



We

The People

Friday, July 20, 6:30-10pm

stARThere.
Montalvo Arts Center



MARILÁ DARDOT • SAUDADE (OUR FLAGS) ON DISPLAY ON THE GREAT LAWN

Made in collaboration with Factr's Footprints Guild, Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations, Sacred Heart Community Service, County of Santa Clara Library District, Chopsticks Alley Art, and community friends and patrons

In her first exhibition in the United States, Brazilian artist Marilá Dardot premieres a large-scale installation of flags created by immigrant and refugee community participants during a series of public workshops. The flags, which represent in text and visual form something their maker misses about the country where they were born, were raised on Montalvo's grounds on Sunday, July 15 at a communal flag-raising ceremony. With this work, Dardot seeks to amplify the voices of our varied diaspora communities, and honor the complexities and challenges of their experience in the midst of a divisive national conversation about immigrants and the nature of American identity.

In Portuguese, *saudade* refers to melancholic longing or yearning and is a recurring theme in Portuguese and Brazilian literature. Dardot states, "At a time when immigrants around the world are increasingly scapegoated and the complexity of their identities and experiences are often overly simplified, *Saudade (Our Flags)* is an opportunity to celebrate immigrants and the richness of their memories and contributions, making them present and visible in the here and now."



Marilá Dardot's expansive and interdisciplinary oeuvre, which includes video, installation, sculpture, photographs, prints, paintings, actions, and large-scale and site-specific installations, often involves language, literature, and the written word as a visual or conceptual element. Her work often examines the relationship between language, memory and loss. In recent projects she has explored the failure of political rhetoric and the erasure of speech through censorship. Dardot's work is held in the permanent collections of such institutions as Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo in Brazil, as well as the Madeira Corporate Services Contemporary Art Collection (MCS Collection) in Madeira, Portugal and The Sayago & Pardon Collection in Los Angeles. Learn more at mariladardot.com.