

HOW TO PICK RIPE PRODUCE AT YOUR LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET. PG. 21

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FROM PRAIRIE TO YOUR PLATE

We delve into the wonderful world of farm-to-table and uncover how your meal goes from ranch to kitchen to menu.

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SPECIAL SECTION



Urban Farmer's Chef Ryan Rau prepares a mouthwatering charcuterie board for guests. Full profile inside. Pg. 48

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CUSTOM CREATIONS TURNING ORDINARY ACCESSORIES INTO EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT PIECES IS ZAVALA'S SPECIALTY.

FINE TUNING HER VISION

To bring these fashionable art pieces to life, Zavala has a detailed process that involves an initial design consultation with her clients followed by a digital mockup via an app called Procreate on her Apple iPad. Ideally, she tries to mimic the mockup as best as possible in the final design, “but the mockup will always be a little different.”



Fine art fashion

TURN YOUR ORDINARY CLOTHING ACCESSORIES INTO ONE-OF-A-KIND STATEMENT PIECES AT **ZAVALA BESPOKE**.

by Britney Eschelman

According to Lauren Zavala, artist and founder of luxury painting business Zavala Bespoke, fine art isn't only found in museums; it can be found in every day fashion. Anywhere from a leather jacket to a large piece of luggage, Zavala can turn your ordinary accessories into fine art fashion.

While completing her Master's degree in Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors in London, Zavala thought of the idea to combine fine art and fashion when she was Christmas shopping and saw a vendor using leather-specific paints on shoes. After returning back to the U.S., she purchased some leather paints herself and began painting gifts for family and friends. People raved about her work and when a friend nudged her to make a business card for her creativity, her dream of starting her own business became a reality. “It's my favorite thing I thought I'd ever get to do and it was kind of an accident, but it really just took off from there,” says Zavala.

The artwork created at Zavala Bespoke is a combination of creating accessible fine art and making one-of-a-kind pieces for her clients. When working with a client, Zavala loves trying to create the vision that her client has for the piece while also bringing her creative spin to it. “What I work on is genuinely a collaboration between me and each client. My vibe is just catering to each person and making each piece super special and super unique to them.”

Fashion and art are interchangeable at Zavala Bespoke, but what Zavala loves the most about working one-on-one with her clients is the little insights she feels she learns about each of her clients' lives. “One time I [worked] on a bag for someone who had lost their daughter, so I painted a beautiful floral element and then I added a turtle because her daughter loved turtles,” she says. “It just became this really important personal piece to her and was so special for me to paint.” It's times like this when Zavala really loves what she does. Turning ordinary accessories into extraordinary keepsakes with sentimental value ultimately means so much to everyone involved. It's a win-win! **OLW**



LAUREN ZAVALA

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zavalabespoke.com

LAUREN ZAVALA