

The Calendar



Patricia Miranda at work in her studio.

Photos provided

Lacing Together History

Artist weaves donated fabrics into 'community' project

By Leonard Sparks

At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Patricia Miranda says she knew little about the history of lace, despite having for years hand-dyed the decorative fabric for art projects.

Then she began posting, on Instagram and Facebook, pictures of lace handed down from her Irish and Italian grandmothers and colored with dyes she makes from cochineal insects.

Something unexpected happened: Family, friends and strangers began sending her emails and messages offering pieces of their own lace and linens, some of it belonging to grandmothers and great-grandmothers. Soon, the packages started arriving — individual pieces of lace, and decorative clothing, napkins and tablecloths — from around the country and overseas.

“Someone sent me a fairly large box of lace, and then another box came and another box came,” said Miranda.

Those donations are the foundation of *Punto in Aria* (which translates as *Point in Air*), an installation of Miranda's textile-based art that continues through Nov. 7 inside two galleries at the Garrison Art Center. The exhibition, which incorporates more than 1,500 pieces of lace sewn together into artworks, combines large sculptures with panels and glass gilded with vintage and inherited gold leaf.

Miranda, the art center's visiting artist for 2021, estimates that some of the lace she



“Enclosure,” dyed battenberg lace, doilies and zip ties, outside the Garrison Art Center

received dates to the 18th century, and said that some people included notes describing their donation's history. One person sent a six-page, handwritten letter, she said.

“I realized that this became a community project, and that people felt compelled to be a part of it,” said Miranda, who splits her time between Manhattan and Peekskill. “It's an honor and kind of a responsibility in the best sense of the term.”

Miranda “can't remember I time when I didn't think of myself as an artist.” As a child, she sketched, sewed and began making her own natural dyes and paints from insects and flowers.

She majored in art at SUNY Purchase,

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Cristian Chironi on Long Island with his Fiat earlier this month Photos by Alexa Hoyer/Magazzino

Reporters' Notebook

The Art of Experience

By Michael Turton

An art critic I am not. As with wine, I know what I like, but it's purely my opinion, and in both cases, based on deficient knowledge. I

tend to laugh at, and can never taste, the “hints of whatever” described on a wine label. With art, I should be banned from any discussion of its meaning or significance. The “Mona Lisa”? To quote John McEnroe, “You cannot be serious!” What a letdown when I finally saw Mona's smirk in person.

Long ago, I decided art is simply what artists do. I tend to avoid contemporary art. I got in trouble at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City when I sat on a sculpture. Why would any artist make a

sculpture look like a bench?

I have no idea what inspired me to attempt to replace Alison Rooney, our arts editor, who is vacationing in Italy, no doubt overdosing on outstanding art. It might have been the “paint-by-number” piece I've been working on for a year.

So, I took Alison's seat on *The New York Drive* with Cristian Chironi, an artist from Orani, Sardinia, also the birthplace of Costantino Nivola (1911-1988), whose sandcast works are featured at Magazzino Italian Art just outside Cold Spring.

In addition to his art, Nivola was renowned for bombing around eastern Long Island in a multi-colored Fiat.

The New York Drive is a tribute to him, a performance by Chironi, in which he chauffeured residents of three New York communities in an old Fiat 127, the same model used by Nivola.

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Cristian Chironi drives passengers down Main Street in Cold Spring on Oct. 16.

Lacing *(from Page 13)*

earning a degree in sculpture, then added a master's degree from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She has founded two artist projects (the Crit Lab and MAPSpace), worked with homeless youth in Westchester County, developed programs for schools and museums and exhibited at galleries and museums in the U.S. and Vienna.

Her choice of medium eventually changed from painting to making objects "that live in the world in a different way." Deciding to return to her roots in sculpture, she began working with lace colored with her hand-made dyes and paints. The material served another goal: to make larger works with a low environmental impact, but not ones requiring a lot of space to exhibit and store.

"Textiles seemed like a wonderful way to be able to do what could be large installations that would fold up into a manageable scale that I could transport. And also, the materials were environmentally safe," she said.

She also began to see textiles as a "powerful metaphor" for women's labor on two fronts: the textile mills where they have historically toiled, and in the household, where lace was either sewed or bought to adorn such items as aprons and handkerchiefs.

A new sense of lace's history drives an adjunct to the project: Miranda has been photographing, measuring and documenting each piece of lace and linens she received for an online archive at thelacearchive.net. Visitors to the exhibit



"Enwrapped in arms enfolding; I and II" were made with vintage textiles and books, thread, pins and a steel ring.

are encouraged to add their own fabric to the collection.

Miranda is also leading two free workshops for children and adults on Saturday (Oct. 23), where she will demonstrate how to make dyes and color fabrics. "It's been an amazing project," she said.

The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison's Landing, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday to Sunday. The Oct. 23 workshops will be held at 10:30 a.m. for families with children and 1:30 p.m. for adults, followed by an artist's talk at 5:30 p.m. Register at garrisonartcenter.org.



"Where there is serene length" was created with vintage textile and books, muslin, twill tape, thread, pins, steel hoop, wood armature and PVC piping. *Photos provided*


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– Richard Shea,
Town of Philipstown Supervisor

Jason is proud to run on the independent **Team Philipstown** line with John Van Tassel & Megan Cotter.

Early voting begins this weekend: October 23-31.
@ North Highlands Fire House, Cold Spring

Vote on November 2 at your polling station.



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