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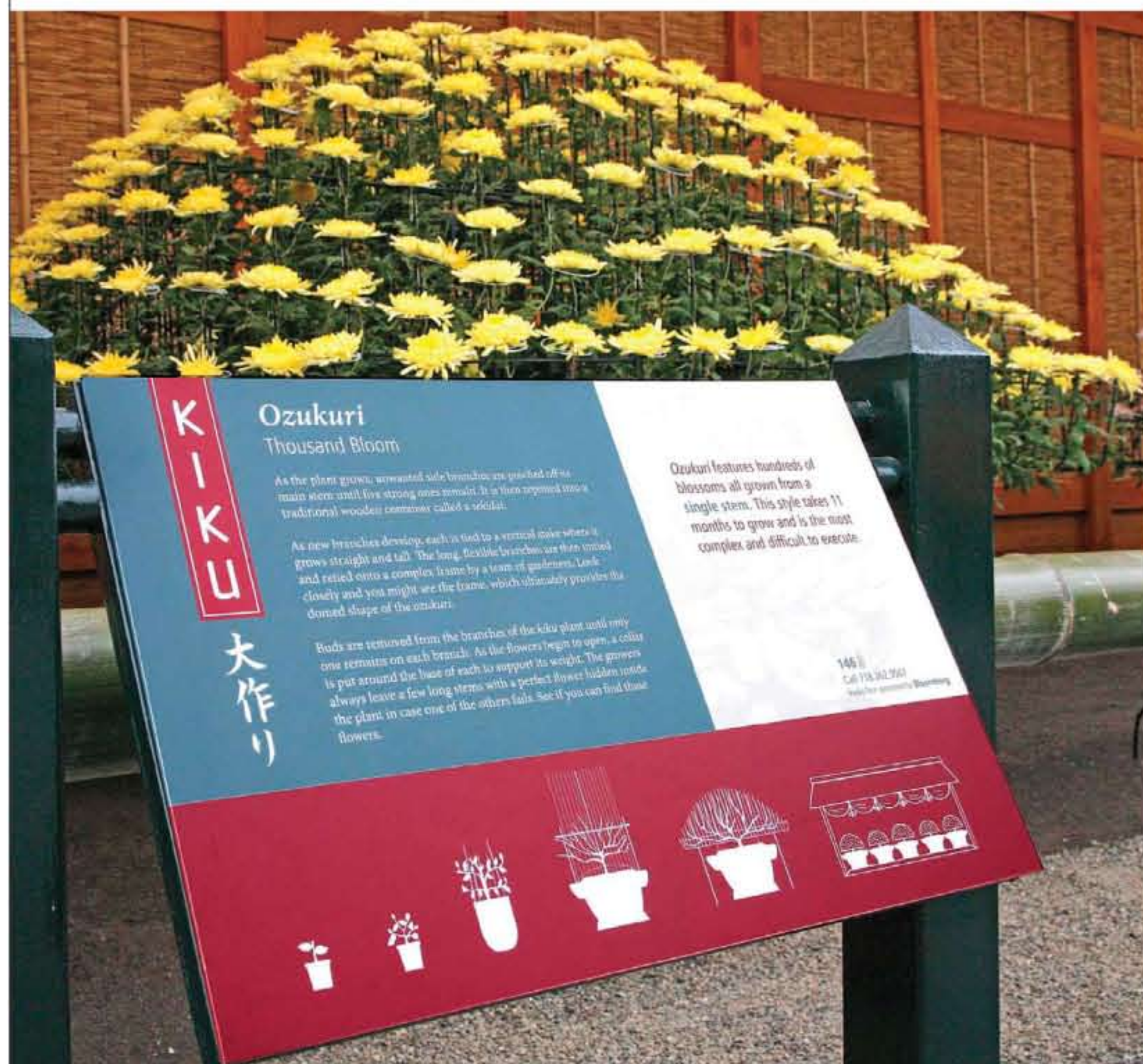
**Kiku: *The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum***

Target audience: Adult Garden visitors

Label type: Object

**The New York Botanical Garden**

Bronx, New York



Label copy

## **Ozukuri** Thousand Bloom

As the plant grows, unwanted side branches are pinched off its main stem until five strong ones remain. It is then repotted into a traditional wooden container called a *sekidai*.

As new branches develop, each is tied to a vertical stake where it grows straight and tall. The long, flexible branches are then untied and retied onto a complex frame by a team of gardeners. Look closely and you might see the frame, which ultimately provides the domed shape of the *ozukuri*.

Buds are removed from the branches of the *kiku* plant until only one remains on each branch. As the flowers begin to open, a collar is put around the base of each to support its weight. The growers always leave a few long stems with a perfect flower hidden inside the plant in case one of the others fails. See if you can find these flowers.

*Ozukuri* features hundreds of blossoms all grown from a **single stem**. This style takes 11 months to grow and is the most complex and difficult to execute.

### **Praise from the Jurors**

This text focuses so vividly on the particular form and how it is shaped that I can see it growing. It gives me tools for looking at the plants myself and understanding more.

— **Barbara Becker**

I like the label's reference to two specific features of the object that the visitor can search out: "Look closely and you might see the frame," and "See if you can find these flowers [hidden inside the plant]."

— **Marlene Chambers**