



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

news release

# niki de Saint Phalle

## IN THE GARDEN



ATLANTA (May 1, 2026) — Throughout its half-century, the Atlanta Botanical Garden has complemented its lush plant displays with artful accents, from whimsical statues and gushing fountains to sprawling special exhibitions of sculptures by renowned artists from Henry Moore to Dale Chihuly.

This year marks the Garden's 50th anniversary, and to celebrate that rich history, the Garden will present a revival of its 2006 sculpture exhibit, *Niki in the Garden*, May 9 – September 6.

The new exhibit will feature 40 sculptures in what's believed to be one of the largest showings of Niki de Saint Phalle's outdoor work presented in North America. The late French-American artist was best known for her massive, playful sculptures, particularly her "Nanas" – voluptuous works of women that celebrate femininity—as well as colorful animals, mythical figures, totems and even sports heroes.

“What better way to celebrate the Garden's golden jubilee and its quarter-century tradition of bringing great art set amongst nature to Atlanta than an encore exhibit of Niki?” said Mary Pat Matheson, the Garden's President & CEO. “The joyous nature of her work lends the perfect accent for marking our 50th year.”



Saint Phalle, who died in 2002, worked with a diverse range of materials, including fiberglass, resin, mosaic glass, ceramic tiles, mirror pieces, bronze, concrete and even found objects.

During the exhibit, the mostly whimsical sculptures — most on loan from the Niki Charitable Art Foundation and private collections — will be staged throughout the Garden as well as indoors. They range in size from the 2,000-pound *Grand Step Totem* and 16.5-foot *Large Yelling Man Totem* to small wall hangings of reliefs.

Visitors who experienced the 2006 exhibit will be dazzled by encountering the blue *Star Fountain Nana* once again holding court in Cox Courtyard as well as the joyously iconic Three Graces frolicking in the Skyline Garden pond.

In addition, an interpretive exhibit on the artist and her work will be on display in the Fuqua Orchid Center gallery.

For more information, visit [atlantabg.org](http://atlantabg.org).

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*The mission of the Atlanta Botanical Garden is to develop and maintain plant collections for display, education, research, conservation and enjoyment. The Garden is located at 1345 Piedmont Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309. For information, visit [atlantabg.org](http://atlantabg.org) or call 404-876-5859.*

For high-res images, visit the media site at [atlantabg.org/media](http://atlantabg.org/media)

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