



Announcing LexFarm's 2023 Artist in Residence: Sandra Mayo



Sandra's Inspiration for Her Art Installation: Two to Flower

The farm has become a sacred and healing space for my soul, particularly during the pandemic. As I observed insects, flowers, and families interacting with nature at my CSA pick up slot, I found inspiration for my art. The influence of this experience led me to focus on printing flowers, vegetable skins, and weeds, capturing the essence of the farm's vibrant ecosystem.



During my creative inspiring farm visits, I contemplated the history of the Pawtucket people who once inhabited this land. Their practice of periodically moving to new clearings, allowing their fields to rest and naturally renew nutrients through crop rotation, resonated with the sustainable farming practices employed today. This reflection prompted me to consider indigenous cultures in South America, my birthplace, and their potential similarities to the Pawtucket people.

In my exploration, I unearthed a captivating historical fact—during the 1500s, Spanish women brought their customs, china, threads, and needles to Paraguay. The indigenous Guaraníes were captivated by the latter, while the Spanish women were enlightened by the indigenous designs. Together, these women forged a harmonious collaboration known as Encaje Yu, a craft that combined Spanish threads and needles with indigenous designs. This became the symbol of Paraguayan culture as of today! In my imagination, it would have been a mesmerizing sight to witness indigenous and Spanish women weaving together during scorching afternoons, day after day where no skin color, social class or power issues were present.

Motivated by this intercultural bond, I decided to print some of these collaborative designs, which I am proud to present in the installation titled "Two to Flower" near the flower beds at our cherished farm. I will be offering participatory bilingual (Spanish-English) activities throughout the Summer.





A collection of original prints will be displayed at the farm store beginning this week; each represents a step in my creative process toward the final prints showcased in the installation along the path to the Arlington Reservoir and in larger prints displayed at my studio. The farm installation received partial funding from the [Arlington Council for the Arts](#).

I warmly invite the public to visit my studio and explore larger prints by contacting me through my website, sandramayo.com. Your presence and support will greatly contribute to the continued growth of this bond of art and nature at our beloved farm.

I am committed to donating 50% of the revenue generated from these original prints to cover the costs associated with the installation and as a gift to LexFarm for its general operating expenses.

-Sandra



You can view Sandra's installation next to the flower field (near the opening to the Arlington reservoir path), starting on July 20 through the end of October

The opening reception of the installation is July 20, 6-8 pm.

Smaller prints are available in the farm store. Large prints can be viewed at her studio. Contact Sandra through her website, sandramayo.com.

