



MIA GALLERIES

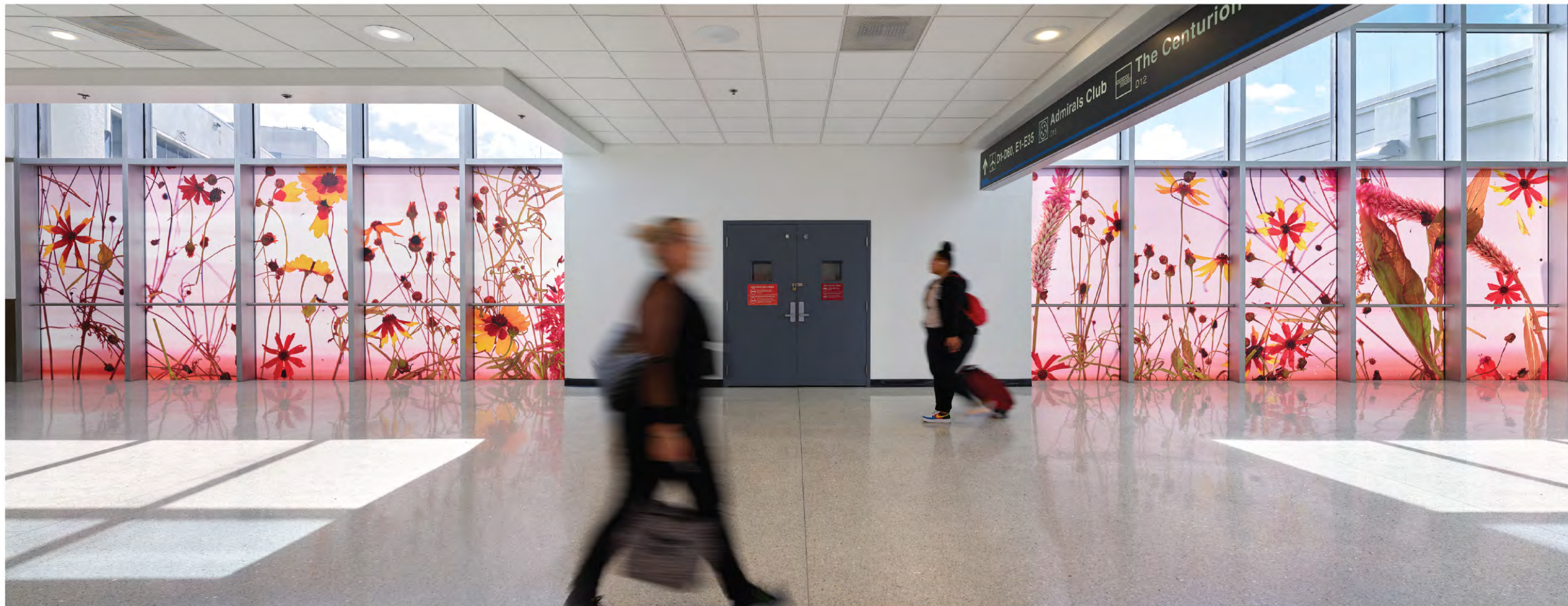
NATURE STUDIES IN THREE WORKS

CRISTINA LEI RODRIGUEZ

North Terminal, Concourse D, Post TSA Checkpoint #4

Multidisciplinary Miami-based artist Cristina Lei Rodriguez takes common materials and gives them a new intangible life. Her work is organic and minimalist, echoing a tension between the natural and artificial.

Nature Studies in Three Works (2020-2022) is a largescale three-part window installation created in conjunction with the artist's solo exhibition at Miami International Airport, *The Sun Scans New Growth* (October 1, 2022 – March 5, 2023). For this installation, Rodriguez's art practice cultivated native and tropical plants in her garden as a study and mediation on how nature adapts, thrives, fails, and is born again. Inspired by the complexity of nature, each of the three works, as evidenced by their titles, is a moment in time visually recorded and documented. We hope this monumental installation offers visitors a sense of immersing themselves in the South Florida landscape.



Installation view of *Coreopsis Study Part 1* (April 20, 2022, 11:37am) and *Coreopsis Study Part 2* (April 20, 2022, 11:20am), 2022, digital prints on translucent vinyl, 117 x 280 in. each. Photo by Daniel Portnoy.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the subject of my scans was drawn from my garden and study of South Florida's native plants. In addition to scanning the living plants, I also became fascinated with recording the sky and the sunlight and clouds' movement in the background. To my surprise, the sky in Coreopsis Study Part 1 (April 20, 2022, 11:37am) and Coreopsis Study Part 2 (April 20, 2022, 11:20am) recorded the sunlight as pink. Coreopsis is also known as Tickseed and is Florida's state wildflower."



Coreopsis Study Part 1 (April 20, 2022, 11:37am), 2022. Image courtesy of the artist.



Coreopsis Study Part 2 (April 20, 2022, 11:20am), 2022. Image courtesy of the artist.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Since 2009, I have been experimenting with a digital flatbed scanner to photograph compositions of living plants and sculptural collages. The images can be abstract yet crisply capture the minute detail of the objects in the image simultaneously. Over the years, I have accumulated an archive of hundreds of images that are organized by date and time. The images are a record of that moment, and the objects often seem frozen in time.

As an artist, the work I create can be a print, a sculpture, or an installation, but it always exists with a duality specific to the urban landscape I live in. My

work is both natural and digital, controlled and chaotic, and it marvels at the complexity of life, its beauty, and its processes.

Nature Studies in Three Works changes throughout the day as the clouds come and go, adding to my conceptual intentions for this work. I'm interested in how the oversized scale of the plants in the prints gives the viewer a sense that they are part of the landscape.

cristinaleirodriguez.com



Installation view of *Staging a Florida Sunset* (October 15, 2020, 12:01pm), 2022, digital prints on translucent vinyl, 136 x 335 in. Photo by Daniel Portnoy.

"Staging a Florida Sunset (October 15, 2020, 12:01 pm) reflected the sun's golden light in a circular mirror, creating an effect in the camera lens that mimics the sun setting on the horizon."

Cover: *Staging a Florida Sunset (October 15, 2020, 12:01pm)*, 2020. Image courtesy of the artist.



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