



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

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Art and Gardens Collide at Annual Spencer Lecture

Author Gordon Hayward to discuss “Fine Painting as Inspiration for Garden Design”

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Birmingham Botanical Gardens’ 11th Annual Virginia Beeland Spencer Lecture brings renowned designer and author Gordon Hayward to Birmingham from Putney, Vermont. The free lecture will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in The Gardens’ Linn-Henley Lecture Hall; guests will have a chance to meet Mr. Hayward at a reception from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some of Gordon Hayward's most notable work includes more than 25 years as a contributor to *Horticulture* magazine as well as 10 books about garden design, including the two award-winning books *Your House, Your Garden* and *Small Buildings, Small Gardens*.

Mr. Hayward’s lecture, “Fine Painting as Inspiration for Garden Design,” is based on his most recent book, *Art and the Gardener*. During the hour-long presentation, he will explain how garden design and paintings are constructed in similar ways, bringing depth, light, contrast, framing, focal points, texture and form into the conversation. Mr. Hayward will fuse together garden design with the works of famed artists such as Van Gogh, Cézanne and Monet in a unique and enlightening way intended to inspire and inform everyone from gardening professional to beginner. More information about Gordon Hayward can be found at www.haywardgardens.com.

The Spencer Lecture Series is made possible by Mr. & Mrs. William M. Spencer, III through the Virginia Beeland Spencer Lecture Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. By bringing prominent speakers to Birmingham, the Spencer Lecture Series provides an opportunity for the public to learn more about gardening, flower arranging, horticulture and conservation. For more information about the Gordon Hayward’s presentation or the Spencer Lecture Series, contact Shelly McCarty at 205.414.3965 or smccarty@bbgardens.org.

About Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with more than 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains 25+ unique gardens, 30+ works of original outdoor sculpture and miles of serene paths. The Gardens features the largest public horticulture library in the U.S., conservatories, a wildflower garden, two rose gardens, the Southern Living garden and Japanese Gardens with a traditionally crafted tea house. Education programs run year round and over 10,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. Birmingham Botanical Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to more than 350,000 yearly visitors.