



Title: Kokedama: Hanging Gardens

Artists: Barbara Leshyn and Lisa Lipsey

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Artist Biography: *Lisa Lipsey* is one of the Horticulturist at the Hahn Garden at Virginia Tech. Lisa is former owner of a residential & commercial design/build landscape company and has been a certified landscape designer for over 30 years. Lisa's hobbies include botanical drawing and experimenting with container plant combinations.

Barbara Leshyn runs the VT floral design program at

Virginia Tech. Barbara's hobbies include gardening, hiking... basking in nature.

Art Statement:

Kokedama is a living plant sculpture with roots wrapped in moss and bound. Japanese in origin, kokedama is an adaptation of Nearai Bonsai where plants are grown in pots until filled with roots, then removed from the pot to display the roots. Kokedama is also a reflection of the Japanese aesthetic of Wabi-sabi which recognizes and appreciates imperfection and the transience of beauty. From an article published Oc. 2001 in Natural Home: "Broadly, wabi-sabi is everything that today's sleek, mass-produced, technology-saturated culture isn't. It's flea markets, not shopping malls; aged wood, not swank floor covering; one single morning glory, not a dozen red roses. Wabi-sabi understands the tender, raw beauty of a gray December landscape and the aching elegance of an abandoned building or shed. It celebrates cracks and crevices and rot and the other marks that time and weather and use leave behind. To discover wabi-sabi is to see the singular beauty in something that may first look decrepit and ugly." We both have an affinity with the gardening style of kokedama and the philosophy of wabi-sabi. We will create a hanging work of living art with plants and other natural materials. The hanging bonsai and natural materials will reflect the spirit, the beauty and imperfections of nature.