



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navy Pier 2009

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EXCLUSIVE TO PIONEER PRESS

Photography only a 'hobby' of 2008 contest winner

A Wilmette resident now studying sculpture in France needs only to look in the show guide for the **2009 Belgard Chicago Flower & Garden Show** to see her award-winning image from last year's photography competition. The show, which returns Saturday, March 7, through Sunday, March 15, 2009, to Festival Hall A and B near the east end of Navy Pier on Chicago's lakefront, again will ask show visitors to donate to charity \$1 for every vote they cast in the contest.

For last year's winner **Kasia Ozga**, 27, of Wilmette, picture-taking seemed a very organic process. "The light happened to strike that rose at the perfect moment and click!" she remembers.



Ozga was in Paris, it was February and she was amazed by how early in the year so many flowers were blooming. Moved by this, she borrowed a Nikon SLR Camera (her own Canon was in the shop) and this image—titled "Awakening"—became part of a series she calls "Flowers in February."

At the time the photo was taken, Ozga was a Harriet Hale Woolley grant recipient at the Fondation des Etats Unis in Paris (from October 2006-June 2007). She admits to only having started to take photographs over the last couple of years and considers photography more of a hobby alongside her primary artistic practice, which is in sculpture.

She is currently back in France on an artist's residency at "Shakers, Lieux d'Effervescence" in Montluçon through June of this year. It will culminate with a show of her sculptures in the Orangerie of the Chateau de la Louvière in Montluçon (www.shakers.fr).

The 2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show is sponsored by Belgard Hardscapes, a nationwide network of paving stone and garden wall products manufacturers. Show hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and until 6 p.m. on Sundays. Adult admission is \$14 weekends, \$12 weekdays. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$5 every day. Discounted all-day Navy Pier parking is \$14.

You can order tickets online now by visiting chicagoflower.com, where no service fee is charged, or buy them at the door.

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FYI High-resolution JPG of winning photo is available. please ask Becky Antonoglu, 847-724-5953 or beckyantoglu@skpr.net