

April 2016

The Gardens with Christi Lavoy!



In 2008 newly full time in Naples, I could no longer disguise my orchid's wet wooden sticks always distracting from the orchid blooms. Starting with steel rods topped with shells I saw a slight improvement. Learning quickly that steel and water are rusty, I bobbed, weaved and finessed and suddenly, friends wanted to have my creations in their orchids and plants too. My Botanistix® business had begun.

Botanistix® (Bo tan i stix, like botanical stick) are aluminum stakes that are powder-coated to blend well in all different kinds of plants and fresh flowers. Each stake is handcrafted and jeweled with rhinestones, shells, pearls, blown glass and jewelry grade details. Each piece is a labor of love from drilling, sanding, measuring then, making them pretty. Every Botanistix® arrives in a seasonally decorated gift box which makes them a unique gift. They're mini works of art that compliment the blooms, without overshadowing them ..always the bridesmaid, never the bride!



It was never my intension to make a business but it has turned into a dream because I get to spend my time with like minded people who love gardening, flowers, all of the things I enjoy. My clients appreciate the attention to detail and the fact that I encourage custom requests. Who wouldn't love to spend time with like minded people sharing tips and stories?



Each season my loyal clientele look to me for new designs. The newest addition is the handblown glass (Shells, Fish, Seahorse, Hummingbirds & Butterflies) from a local glass artist. The transparency of glass looks amazing next to a plant's blooms or peaking out of a flower arrangement. Its so unexpected. Doing the unexpected, reinterpreting a trend is very much in my design aesthetic. One of my favorite quotes is "be yourself, everyone else is taken."

To keep things interesting for me, I have added to the mix with a line of coastal inspired napkin rings, abstract glass lamp finials, decorative boxes and most recently, bottle toppers (a presentational way to give a bottle gift without the bag.) So when I am a vendor at Hope Hospice or American Cancer Society fundraisers, there is something for everyone.

Social media is a necessity in todays business environment and I do make use of them all. The internet has been instrumental by making it easier to source wholesale product between shows in NY & Atlanta. Clients are kept up to date with a blog and occasional newsletters and can access my website anytime. They can also find Botanistix® on Amazon and Houzz. We have an unofficial retail store appropriately called 'the Botanistix room' in my home and its a very busy place during the season. Of course we ship all over the country as well.

Beauty is always in the eyes of the beholder so when clients get excited about my handcrafted accessories, the validation is wonderful. At the end of the day, life its all about connecting with people.