



## 2020 FLOAT JUDGES BIOS

**Hitomi Gilliam AIFD** is a Japanese Canadian flower artist and has guest-designed throughout North America, England, Northern Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, Bermuda, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Belgium, Korea, Costa Rica, India and Oman. Hitomi was one of five commissioned inter-disciplinary artists to show her floral art installation 'RISE' at 'Les Fleurs Sauvages' Art Show at Sotheby's Institute of Art in New York City.

Hitomi is Founder of the Annual 'Survival of the Creative Minds' Conference in Taos, New Mexico. 20th Annual Conference 'REFLECTION' is scheduled for October 2019. She is the founder of 'Trend Summit', a biennial conference – 5th edition is scheduled for March 2020 in Vancouver, Canada.

Hitomi has lectured at Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), Chicago Botanical Gardens, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens (Nashville), Museum of Fine Art Boston, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Bouquets to Art at DeYoung Museum (San Francisco), Houston Museum of Fine Art, New Orleans Museum of Fine Art, Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Honolulu Academy of Art, Everson Museum of Art (Syracuse), The Walters Art Museum (Baltimore), Longwood Gardens, Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (Richmond, VA), Detroit Institute of Arts, Vero Beach Museum of Fine Arts, The Strong Museum (Rochester, NY), North Carolina Museum of Art (Raleigh, NC) and Columbus Museum of Fine Art. She has presented at the Philadelphia Flower Show, Newport Flower Show and Singapore Garden Festival.

Hitomi began her career in the Green Profession as a farmer/flowerist. She currently works with her son, Colin Gilliam in an Event & Education business, DESIGN358.

**Phil Hetteema** is the President and Creative Executive of The Hetteema Group (THG). With a distinguished 40 - year legacy in themed entertainment, Phil leads a world class team of experience designers, architects, and media producers known for creating uniquely compelling guest experiences with great emotional resonance. Notable projects include One World Observatory at One World Trade Center; the High Roller Observation Wheel at The LINQ, Las Vegas; and Beyond All Boundaries at the National World War II Museum, New Orleans.

Prior to founding THG, Phil served as Senior Vice President, Attraction Development for Universal Studios Theme Parks. Responsible for attraction planning for all of Universal's parks worldwide, most notably he led the creative team that designed Universal's Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Florida. He subsequently served as Chief Creative Officer for location-based entertainment at DreamWorks Animation.

Phil attended Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. He has been a guest lecturer at Art Center, Carnegie Mellon University, SCAD, USITT, IAAPA, KIN, ICOM, SIGGRAPH, and TEDX. Phil holds

four patents for entertainment technology solutions and has been honored with numerous Thea awards from the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA). In 2018, Phil received the prestigious Buzz Price award for Lifetime Achievement from the TEA. He is currently Board President of the Ryman Arts Foundation, which provides free art instruction programs, as well as, career and college preparatory counseling to talented high school students throughout Southern California.

**Lilit Khatchaturian** is Founder and CEO of Pavé Fleur, a revolutionary system allowing fresh floral arrangements to be delivered anywhere in the country within 24 hours. Lilit began her career working in her mother's flower shop, Sky Flowers, after graduating from UCLA with her degree in Business/Economics. Applying her education, Lilit grew her mother's two-person operation to become a world-renowned event production company, whose clientele ranges from celebrities and five-star hotels, to Fortune 500 companies.

Lilit has spent her 14 years immersed in the floral industry attending workshops and seminars produced by elite members of the AIFD community. Under the guidance and mentorship of world-renowned designer, Preston Bailey, Lilit and her team have executed countless high-profile events, most notably LeBron James' wedding. Lilit is a graduate of the PB Protégé Program, where she learned highly technical floral skills for creating one-of-a kind floral sculptures. Working alongside head designers, Lilit has learned the art of creating larger-than-life floral installations.

Other high-profile events executed by Lilit and her team include: The Grammy Awards, American Music Awards, Oscars, Worldwide events for Mastercard, Justin Timberlake private event in New York, Corona, Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition Launch party in New York, nationwide events for Delta, features on The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills & more.

In 2019, Lilit will launch her "Flower Hour" channel on YouTube and Instagram to help inspire and educate people with unique floral tips, techniques and care. Her hope is to spread her passion for flowers so that everyone can enjoy the positive effects of fresh blooms in their homes and their lives without feeling intimidated.