

## **Exhibit: "Flowers for the Garden" May 01, 2019**

**Artist: Amber Donlan**



### **Artist Statement**

My mother started crafting with me at a very young age and insisted that art is everywhere. It could come from the sharp lines of a crushed soda can or the artful placement of flowers in the garden. Combined with my desire to do my part for the environment, I started upcycling plates, bowls, cups and other cast off items to create flowers for the garden. At first, they were simply gifts for my daughter and I to give my parents but my husband's enthusiasm for them gave me the idea that others may enjoy them too. I have always considered myself more of a crafter than an artist because I tend to jump from one project to the next but with each flower that I create, I realize that just like my mother said art is everywhere, even on old dinner plates.

### **Biography**

Amber and her family moved to St. Louis from Norfolk, VA in early 2018 and have been working hard to make St. Louis feel like home. Knowing that she would be in a position to take off work for the summer to watch their 6 year old daughter Dorothy, Amber used the opportunity to get in as much volunteer work as possible. She started out volunteering with U. City in Bloom and Flynn Park Elementary and is now the Volunteer Coordinator for Welcome Neighbor STL, a group whose mission is to help local refugees or 'new Americans' get established in their new home. She also used the time to pursue her love of crafting as a way to bring a sense of whimsy into her daughter's life. "I love creating with my daughter. She has such an eye for color and the untamed imagination of youth and often has wonderful ideas when it comes to my flowers. She inspires me every day to be the best I can be."