

natural fibres

Ethical and Environmental... A Handmade Story

SPUN FIBRE ARTS TRIES OUR BEST TO BRING YOU PRODUCTS THAT positively affect our world. Even small things – like buying a ball of yarn – can have a major impact. We knitters and crocheters know how a simple ball of yarn can improve our lives and that of others, but we want to reach out beyond that. In a time of growing social awareness, consumers want to use products and wear clothing that reflects their values. By sourcing local or certified organic fair trade fibres, we ensure that you get the highest quality products and that farmers, producers and manufacturers all receive a fair wage in the supply chain. The product is ethical, flexible and stylish!

Two companies that reflect these values are Mirasol and Manos, both from South America, a continent with its share of poverty and inequalities. The philosophy behind each is very simple: they support local communities through the sales of their yarn.

Uruguay has a broad coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and is bordered by Brazil by Argentina. It is a small country consisting mostly of plains and some low lying hills where sheep and cattle graze. There are over 30 million heads of cattle and sheep and the breeding of these animals is the axis around which the countries economy revolves. Spinning and Dying are just two of these traditions.

Manos del Uruguay was founded in 1968 by a group of women aiming to promote economic and social development of women in Uruguay's countryside. They looked at the tools and raw materials they had at hand... wool and their traditional skills, in hopes of selling them in sophisticated markets to which they did not have access individually.

Manos is a non-profit organization owned and run by rural women. It encompasses 17 co-operatives of 400 women (with as many as 1,200 women during peak export periods) that are located in 40 small villages scattered among the countryside. The co-op makes it possible for families to stay together in their home towns and by providing women with economic independence and opportunities for personal growth.

The women spin, dye, knit and weave. Using ancient traditional skills, small groups of women hand spin the purest Uruguayan wool. However, Manos colours are their trademark. Their secret lies in the patent kettle-dyeing in small pots. Rational use of water and other resources is enforced and they avoid using harmful chemicals during the dyeing process. You can tell the provenance of each hank of yarn because the label is signed by the person who dyed it. When you

purchase this yarn you know exactly who is benefiting from the sale.

The Mirasol project is in Peru, on the west coast of South America and primarily benefits children (who are often the shepherds).

Peru's heritage and culture of textile artistry is rich and ancient. Animals have been tended for generations in the Peruvian highlands. Despite this, the people of the Andes are particularly disadvantaged – few can read or write, their health is poor and there has been no escape from the relentless poverty they experience... until now.

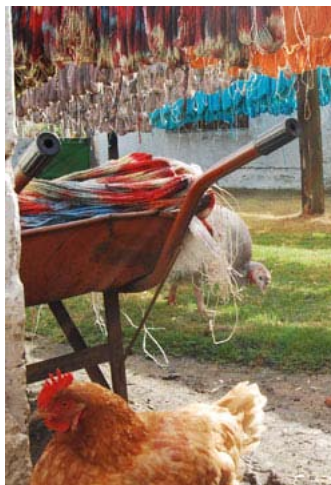
The Mirasol Project set up in 2006 to improve the future of disadvantaged children in Peru. It is named after a little girl called Mirasol who helps tend a herd of 3,000 alpaca high in the sierras of the Peruvian Andes for the Mallkini ranch. The Mirasol Project is based on Fair Trade where producers receive a price which covers the cost of sustainable production plus an extra premium that is invested in social or economic development projects to benefit the producers. By purchasing the Mirasol Yarn Collection you are supporting the shepherds and their families ensuring the continuation their tradition plus a portion of every purchase goes directly to the funding of a centre in the remote area of Munani in the region of Puno. Money already raised has been put to good use. The Mirasol Boarding-House is already operating as a School for 45 children. The architectural design of the boarding-house makes use of local materials and know-how and is in keeping with the cultural traditions.

Typically the educational standards of the rural Quechua-speaking children have been behind those of children from the towns but the Mirasol children are already showing signs of improvement partly because provision is made for them to be taught in both Quechua and Spanish and they are gaining confidence. One of the older children recently did well in a mathematics competition and some of the small children won a singing and dancing contest. The children's health is also of

paramount importance as a child in poor health cannot take advantage of educational opportunities and the Mirasol children were first in the district to complete the full course of hepatitis vaccines.

Raul Rivera, representing the Mallkini ranch says, "It has taken just three years to fulfil a dream that we hardly dared believe in but time and time again, we are showed that dreams can be fulfilled. If you really want something you can move a mountain."

We can all make a difference.



Manos yarn hanging to dry



Knitting at The Mirasol Boarding-House

latest issues

We carry the latest issues of *Interweave* magazines – *Knits*, *Crochet*, *Spin-Off* and *Knit Scene* – plus Australia Knitting and *Debbie Bliss*.



Sizes of Needles

METRIC (MM)	US	UK/CANADIAN
2.0	0	14
2.25	1	13
2.75	2	12
3.0	–	11
3.25	3	10
3.5	4	–
3.75	5	9
4.0	6	8
4.5	7	7
5.0	8	6
5.5	9	5
6.0	10	4
6.5	10 ½	3
7.0	–	2
7.5	–	1
8.0	11	0
9.0	13	00
10.0	15	000
12.0	17	–

Store Hours

Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10 am to 5 pm
Wednesday	10 am to 5 pm
Thursday	10 am to 5 pm
Friday	10 am to 8 pm
Saturday	10 am to 4 pm

Off Balance Beanie

MATERIALS: 2 balls Diamond Luxury Bamboo Cotton
4.5 mm needles
Tapestry needle

DIRECTIONS:

Cast on 100 stitches
Row 1 – (k2, p2) Repeat to end of row.
Row 2 – as row 1
Row 3 – p1, (k2, p2) Repeat () to last 3 stitches, k2, p1.
Row 4 – as row 3
Row 5 – (p2, k2) Repeat to end of row.
Row 6 – as row 5
Row 7 – k1, (p2, k2) Repeat () to last 3 stitches, p2, k1.
Row 8 – as row 7
Repeat Rows 1 to 8 until 42 rows have been completed in total.
Row 43 – p1, (k2, p2tog) Repeat () to last 3 stitches, k2, p1. 76 stitches.
Row 44 – (k1, p2) Repeat () to last stitches, k1.
Row 45 – k1, (p1, k2tog) Repeat () to end of row. 51 stitches

pattern to try



Row 46 – (p1, k1) Repeat () to last stitch, p1.
Row 47 – (p2tog, k2tog) Repeat to last 3 stitches, p2tog, k1. 26 stitches
Row 48 – (p1, k1) Repeat () to end of row.
Row 49 – (k2tog, p2tog) Repeat () to last 2 stitches, k2tog. 13 stitches
Row 50 – (k2tog, p2tog) Repeat to last stitch, k1. 7 stitches
Draw up remaining stitches and secure.
Sew up back seam, and Voila!!

A Danielle Comeau Design for Spun Fibre Arts Inc.

“ No one has ever been killed or maimed by being adventurous with knitting, no matter how pointy the needles. ”

New in the store...

Nantucket Bag

perfect knitting bag

The ultimate, multi-purpose tool bag that's reversible and convertible. It can be carried like a tote, over the shoulder, across the body or like a backpack. The best part... you can find what you put in it!



Vintage Buttons

like jewels on your project

Sourced and carefully cleaned by hand so you can have the perfect finish for your knitted or crocheted projects. Also included are instructions for the perfect way to sew on a button.



Knit Kit

it's all together and compact

Includes a crochet hook, scissors, tape measure, stitch counter, thread cutter and stitch markers. Everything you need to take your project on the go... is TSA compliant for use on airplanes.

