

For Immediate Release

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Norfolk Botanical Garden
6700 Azalea Garden Road
Norfolk, VA 23518



**NORFOLK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**
Celebrating 75 Years

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Norfolk Botanical Garden Celebrates 75th Anniversary with a Touch of Glass!



"Orange Crush" by C.M. Smith
Announcement
Sponsored by Capital Group Companies

NORFOLK, VA– Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG) celebrates its 75th Anniversary with a touch of glass – Craig Mitchell Smith glass artist that is! The Garden will open its summer exhibit on Wednesday May 1, 2013 entitled **Reflections of Nature** that will incorporate 30 glass sculptures inspired by nature designed and created by Smith exclusively for the NBG. The pieces are reflections of plants and flowers found throughout the garden landscape. The Michigan artist has received national recognition for his masterpieces and use of his unique style of glass design. He has shared his artistry with several gardens and recently produced colorful glass poppies for Disney World to promote the new Disney movie **Oz the Great and Powerful**. The poppies are located in the Land of Oz located in the resort's Epcot Center. Thirty, red glass poppies will also adorn our Hummingbird Garden.

Smith is a self-taught glass artist and began his work as a glass jewelry maker in 2005. Limitations of working with small pieces inspired his move to large scale sculptures that seem to have limitless dimensions. Smith creates the glass pieces in a kiln and then attaches them to stainless steel forms, which he also creates. He is a painter at heart and uses the same principles to "paint in glass." Craig says he has found his medium.

"For me, the transparency of glass is a metaphor for memory. Even though the glass sculpture or design stays the same, if you move around the piece, or change the direction of the light or its intensity, you can change the memory," Smith said.

Installation of the sculptures will take place the week before the opening on May 1, 2013. The summer exhibit, **Reflections of Nature**, runs through August 18, 2013. NBG is thrilled to incorporate Smith's glass originals with nature. The glass sculptures are available for purchase. Smaller pieces are available in the Garden Gift Shop. Look for the largest 16 ft. sculpture in Nato Vista. Garden guests are sure to enjoy these 30 one-of-a-kind designs! Included with Garden admission.

For additional information on the **Reflections of Nature** glass exhibit and other 75th Anniversary events, visit the Norfolk Botanical Garden website at www.nbg75.org

Press and Media inquiries–For a NBG Press & Media Kit visit the Garden's Media Center at <http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/media-center/>

About Norfolk Botanical Garden

Norfolk Botanical Garden represents an oasis of more than 40 themed gardens encompassing 155 beautiful acres. From stunning plant collections to *WOW- World of Wonders: A Children's Adventure Garden*, this diverse natural beauty can be explored by tram, boat, or walking tours. The Garden is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is recognized as a Virginia Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a Virginia Green attraction, and is managed by the Norfolk Botanical Garden Society supported by the City of Norfolk. Norfolk Botanical Garden is dedicated to enriching life by promoting the enjoyment of plants and the environment through beautiful gardens and education programs. Admission is \$11 for Adults, \$10 for seniors and military, \$9 for ages 3-17, 2 and under are free. For more information, visit www.nbg75.org

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Artist Craig Mitchell Smith and a glass bouquet sculpture.