

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Sandra C. Fernandez

I am an Ecuadorian American artist whose work is rooted in my multicultural heritage and life journey. My practice grows out of the experiences of migration and resilience that have shaped me, and I see art as a way of weaving together stories of identity, belonging, and memory. Each piece I create becomes a reflection of both my personal history and the larger narratives of those who, like me, move between cultures and places.

My work spans a wide range of media, including printmaking, photography, artist's books, soft sculpture, fiber art, assemblage, and installation. I am drawn to materials that carry their own histories—paper, thread, metal, wood, organic elements, and small found objects—and I combine them to build layered, tactile works. Through this process, I seek to create spaces where displacement and loss coexist with strength and hope, where what is fragile is also resilient.

I was born in New York, grew up in Ecuador, and later returned to the United States, where I lived in several different states before settling in Texas, where I now live and have my studio practice. Moving between these places has deeply shaped my vision, giving me a sense of both rootedness and distance, familiarity and estrangement. These contrasts feed my art, allowing me to speak to the complexities of living at the intersections of cultures. My work, ultimately, is about transformation—of materials, of memory, and of lived experience into forms that others can connect to and find themselves in.