

A Brief Biography

Artist Meei Ling Ng is a social sculptor, multimedia installation artist and urban farmer. The theme of her work for the last three years has been Grow Food Where You Live. Meei Ling blends her installations and other visual art into urban farming projects that can inspire people to start growing their own food and reconnect with nature. All of her projects are based on community engagement. She feels that everyone has an innate longing to know the natural world and to be around it. It's a common language of sorts and it's why she's able to attract diverse groups to her projects. Once involved, people are able to tap into the sustaining and healing power of green spaces they're helping to create. These many hands help actively shape what could be a straight forward garden or urban farm and transform it into a social sculpture.

Education

- The Art Institute of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Associate Degree in Specialized Technology, 2000
- Nanyang Academy of Fine Art, Singapore, Diploma in Applied Arts, 1990

Work History

Facilitator, collaborative lead artist, teaching artist/farmer, artist in residence

January 2017-present, UBC Garden of Eden at Union Baptist Church (a local soup kitchen).

- Collaborated with Union Baptist Church, local organizations, businesses and neighbors to develop the churchyard and car park in a project that included vegetable, herb, and flower and fruit propagation for the church soup kitchen, guests and the surrounding community.
- Advanced techniques for urban, high production growing are being used and taught at the installation site. Topics such as designing and building of vegetable raised beds using salvaged materials from the neighborhood, seed starting, intercropping, proper water techniques, mulching/composting and harvesting were covered.
- Developed programs and events with collaborators such as Organic vegetable growing/Grow Food Where You Live, Children/Adult Storytelling and Poetry Reading (Phila. Free Library), Healthy Cooking Classes, Fermentation Classes, Movie Night, Farmers/Flea Markets, Art/Music Festival.

Facilitator, collaborative lead artist, teaching artist/farmer, artist in residence

June 2014-December 2015, Sunday Breakfast Farm at Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission (a local homeless shelter) with Asian Arts Initiative

- Started a program with classes and sessions over the course of 4 months for the men in the Overcomers Recovery Program to learn about urban farming.
- Topics such as designing and building of installation planters and trellises, seed starting, tomato plant pruning, proper water techniques, mulching/composting and harvesting were covered.
- advanced techniques for urban, high production growing are being used and taught at the installation so participants can stay off the streets and gain a skill set that would enable them to be employed at or start up their own urban agriculture operation on one the city's vacant lots.

- The class sessions include cooking demonstrations that are encouraging the Overcomers to incorporate fresh produce into their diets.
- **July 2015-present**, started a farm apprenticeship program training participating Overcomers and volunteer apprentices. Besides learning about seasonal growing, topics such as farmers' market skills, guided farm tour training and creating value-added farm products were covered.
- **April 2017 –June 2017**, Collaborated and partnership with the mission and local chef to develop a "Farm to Table" five-week cooking class program for the members of the Sunday Breakfast long-term Overcomer Program. They prepared healthy meals with fresh farm ingredients and cooked up a healthy four-course meal using locally grown ingredients from the Sunday Breakfast Farm. This is part of a pilot culinary arts initiative under the Mission's Farm Education Program.

Teaching artist, urban farmer, artist in residence

July-August 2014, Asian Arts Initiative's youth program (YAW)

- Grow Food Where You Live "Sofa Planter" project, teaching and working with YAW students creating a salvaged sofa planter and green wall planters using recycled tin cans painted with student artworks including planting methods.

Guest lecturer

Oct 2015, University of the Arts, UArts prototyping/community engagement class

- Students learned about Meei Ling's work as an artist and urban farmer, and how she fused those skills to teach people who are interested in urban farming with art and design.

Collaborating and teaching artist

August 2014-October 2015, Philadelphia Young Playwrights "1219 project".

- The 1219 Project brings youth, social practice artists, theater professionals, and university students together to explore how art can transform place, create community, and create a culture of civic engagement through cross-generational, cross-organizational, cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- Including "Unearth 1219" garden, Meei Ling taught hands-on planting and watering of vegetables at the Independence Foundation Learning Lab at 1219 & Vine St. and led discussion groups with themes of home, family, community.

Collaborative lead artist, Teaching artist, urban farmer, artist in residence

May 2014-July 2014, "Musical Garden" outdoor installation for SpArc Services (formerly the Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities Corporation, which provides vocational training and job opportunities to intellectually and physically disabled adults)

- Started a project program with workshops over the course of 2 months for SpArc Services staff and their participants to learn about art-making that included gardening and musical themes
- Led a mixed team of staff and participants in modifying a salvaged grand piano into a large planter with extensive plantings and interactive features.
- Designed a landscape art installation and led a mixed team of staff, participants and volunteers in completing the installation. Which included wall murals, large paper-mache sculptures done by the participants, vegetables, herbs and flower beds, a grand piano interactive planter, and wall sculptures with imbedded harps salvaged from discarded pianos.

Artist Spotlight-artist talks (selected by a Fairmount CDC organized jury and the Barnes Foundation)

April 26, 2013, at the Barnes Foundation

- Talk and showcase of Meei Ling's work and Barnes Foundation displays.

Urban farmer/farm manager

January 2009-December 2013, Streamside Farm at The Elkins Estate, Elkins Park, PA

- Managed and worked with volunteers and interns on a commercial organic farm.
- Partnered with local food co-op to establish and organize a new farmers market (Elkins Park)
- Harvested and prepared produce and flowers for Farmers Market
- Set up store and organized produce and flowers at the Framers Market.

- Provided customer service with friendly communications in a fast-paced market atmosphere
- Maintained and restocked produce, flowers and seed inventory
- Cash handling and balancing the cash drawer
- Administrative responsibilities included financial and sales reports and payroll
- Created marketing and promoting materials included web content

Farmer/farm manager 2007-2010, Kona's Market Garden, Doylestown PA

Board member (Art Director) 2009 – 2011, Mt. Airy Art Garage (MAAG)

Art Director/Graphic & Web Designer 2006 – 2011, MLing Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Art Director 2001-2006, Haley Productions, Media, PA

Senior Designer 1997-1999, Kent Ridge Digital Labs, National University of Singapore

Graphic Designer/Illustrator 1996-1997, Games Online, Singapore

Exhibition History

January 2017-present

Created the UBC Garden of Eden installation for the Union Baptist Church, a local church and soup kitchen.

This project was produced by Meei Ling Ng as part of the "Grow Food Where You Live" installation series, 1900 & Fitzwater St, Philadelphia, PA

September 30, 2017

Panelist and slideshow for PHL Assembled, Food Sovereignty in the Asian Diaspora. Organized by VIETLEAD at the Perelman Building, 2525 Pennsylvania Ave, Philadelphia, PA

June 2014 – December 2016

"Grow Food Where You Live", artist in residence for Asian Arts Initiative, created the Sunday Breakfast Farm installation for the Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, a local homeless shelter. This project was produced by Meei Ling Ng as part of the Asian Arts Initiative's 2014 - 2015 Social Practice Lab program. 1219 Vine St, Philadelphia, PA

May 1 – July 28, 2014

"Musical Garden", outdoor art installation with gardening and musical themes, artist in residence

Installation site: 2350 West Westmoreland Street, Philadelphia, PA

September – October 2013

Selected and featured artist for The center For Emerging Visual Artists/Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST)

"Made in Philly" campaign

Featured large-scale artwork "Horse" sculpture image on a highly visible bus shelter at 6th & Market St. Philadelphia, PA

September 20 – October 20, 2013

"On Thin Ice", multimedia interactive art Installation about climate changes at 161 West, 161 W. Cecil B.

Moore Ave. Philadelphia, PA

This exhibit is a collaboration effort with 161 West and in conjunction with the Philadelphia Open Studio Tours (POST)

September 7 & October 3, 2013

Featured artist for The Food Trust "Art at Market: Local Food, Local Art" program, Chili Pepper Dryer

Interactive Installation at Clark Park Farmers' Market, Philadelphia, PA

September 1, 2013

Riverfest Frenchtown, Guest Artist, outdoor art Installation at a historic mansion garden, Frenchtown, NJ

August 15, 2013

"Sowing Farmer" large scale sculpture and hay bales installation at the South Street Night Market, Philadelphia, PA

Selected and featured artist by The Food Trust/Night Market and The Magic Garden/Art Gage

June – July, 2013

Center City Sips Summer 2013, featured artist and artworks on a 20" digital media wall at One Commerce Square 2005 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

June 15, 2013

"The Edible Garden", a traveling art Installation that combines food, art and sustainability at Historic Headhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA

July 7, 2013

Featured artist for The Food Trust "Art at Market: Local Food, Local Art" program, "Eco-System Chess Board" interactive Installation at Headhouse Farmers' Market, Philadelphia, PA

June 5, 2013

Featured artist for The Food Trust "Art at Market: Local Food, Local Art" program, "The Edible Garden", a traveling art Installation that combines food, art and sustainability. Clark Park Farmers' Market, Philadelphia, PA

May 4 – May 5, 2013

"The Edible Garden", a traveling art Installation that combines food, art and sustainability at the Elkins Estate Garden, 1814 Beech Avenue, Elkins Park, PA

This event was in collaboration with the Turtle Artisans Tour at Cheltenham Township and The Elkins Estate

April 28, 2013

Selected and featured artist- Barnes Winner for "Fairmount Arts Crawl exhibit", exhibition work of sculptures and paintings. Fairmount Neighborhood, 2124 Fairmount Ave, Philadelphia, PA

April 26, 2013

Selected artist by The Barnes Foundation featured in their "Artist Spotlight: Fairmount Arts Crawl" program, The Barnes Foundation, 2025 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA

April 23 – May 11, 2013

Collaborating Artist–international art exhibition "Tiong Bahru" – Portraits of History IV, Orange Thimble, 56 Eng Hoon Street, Singapore

January 30 – February 24, 2013

3rd Street Gallery Community Exhibit 2013, painting of birds at 3rd Street Gallery on 2nd Street, 58 N. Second Street, Philadelphia

January 19 – January 23, 2013

"SNOWBALL - A Unique Winter Ball to Benefit JUNK", selected installation artist for "The Balloon Fish" sculpture at Hamilton Hall - University of the Arts, 320 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA

November 30 – Dec 2, 2012

Facilitator, event producer and lead artist of Holiday Pop-Up Art Show at The Bainbridge club, supporting neighborhood visual and performing artists, 1523 Bainbridge St., Philadelphia, PA.

This event was put on in collaboration with The Bainbridge Club, South of South neighborhood artists, Kevin Broad and Meei Ling Ng and in partnership with South of South Neighborhood Association (SOSNA)

October 13, 2012

Bloktoberfest, Guest Artist, created on the spot, crowd-sourced art sculpture "The Balloon Fish", reusing the beer cups at the festival, 17th and South Street, Philadelphia, PA

October 6 – 7, 2012

Facilitator, event producer, installation artist of "Deep Roots II: DAYS AND NIGHTS ON THE FARM". Nine multi-media art installations about growing food where people live and highlighting the interconnection of nature, farms, our food system and our communities. At Weavers Way's Mort Brooks Memorial Farm, 1011 E Washington Ln, Philadelphia, PA

This event is being put on in collaboration with Weavers Way Co-op, Weavers Way's Mort Brooks Memorial Farm, Awbury Arboretum, Philadelphia Open Studios Tour (POST) and lighting Designer Jackson Kay.

September 29, 2012

Woodbury Fall Arts Fest, Juried Art Show, representing Philadelphia Open Studios Tour (POST), Railroad Avenue, Woodbury, NJ

April 14 – June 6, 2012

"Free Range Chicken" selected exhibit sculpture for "Refuse/re-seen", Fiber Philadelphia Venue 2012. Exhibit program cover also featured Meei Ling's work. Juried International exhibition by Some Things Looming Gallery, 526 Washington Street, Reading, PA

May 5 – May 6, 2012

"Deep Roots", an outdoor art installation about sustainable living and farming in an urban environment. Elkins Park Front Yard Farm, 7607 Spring Ave, Elkins Park, PA
This event was put on in collaboration with the Turtle Artisans Tour at Cheltenham Township and Michaelann Velicky, a local permaculturalist.

December 2011 – March 2012

The Schuylkill Center, featured artist and bird sculpture works, 8480 Hagy's Mill Road, Philadelphia, PA

October 21 – November 18, 2011

"Recapturing Memories", solo exhibition, large scale indoor art installation about the artist's love of nature while evoking memories of her childhood up through to the present. At Mt. Airy Art Garage 11 W. Mt. Airy Ave, Philadelphia, PA

October 9, 2011

Chestnut Hill Fall for the Arts Festival - Juried Art Show, paintings of birds. 8500 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA

May 7, 2011

Mt. Airy Day - Fine Art Show, paintings of birds
6400 Germantown Ave, Mount Airy, Philadelphia, PA

May 15, 2010

Mt. Airy Art Garage, group exhibition, paintings of birds, silent Auction/fundraiser at The Governor's Mansion 254 W. Walnut Lane, Philadelphia, PA

January 24, 2009 – March 7, 2009

Hosted by MCGOPA "The world of the professional artist #3" juried art show at SPP Gallery, Honorable Mention for "Native Abstract" (mixed media art)