydrangea*
51. *Ilex*
52. *Magnolia*
53. *Rhododendron*
54. *Viburnum*
55. Other



Classes 56–58. Woody Plants: Foliage Only

Single stem not to exceed 26 inches from lip of container to tip of specimen.

- 56. *Acer*
- 57. Variegated
- 58. Other

Classes 59–65. Climbers and Vines

Flowering: Specimen must be longer than 7 inches and not to exceed 26 inches from lip of container to tip of stem. Must have at least one open flower.

Excluding climbing roses.

- 59. *Aristolochia*
- 60. *Clematis*
- 61. *Lonicera*, noninvasive only
- 62. *Passiflora*
- 63. Other

Foliage: Specimen must be longer than 7 inches and not to exceed 26 inches from lip of container to tip of stem.

- 64. Non-variegated
- 65. Variegated

Classes 66–67. Fruits and Vegetables

To be staged on a plate provided by the Committee or in a clear glass container, provided by the exhibitor.

- 66. Fruit: Attached to stem and six-month ownership requirement (October 26, 2026).
- 67. Vegetable: Three-month ownership requirement (January 26, 2027).

Scale of Points for Judging Fruits and Vegetables

Quality: best eating stage, good color	35
Condition: free from disease, blemishes	30
Size: average or slightly above	15
Typical of variety	20
Total	100

Classes 68–74. Herbs

Single stem and three-month ownership requirement (January 26, 2027).

- 68. *Laurus nobilis*
- 69. *Mentha*
- 70. *Origanum*
- 71. *Petroselinum*
- 72. *Salvia Rosmarinus*
- 73. *Thymus*
- 74. Other



Classes 75–78. Cut Collections

Cut specimens from the exhibitor's garden arranged in a clear glass container provided by the exhibitor. May not exceed 34 inches from lip of container to tip of specimen. Minimum of three different species or different cultivars.

Key card required.

75. Flowering: must have at least one open flower on each species or cultivar

76. Foliage

77. Combination of any specimens collected from exhibitor's garden

Exhibited in single container

Cultural Perfection	40
Design	30
Diversity	20
Key Card	10
Total	100

78. Three to five specimens from the same genus or same family in separate containers

Specimens in separate containers

Cultural perfection	40
Distinction	25
Variety	15
Artistic effect	10
Key Card	10
Total	100

Dazzle

CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS (Classes 79–95)

Class 79. Double Vision: Paired Perfection

79. A perfectly paired and rooted duo, mirroring each other in species, size, color, and form for a striking double impact. Each specimen planted in matching pots.

Classes 80–83. Cacti

One plant per container. One-year ownership requirement (April 26, 2026).

80. *Echinocereus*

81. *Mammillaria*

82. Other

83. Three to seven different species or different cultivars of the same genus, each in a separate container. Containers may not exceed 8 inches.

Key card required.



Classes 84–88. Succulents Other than Cacti

One plant per container. One-year ownership requirement (April 26, 2026)

84. *Agave*

85. *Aloe*

86. *Euphorbia*

87. *Haworthia*

88. Other

Classes 89–91. Plants Grown Primarily for Flowers

One plant per container.

89. Orchids: One-year ownership requirement (April 26, 2026)

90. *Pelargonium*

91. Other

Classes 92–95. Plants Grown Primarily for Foliage

One or more plants of the same species or same cultivar in one container.

92. Ferns, non-variegated

93. *Peperomia*

94. Other, non-variegated

95. Other, variegated

Class 96. Mirrored Tranquility

Up to 6 Entries

96. Design a serene miniature garden (1 inch = 1 foot) in a lined wooden container (20 inches x 10 inches x 5 inches) provided by the Committee. The design should include a mirror provided by the exhibitor. No height restrictions. Painting, embellishment, and accessories are allowed. Viewed from all sides. Staged on a 6-foot table. A 4 x 6-inch key card and statement of intent are required. Length of ownership waived and not eligible for GCA Special Awards or Best in Show. Registration and entry fee payment is required by Monday, January 25, 2027. This entry must be entered on Monday, April 26, 2027, between 1:00–5:00 p.m. and passed in place.

Entry fee: \$40



Class 97. Radiance Revealed**Up to 6 Entries**

97. An elegant horticultural composition featuring plant material displayed in a vessel, provided by the Committee; celebrating light, reflection, and luminous beauty of botanical form. The exhibit should contain at least three culturally compatible, rooted species, or cultivars. Accessories are not permitted. Viewed from all sides. Staged on a 15 1/2-inch-square x 40-inch-tall pedestal. A 4 x 6-inch key card and statement of intent are required. Length of ownership waived and not eligible for GCA Special Awards or Best in Show. Registration and entry fee payment is required by Monday, January 25, 2027. This entry must be entered on Monday, April 26, 2027, between 1:00–5:00 p.m. and passed in place.

Entry fee: \$40.00

Class 98. Provisional Challenge

98. Flowering nasturtium, *Tropaeolum majus*, plants grown from seed in a clay pot provided by the Committee. The Nasturtium seeds will be distributed by the Committee before Monday, October 26, 2026. This Class is open only (and mandatory) to the Provisional members of The Garden Club of Houston and River Oaks Garden Club (2nd year).

Class 99. Par Class

99. An exhibit of exceptional horticultural merit that does not qualify for entry elsewhere in the Horticulture Division. Entries must have been owned, grown, and in the possession of the exhibitor for a minimum of one year (April 26, 2026). Cut specimens, orchids, or hanging baskets are not permitted. Container requirement waived, as specified in Horticulture guidelines, though may not exceed 14 inches in diameter.



Division III: Photography

Impressions

Guidelines

Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, MFAH Rules, General Information, and the Timetable for Exhibitors.

1. An exhibitor is permitted only one entry per class but may enter two classes.
2. This is a juried show. Registration opens Monday, November 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. CST. Advanced online registration, including image, is required by Monday, February 1, 2027, 6:00 p.m. CST at flohouston.org. A JPEG image between 1MB and 10MB in the RGB color space of the entered photo is due at time of registration. By date of receipt, the first 16 digital photographs per class, received with correct specifications, will be submitted to the juried panel of photography judges. From these, six finalists per class will be selected. The finalists and non-finalists will be notified by Monday, March 1, 2027.
3. Finalists' printed photographs must be received no later than Monday, April 5, 2027. Send to Helen Chambers, 1804 Elmen St., Houston, TX 77019. Receipt of your photography will be acknowledged. For more information, contact Helen Chambers, helenchambers63@gmail.com or 713-906-6595.
4. If forced to withdraw, an exhibitor must notify the Division Chair and Class Consultant and find a substitute unless there is a waiting list for the class.
5. Photography entries are limited to subjects consistent with The Garden Club of America's interests, including horticulture, floral design, gardens, landscapes, conservation, the environment, historic preservation, civic improvement, and the natural world.
6. No identifiable minor children may be included in photographs.
7. Plant material is strongly encouraged in all photographs but not required.

8. A statement of intent is required and must be included on the entry form. The statement may not exceed 25 words.
9. Each photograph may only be entered in one show at a time. A photograph previously entered in any GCA, GCA Major, sanctioned, or sanctioned Major flower show, or *Focus* online contest cannot be reentered, even with minor edits or reprinting.
10. Any image posted in the *Focus* Gallery or published in *Focus* may not be entered in any show.
11. A photograph previously entered in a Club flower show may be entered into a GCA flower show unless that photograph was posted in the *Focus* Gallery or published in an issue of *Focus*.
12. Photographs not selected as finalists through juried judging may be entered in another show.
13. The exhibitor must have created all of the visual elements of the composition. Inclusion of third party or stock images and use of AI image generators is strictly prohibited. An exhibitor is, however, permitted to use nonrepresentational, commercial textures and overlays.
14. All editing, including, but not limited to: lighting, color, and clarity adjustments; adding and removing visual elements; combining and blending imagery; image distortion, etc., must be the work of the exhibitor.
15. Matting, mounting, and printing may be done professionally.
16. Photographs must be mounted on single-layer black foam core cut to the exact size of the image and may not be over-matted. The overall dimension of entry must be a minimum of 48 inches and not to exceed 72 inches in total perimeter measurement. Glass and framing are not permitted.
17. Unless otherwise specified, all photographs must be two-dimensional and printed on paper. All postproduction work must be completed before the photograph is printed.
18. Photographs will be hung on a gallery wall.

19. Each entry must have the submission form affixed to the back of the photograph mounting with the class entered, exhibitor's name, garden club, zone, email, address, phone number, and novice status. The top of the photograph must be indicated. A second loose copy of the submission form should be mailed with the entry. Photography entry forms may be found online at flohouston.org.
20. The Division Chair will provide an entry card to be staged with each photograph.
21. All entries will be passed by two members of the show's Photography Committee or the Photography judging program to verify that class specifications have been met. If a photograph is not passed, the exhibitor will be notified and allowed, if time permits, to send a replacement photograph.
22. The printed photograph must match, including cropping, the digital image sent with the original registration. Once juried, you may not further edit or manipulate the digital image in any way, as registered with us. The photo will not be passed if the Photography Committee determines:
 - The print is significantly different from the digital submission.
 - The print is mounted incorrectly.
 - The mounted print does not appear to be in show condition.
23. Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the Division Chairs.
24. Information on entering photographs, including mailing instructions, can be found on the GCA Photography Committee page.
25. If the photograph is to be returned, the exhibitor must provide a self-addressed return label, check, and packing material/container. Any award received will be noted on the back of the mount before it is returned. Please include a \$16 check (payable to Florescence) to cover return postage and handling. Please do not enclose stamps, UPS labels, or postage-meter strips. If the return envelope and check are not included, it will be assumed that the image will not be returned.



26. Eligible winning images may be submitted to the *Focus* Gallery.

27. Scale of points by which classes are to be judged:

For Photography Classes

Creativity	25
Composition	25
Technical skill	20
Interpretation	20
Distinction	10
Total	100

For Creative Techniques Classes

Creativity	30
Composition	20
Technical skill	25
Interpretation	10
Distinction	15
Total	100

Removal

Photographs must be removed **ONLY** by MFAH personnel and will be available for pick-up on Thursday, April 29, 2027, after 12:00 p.m. for in-town exhibitors at 1804 Elmen St., Houston, TX 77019.

If a photograph is to be returned, the Photography Committee will start return shipping on Monday, May 3, 2027.

Finalists will be notified via email the results, as soon as possible, after judging. A Photography Results Report will be emailed to all entrants by Monday, May 17, 2027.

Division Chairs

Ruthie Kelly, ruthkelly5646@gmail.com, 713-417-0801, GCH Chair
 Helen Chambers, helencchambers63@gmail.com, 713-906-6595, ROGC Chair
 Adele Bentsen, adelebentsen@me.com, 713-819-7821, GCH Asst. Chair
 Elizabeth Pagan, elizabethpagan@me.com, 832-372-5401, ROGC Asst. Chair

Registration Issues

Nancy Keely, nancydaviskeely@mac.com, 713-201-6281

Division III: Photography

Impressions

Classes

Class 1. Distortion

Entries No. 1–6

6 Entries

Color

An image produced by using imperfect surfaces to create an effect that appears to warp our sense of reality.

Class 2. Nature's Mirror

Entries No. 7–12

6 Entries

Color

A close-up image of small subject or subjects and their tiny reflection using a mirror.

Close-up: A photo taken close to the subject to permit a close and detailed view of the object.

Class 3. Facades

Entries No. 13–18

6 Entries

Black and White

Reflections on a glass building which incorporates repeating patterns into the composition.

Class 4. Mirror, Mirror

Entries No. 19–24

6 Entries

Color

A still-life image incorporating a mirror(s).

Still-life composed: An image depicting a composed arrangement of inanimate objects, either natural or man-made or a combination of both.



Class 5. Through the Looking Glass

Entries No. 25–30

6 Entries

Color

An image created by using a glass ball that acts as an external lens and is designed for capturing creative, inverted images in landscape, portrait, or macro photography.

Class 6. Musings

Entries No. 31–36

6 Entries

Color

An image of a flower using creative techniques that causes you to pause and reflect.

Creative techniques: The use of manipulation or alteration at any stage of the photographic process to achieve an effect significantly different from the original photograph. All represented images in a manipulated or creative technique photo must be the work of the photographer. Nonrepresentational enhancement such as the addition of purchased textures are allowed. The original image (4 x 6 inches) must be submitted with the entry and will be displayed after judging of the class. A brief explanation of techniques used in the process is encouraged but not required.

Class 7. Shadows

Entries No. 37–42

6 Entries

Black and White

An image of a subject or inferred subject and its shadow.

Class 8. Night Lights

Entries No. 43–48

6 Entries

Color

An image of reflections of city lights.



Division IV: Botanical Arts

Close Inspection

Guidelines

Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, MFAH Rules, General Information, and Timetable for Exhibitors.

1. Registration opens Monday, September 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m. CST. Registration closes Monday January 25, 2027, 6:00 p.m. CST at flohouston.org.
2. An exhibitor is permitted only one entry per class but may enter more than one class.
3. The exhibitor(s) under whose name(s) the entry has been registered must create and complete the design. All participants must be listed on the entry card. All handiwork must be executed by the exhibitor(s).
4. No more than two exhibitors may execute a Botanical Arts entry.
5. If forced to withdraw, the exhibitors must notify the Division Chairs and the Class Consultant and find a substitute unless there is a waiting list for the class.
6. All plant material must be dried. This includes flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts (in or out of shells), vegetables, twigs, vines, reeds, etc. While not officially part of the plant kingdom, algae, dried fungi, including lichens and mushrooms are permitted. Only plant material, fungi, algae, mechanics, and surface treatments (paint, nail polish, varnish, wax, etc.) are permitted. Use of artificial or locally endangered or invasive plant material is not permitted.
7. Entries must be assembled, carved, or shaped from plant material by the exhibitors. Manufactured figural forms as base material are not permitted. Any plant material may be cut, incised, or shaped to enhance artistic effect.
8. Non-plant material (e.g., cardboard, metal, twine, string, cording, etc.) may be used only for construction and must not be visible except to knot or string plant material resembling pearls or gemstones in jewelry classes. The knots must be only minimally visible and not dominate the design. Stands, bases, hangers, etc., used as staging do not need to be covered.



9. Only natural plant material as existing or caused by nature may be visible in the design, except natural raffia, rattan, and skeletonized leaves. Items such as couscous, pasta, tapioca, milled wood, balsa wood, toothpicks, loose glitter, etc., are not permitted.
10. Gemstones must be made from plant material and/or plant by-products of resin or sap. Gemstones may not be made from epoxy, lacquer, glue, or nail polish.
11. Scenes, flowers, figures, etc., should be created with plant material rather than decorative painting. Painting techniques such as shading, veining, marbelizing, etc., are permitted.
12. Anything not prohibited in the GCA Rules, Botanical Arts Division Guidelines or individual class descriptions is permitted.
13. A statement of intent (25 words or less) is required and must be submitted with the entry card online by Monday, April 12, 2027, at flohouston.org under your registration page. A statement of intent is a brief written paragraph explaining the exhibit's message that the exhibitor intends to convey.
14. A 4 x 6-inch white, unlined sample card must accompany each entry. A small, untreated sample of all plant material must be affixed to the sample card with the placement noted. Plant material must be properly identified with botanical and common names. See Botanical Nomenclature: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wf8rzsSQoGfhYshhyWKppYw4UiviECkV/view>
15. All entries must be received no later than Monday, March 29, 2027, if delivered by mail. Send entries to Mundi Elam, 3759 Rice Blvd., Houston, Texas 77005. For information contact Mundi Elam, 713-703-4331, mselam96@hotmail.com, or Jennifer O'Donnell, 713-725-5412, jdod_@me.com. If an exhibit is to be returned, the exhibitor must provide a self-addressed return label, return postage, and packing material/container.
16. All entries will be passed by two members of the show's Botanical Arts Committee or the Botanical Arts judging program to verify class specifications have been met. If an entry is not passed, the exhibitor will be notified and allowed, if time permits, an entry may be returned for correction.



17. The Botanical Arts Committee will be responsible for installation of the exhibits unless otherwise stated in the schedule. Each exhibit will be handled with the utmost care. Please include a photograph that shows the preferred placement of the finished entry without any stabilizing packaging (such as pins, clamps, etc.), along with any specific handling and display instructions.
18. If an exhibit has won first place or a GCA Special Award in a GCA Major or sanctioned Major flower show, it may not be entered into competition again. An exhibit which has been previously entered and did not place first or win a GCA Special Award may be entered again if the piece is significantly altered.
19. Scale of points by which the classes are to be judged:
(as per *FS & JG Book 4: Judging at Flower Shows, 2026 Edition*).

Design	35
Craftsmanship	30
Creativity	15
Interpretation of theme	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

Inquiries

Questions regarding class requirements may be directed to the Botanical Arts Chairs:

Mundi Elam, GCH Chair
713-703-4331

Jennifer O'Donnell, ROGC Chair
713-725-5412

Kelly Moneyhan, GCH Asst. Chair
713-295-0053

Carole Bailey, ROGC Asst. Chair
713-392-1681

Division IV: Botanical Arts

Close Inspection

Classes

BOTANICAL COUTURE

A design emulating an item of clothing and/or other fashion accessory created from all dried plant material or couture form (hat, shoe, etc.) that must be entirely embellished with dried plant material. Plant material may be treated. Mechanics or structural base material may not be visible except for required staging (mannequin, stand, head form, etc.). (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms, 2026 Edition.*)

Class 1. Mirror Image

4 Entries

Entries No. 1–4

Symmetry becomes the language of reflection in this Botanical Couture design. Create a gown that has a clearly defined center axis, mirrored on each side to achieve balance, harmony, and precision. Gown displayed on a 12-inch flexible wooden mannequin placed on top of a 7-inch black round velvet display pad. Design must not exceed the display pad, and mannequin may not be altered. Judged from all sides and above. Mannequin and display pad provided by the Botanical Arts Committee upon registration.

Entry fee \$25.00

Class Consultant: Jennifer O'Donnell 713-725-5412



BOTANICAL EMBELLISHMENT

A manufactured object enhanced with dried plant material. Plant material may be treated. Complete coverage of the object is required. Embellished objects should remain recognizable and not completely obscured. (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms, 2026 Edition.*)

Class 2. Held in Reflection

4 Entries

Entries No. 5–8

A compact mirror becomes an intimate canvas for botanical embellishment, exploring reflection through texture, symmetry, and natural form. In the palm of your hand, dried plant material frame both image and meaning, inviting quiet contemplation of what is seen and what is felt. Displayed open on an oval 4 x 7-inch black velvet display pad. Design may not exceed display pad. Judged from all visible sides. Compact mirror and display pad provided by the Botanical Arts Committee upon registration.

Entry fee \$25.00

Class Consultant: Jennifer O'Donnell 713-725-5412

Class 3. Light Up the Room

4 Entries

Entries No. 9–12

A luminous single candle flickers to life and transforms a room. Embellish a taper candle and candle holder to create movement, shimmer, and send ripples across the ceiling. Displayed on a 5-inch round black velvet display pad. Design may not exceed display pad. Judged from all sides. A 6.4-inch-tall taper candle and a 3-inch-tall candleholder will be provided by the Botanical Arts Committee upon registration.

Entry fee \$25.00

Class Consultant: Mundi Elam 713-703-4331



BOTANICAL FORMS

A design of any other form (e.g., not Botanical Couture, Embellishment or Jewelry) created entirely from dried plant material. Plant material may be treated. Mechanics or structural base material may not be visible except required staging (mounting stand, support, etc.). (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms, 2026 Edition.*)

Class 4. Captured Reflection

4 Entries

Entries No. 13–16

Enter the world of Entomology! Insects are an amazing reflection of natural beauty. Create one or more specimens suspended in time beneath a clear glass cloche. Viewed and judged from all sides and above. A 7 x 7-inch cloche will be provided by the Botanical Arts Committee upon registration.

Entry fee \$25.00

Class Consultant: Mundi Elam 713-703-4331

BOTANICAL JEWELRY

A design created entirely from dried plant material and made to resemble wearable jewelry in both size and function. Plant material may be treated. Mechanics or structural base material may not be visible. (*FS & JG Book 5: Glossary of Terms, 2026 edition.*)

Class 5. Echoes of Light

Up to 6 Entries

Entries No. 17–22

Reflections shimmer in symmetry and movement. Design a pair of chandelier earrings that capture light and balance to suggest mirrored forms and luminous details. Displayed on a 4 3/4-inch black earring display tree. Judged from three sides and above. Earring tree provided by the Botanical Arts Committee upon registration.

Entry fee \$25.00

Class Consultant: Kelly Moneyhan 713-295-0053

Class 6. Reflections of My Love

Up to 6 Entries

Entries No. 23–28

Challenge Class

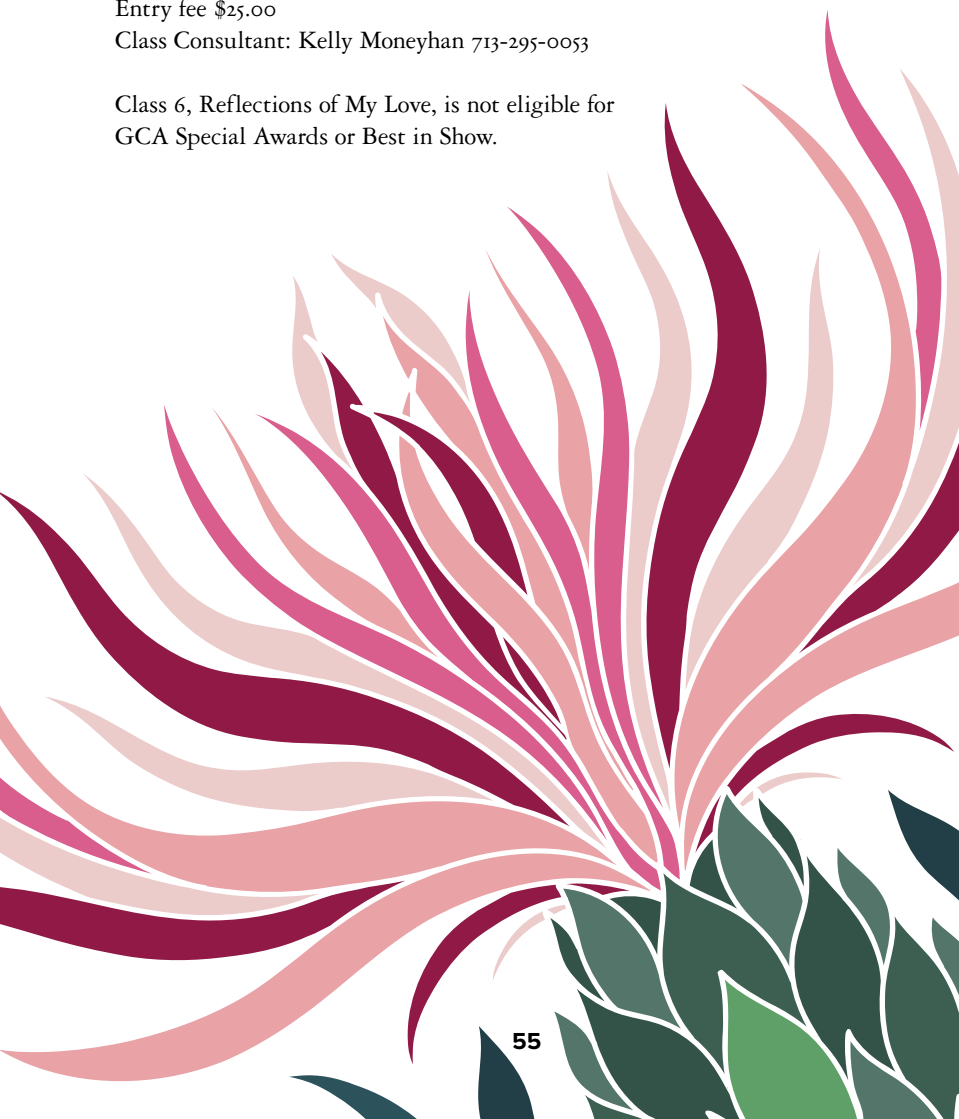
A locket has long symbolized love—enduring, personal, and timeless. Create a locket attached to a blue velvet ribbon with intimate details expressing devotion.

Create a locket from dried plant components provided by the Botanical Arts Committee. No other plant components may be used other than the plant components supplied, but all supplied plant components are not required to be used in the design. All finishes including, paints, glues and mechanics are the choice of the exhibitor. The display neck bust (7 x 9 inches) and a velvet ribbon will be supplied, may not be altered, and must be used. Viewed and judged from three sides.

Entry fee \$25.00

Class Consultant: Kelly Moneyhan 713-295-0053

Class 6, Reflections of My Love, is not eligible for GCA Special Awards or Best in Show.



Division V: Education Exhibit

Reflections Beneath Our Feet

Guidelines

1. Please carefully read and follow the GCA Rules, MFAH Rules, General Information, and the Timetable for Exhibitors.
2. Education exhibits may be executed by any invited person(s), organization, or business wishing to communicate information relevant to the educational message of the Flower Show.
3. Include a 50-word statement of intent for each Education Exhibit.
4. Scale of points by which Education Exhibits are to be judged:
(as per FS & JG Book 4: *Judging at Flower Shows*, 2026 Edition).

Educational value	60
Staging	20
Creativity and distinction	20
Total	100



Division V: Education Exhibit

Reflections Beneath Our Feet

Statement of Intent:

Reflecting on nature's quiet systems, this exhibit reveals how fungi sustain soil health and ecosystem balance. Mycelial networks connect plant communities underground, while fungi aid decomposition that recycles nutrients into the earth. By mirroring natural processes in our gardening practices, we conserve resources, restore soil vitality, and cultivate resilient landscapes.



GCA Major Flower Show Awards described below will be presented if merited.

Division I: Floral Design

Best in Show Floral Design is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **Carol Coffey Swift Medal of Excellence** may be awarded to members of GCA clubs. It is offered in recognition of an arrangement of great distinction in a competitive class at a GCA Major Flower Show. Either individual or joint entries are eligible. The entry must have placed first, second, or third. An entry in any challenge class is not eligible to receive this award.

The **Certificate of Excellence in Floral Design** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to GCA clubs or club members, nonmembers, or other organizations for an exhibit of great distinction in a competitive floral design class. The entry must have placed first, second, or third. An entry in any challenge class is not eligible to receive this award.

The **Fenwick Medal** may be awarded to members of GCA clubs in competitive floral design classes at a GCA Major Flower Show. It is offered in recognition of creative work of outstanding beauty using predominantly fresh plant material. The awarding of the Fenwick Medal lies in the clear interpretation by the judges of the intent of the medal. A standard of creativity and quality in a highly competitive show rather than Best in Show is required. The design must have placed first, second, or third. An entry in a challenge class is not eligible to receive this award.

The **Margaret Clover Symonds Medal** may be awarded to members of GCA clubs in a competitive floral design class at a GCA Major Flower Show. The design must be an innovative, modern design, creatively combining man-made material(s) with fresh and/or dried plant material (as the schedule permits). Either individual or joint entries are eligible. The entry must have placed first, second, or third. An entry in a challenge class is not eligible to receive this award.

The **Sandra Baylor Novice Award** may be given at a GCA Major Flower Show to an exhibitor who is a member of a GCA club and who has never won a GCA Special Award in the Floral Design Division of a GCA Major Flower Show or a Sanctioned Major Flower Show. It shall be awarded to an individual novice exhibitor for a unique and skillful response to the schedule. The entry must have placed first, second, or third. An entry in a challenge class is not eligible to receive this award.

Division II: Horticulture

Best in Show Horticulture is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **Certificate of Excellence in Horticulture** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to GCA clubs or club members, nonmembers, or other organizations for an exhibit of great distinction in a competitive horticulture class. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

The **Elizabeth Platt Corning Medal** may be awarded only to members of GCA clubs only in a competitive horticulture class in a GCA Major Flower Show. The medal is to be awarded to an entry presented with distinction and originality notable for its cultural difficulty. It must have achieved an exceptional standard of horticultural excellence. Extra consideration will be given to an entry propagated by the exhibitor; full propagation details must be listed on a card accompanying the entry. The exhibitor must have owned and grown the exhibit for at least six months. The medal may be awarded for a single plant, collection of plants, container garden, or cut specimen(s). Individual, joint, or club entries are eligible. The entry must have placed first, second, or third. The medal may not be awarded more than once to the same exhibit.

The **Louise Agee Wrinkle Horticulture Propagation Award** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to a GCA member for skill in plant propagation. The exhibit must have been propagated and grown by its exhibitor for at least six months and should be distinguished by its prime condition, cultural perfection, attractive presentation, and flawless grooming. It is for rooted plants propagated by seed, cuttings, or other traditional methods. It can be a single specimen, source plant and its offspring, or a collection. Propagation methods must be detailed on an accompanying card. The entry must have placed first, second, or third. This may not be awarded to a cut specimen. The medal may not be awarded more than once to the same exhibit.

The **GCA Novice Award in Horticulture** may be awarded for an outstanding exhibit to a member of a GCA club who has never won a blue ribbon or GCA Special Award in the Horticulture Division in a GCA Major or Sanctioned Major Flower Show or a blue ribbon in the division at a GCA Major Flower Show. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

Division III: Photography

Best in Show Photography is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **Certificate of Excellence in Photography** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to GCA clubs, an individual club member, individual nonmember, or other organizations for an exhibit of great distinction in a competitive photography class. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

The **Photography Creativity Award** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to an exhibitor who is a member of a GCA club for creative and technical excellence in response to the theme of the schedule. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

The **GCA Novice Award in Photography** may be awarded for an outstanding exhibit to a member of a GCA club who has never won a blue ribbon or GCA Special Award in the Photography Division in a GCA Major or Sanctioned Major Flower Show or a blue ribbon in the division at a GCA Major Flower Show. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.



Division IV: Botanical Arts

Best in Show Botanical Arts is selected from first place winners in the division.

The **Botanical Arts Creativity Award** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to a member of a GCA club for excellent craftsmanship and creative response to the theme of the schedule. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

The **Certificate of Excellence in Botanical Arts** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to GCA club members or nonmembers for an exhibit of great distinction in a botanical arts class. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

The **GCA Novice Award in Botanical Arts** may be awarded for an outstanding exhibit to a member of a GCA club who has never won a blue ribbon or GCA Special Award in the Botanical Arts Division in a GCA Major or Sanctioned Major Flower Show or a blue ribbon in the division at a GCA Major Flower Show. The entry must have placed first, second, or third.

Division V: Education

The **Ann Lyon Crammond Award** may be presented at a GCA Major Flower Show to an outstanding educational exhibit which best educates the public about gardens. Any educational exhibit that increases the appreciation of any aspect of plants, gardens, or landscape design may be considered for the award. The award may be given to GCA club members, member clubs, nonmembers, or other organizations.

The **Certificate of Excellence in Conservation** may be awarded at a GCA Major Flower Show to GCA clubs or club members, nonmembers, or other organizations for an exhibit of exceptional merit which educates the public on conservation issues and promotes respect for natural resources and responsibility for environmental stewardship.



Overall

Judges' Commendation may be given to an entry, class, section, special exhibit, or other aspect of the show that is of exceptional merit.

Award of Appreciation may be given to an exhibitor or group for participation. The award may also be given to non-judged classes.

The **Annie Burr Jennings Sweepstakes Award** may be presented to the club with the highest number of points earned by its members from all competitive classes in a GCA Major Flower Show. Points are to be awarded as follows:

Special award*	10 points
1st place	5 points
2nd place	3 points
3rd place	1 point

*For each award listed in the schedule

Florescence Awards

Floral Design:

Best Use of Color

Horticulture:

Best Cut Specimen

Best Plant(s) Grown for Foliage

Best Horticulture Design - Classes 96–97

Curator's Award may be awarded in:

Division I: Floral Design

Division II: Horticulture

Division II: Horticulture Design - Classes 96–97

Division III: Photography

Division IV: Botanical Arts

Best in Conformance to the Schedule may be awarded in:

Division I: Floral Design

Division II: Horticulture Design - Classes 96–97

Division III: Photography

Division IV: Botanical Arts

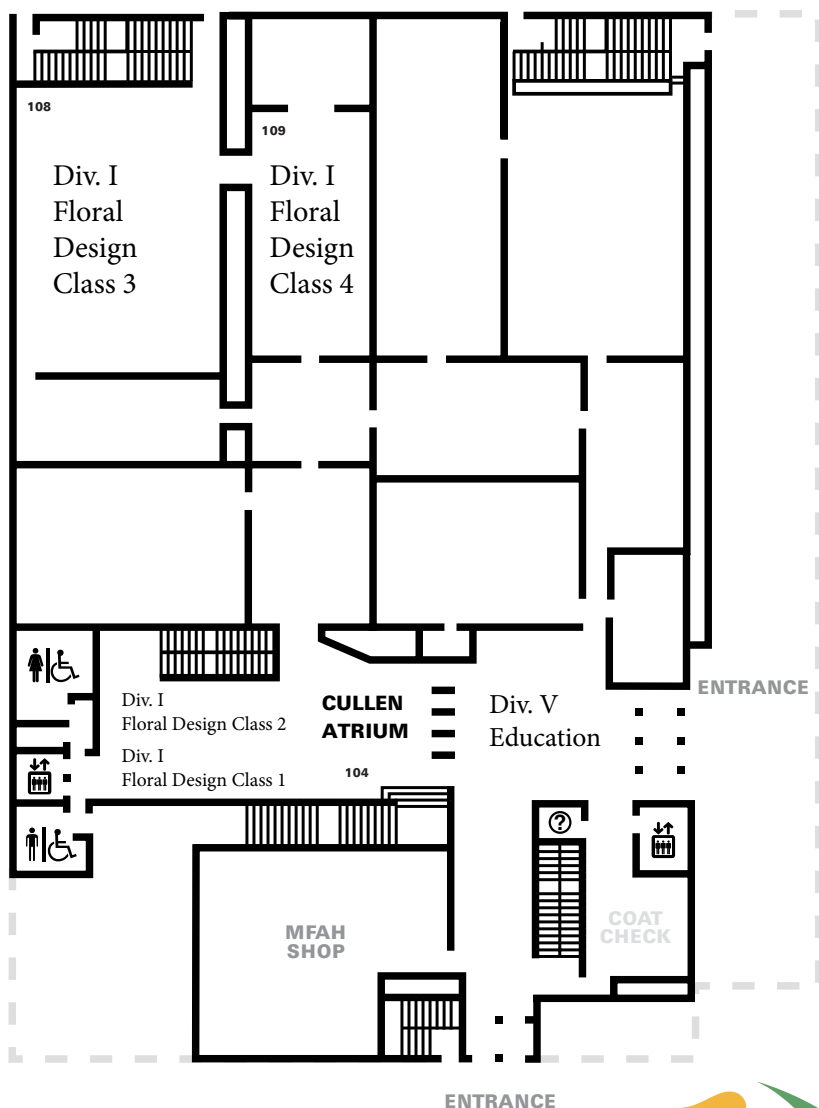
Best in Class may be awarded in:

Division I, Class 10: Provisional Floral Design

Division II, Class 98: Provisional Horticulture



SUSAN AND FAYEZ S. SAROFIM CAMPUS THE AUDREY JONES BECK BUILDING FIRST FLOOR





THE GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON

RIVER OAKS GARDEN CLUB

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

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