

Issue No.14

CREATIVE LIFE MAGAZINE

Inspired reading for creative hands



IN THIS ISSUE



**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
SCULPTOR - WICK AHRENS**

PAGE 36 BLOG SPOT

PHOTOGRAPHY, JEWELLERY
LAMPWORK, FASHION, TRAVEL
PLUS COOKING + XMAS
PROJECTS FOR YOU TO MAKE

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS IN THIS ISSUE...

UK PHOTOGRAPHER TOM COOK & PSYCHOLOGIST
NELLY MARIA OSMA ROJAS - EXPLORE COLOMBIA!
BRITISH RECYCLING DESIGNER CATHERINE POTTER
POLISH FELTER GALINA BLAZEJEWSKA-GALAFILC
AMERICAN BAG DESIGNER STACEY PIGNATORY
AUSTRALIAN LASER DESIGNER MATTHEW MOREY
AUSTRALIAN CERAMIC ARTISTS ANNA-MARIE
WALLACE AND BELINDA WEARNE



CHILDREN LIVING IN THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS

THOMAS COOK'S CREATIVE INTEREST IS PHOTOGRAPHY. **TURN TO PAGE 16** TO READ ABOUT HIS RECENT ADVENTURE IN THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS WITH HIS TRAVEL COMPANION AND FRIEND, PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST NELLY MARIA OSMA ROJAS.



JOAN GORDON EDITOR IN CHIEF



**CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY
TURN TO PAGE 38!**

Hello,

Welcome to our November issue of **Creative Life Magazine**. As featured on our front cover, we bring you on **Page 8** an exclusive interview with **Wick Ahrens**, world renowned marine life sculptor. Wick, lives his life creatively and with passion. This image, featuring him with one of his amazing sculptures perfectly illustrates his zest for life and his work.

In this issue you'll find interviews and blogs from artists, designers and makers who are passionate about what they do and how they live. Our new title embraces this ethos.

We offer a broad range of articles that focus on creative disciplines that include sculpture, felting, ceramics, jewellery, laser and lampwork. We also talk with designers who make a living from designing handbags and recycled fabrics. For those interested in photography and travel don't miss **Thomas Cook's** beautiful images from his latest adventures in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and **Richard Walsh's** advice on taking photographs of children.

Please get in touch if there's a topic, person, place or skill you'd like more information on. We appreciate your continued support and hope you enjoy, Creative Life Magazine. Warm regards,

Joan

Email: creativelifemagazine@gmail.com

CREATIVE LIFE MAGAZINE

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PAGE 8 – VERMONT USA

WICK AHERNS **SCULPTOR**

Like the national treasure artists of Japan, Ahrens produces only a few pieces each year. Completely original yet authentic reproductions of various species result. His work is represented in MBNA America bank, in other private collections at Newport RI, Aiken SC, Pt. Reyes CA, Berkeley and Los Angeles, as well as public museums and galleries. He is a member of the Copley Society of Boston and the Society of Animal Artists.



PAGE 12 – POLAND

GALINA BLAZEJEWSKA – GALAFILC **FELT ARTISAN**

Galina lives in Poland near the Baltic Sea coast. Currently she is focused on combining various unusual techniques into challenging projects. Her designs express a visual interpretation of Nature's creations. She takes natural elements and blends them together with soft and warm to the touch, felt. Her work is unique but it is recognizable in that she makes wearable designs that are very different from the street chaos that surrounds us.



PAGE 16 – UK

THOMAS COOK **PHOTOGRAPHER**

Tom's creative interest is photography. On a recent trip to Colombia, he ventured into the Sierra Nevada Mountains with his friend Nelly Maria Osma Rojas. As Nelly is considered to be an honorary member of the tribe they were very privileged to be allowed to stay in the home of a Chieftain. For four days they lived without electricity, running water or the usual sanitary conditions we Westerners take for granted. It was a life enhancing experience.



PAGE 24 – AUSTRALIA

ANNA-MARIE WALLACE + BELINDA WEARNE CERAMIC ARTISTS + DESIGNERS

Anna-Marie and Belinda both live in Queensland, Australia, where they grew up, halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast in the semi-rural region of Logan. Logan is abundant with Australian flora and fauna and also rich in cultural diversity. The Australian lifestyle, with such easy access to bush, beach and mountain, has always been a source of inspiration to both ladies which is very evident in their striking ceramic creations. Their attention to detail and bias toward organic and minimalist design brings contemporary interpretation to the ancient artform of saggar fired ceramics.



PAGE 29 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, USA

STACEY PIGNATORE DESIGNER + BAG MAKER

Born and raised in beautiful Southern California, Stacey is currently living only a few miles from where she grew up. She is a busy wife and a mother of two. Needless to say, there is never a dull moment in her life! Stacey is a self-taught sewer and often uses patterns designed by other makers in her creations. Every once in a while she finds time to create her own purse patterns and designs, which she finds exhilarating. Her love for floral fabrics and experimenting with different patterns, fabrics and embellishments is the driving force behind her work. Amongst her collection of bags her favourites include the kiss-lock clutches, medium flower totes and her jewellery rolls.



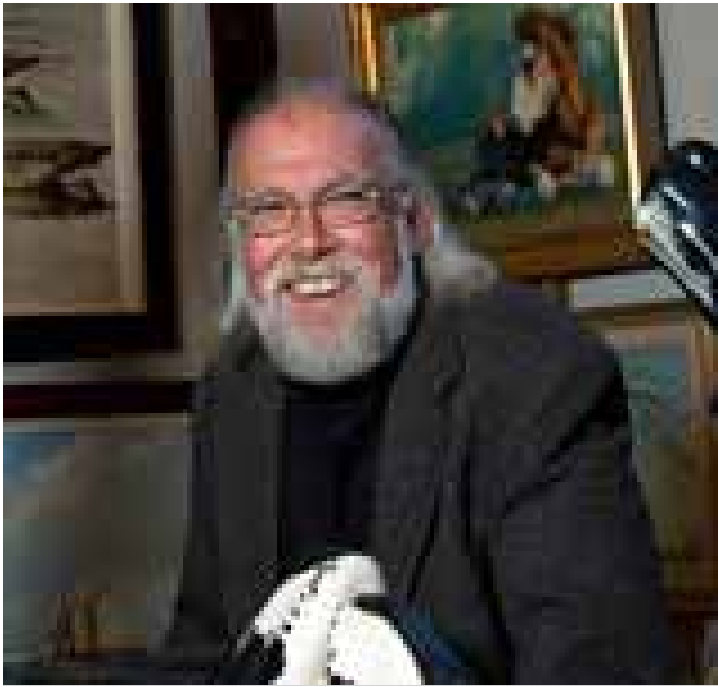
PAGE 32 – UK

CATHERINE POTTER RECYCLING DESIGNER

Catherine has been running her own crafting business from home for several years, concentrating on up-cycling or re-purposing previously-loved fabrics and trim – worn cotton shirts, buttons, off-cuts of felt, ribbons and carrier-bag cords – which are transformed into individual unique pieces. Catherine recently left the world of children's publishing to fulfil her creative instincts, specialising in up-cycling. Buttons, men's shirts and luxury fabric from the 'not-quite-good-enough-for-vintage frocks' category all find their new existence at Catherine's hands. She is aiming for Eco Elegance!

SCULPTOR WICK AHRENS





SCULPTOR WICK AHRENS

Wick Ahrens had been sculpting whales for two years, working in cabinetry to support his obsession with sea-going mammals, when he took the plunge. He went to sea in Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Ahrens studied gray whales during their annual retreat from Alaska for mating and calving. In San Ignacio Lagoon, a 40-foot whale allowed the artist to stroke its throat -- an encounter which transformed Ahrens's life and, of course, his work. Not long thereafter, he was commissioned to sculpt an 18 foot whale for permanent display in the Coyote Point Museum -- the world's largest wooden cetacean -- completed in 1985.

Like the national treasure artists of Japan, Ahrens produces only a few pieces each year. Completely original yet authentic reproductions of various species result. His work is represented in MBNA America bank, in other private collections at Newport RI, Aiken SC, Pt. Reyes CA, Berkeley and Los Angeles, as well as public museums and galleries. He is a member of the Copley Society of Boston and the Society of Animal Artists. Here he chats with our editor Joan Gordon.

Your love for marine life has obviously inspired your sculptural work Wick. To swim with the whales must have been exhilarating. What is it like to be so

close and intimate with such massive mammals? Did you feel in danger at any time?

Awe inspiring for sure and no, I did not feel threatened by these great mammals, but one does need some common sense. I was always with scientists and did what I was told.

Is there any one particular experience that stands out as totally unforgettable, from when you were studying these beautiful creatures in the wild?

Yes. While in Baja, Mexico observing Gray whales in San Ignacio Lagoon we had a 40 foot female put her snout on our raft and let several of us stroke her throat. The experience changed my life.

Has sculpting always been your creative passion?

Not really. I was trained as a painter but always found painting rather pain full :-). I tried to copy a whale carving some 40 years ago and I immediately felt at home working in three dimensions rather than two.

Did you study this discipline over a period of years or are you self taught?

I really don't know what the hell I'm doing, so I guess self taught but I must give credit to several art schools that I was asked to leave; Vesper George School of Art in Boston, Massachusetts, and the San Francisco Art Institute.

Looking at these stunning sculptures it's hard to believe that they're not real. Translating a sketch or painting into a finished piece must be incredibly complex. What is the process behind creating these masterpieces?

It all happens in a second. The idea, the concept, the whole shebang!!! I'm sure any artist will say the same. The rest is just following instructions (from your brain). Sometimes I will make a conceptual model from clay sometimes just sketches. I always work from actual whale measurements. I create drawings of the skeleton including top and side views.

INTERVIEW CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Is there a particular wood that you prefer to work with and what properties do you look for in your material to ensure the high quality and longevity of your sculptures?

Most always I use Bass wood which carves like butter. It is strong and also fairly light and takes paint well.

What is the greatest challenge in your work history that you have faced?

Would have to be a commission that my wife and I accepted in 1984 to sculpt a 18 foot Gray whale and calf for a Museum in California. I think it is the largest wood whale ever made.

Throughout your artistic career you must have met some fascinating people. Is there anyone who has been particularly influential or inspirational?

Of course; my mentor of all time was a man Named Clarke Voorhess. He carved whale wall plaques and wood Dulcimers. He sold everything he made and I wanted to be just like him. I bought a whale carving

from him in 1963. I tried to copy it 10 years later. It came out poorly, so I realized I should find out what a whale looked like. I started hanging out with the critters and making friends with whale scientists.

What do you enjoy most about where you live and the people who surround you?

Vermont is a very beautiful place in the world. I love the dramatic change of the four seasons. You get a real sense of the world turning and rotating. I also am a country guy. Raised on a dairy farm, I like my neighbour to live at least a mile away.

The world is your oyster, are there any pearls you have yet to discover?

Not sure, I live one day at a time.





If you would like to see more of Wick's work, please visit his website and gallery. His contact details are listed below.

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FELT ARTISAN GALINA BLAZEJEWSKA





GALINA BLAZEJEWSKA



FELT ARTISAN

GALINA BLAZEJEWSKA

Hi, my name is Galina. I live in Poland near the Baltic Sea coast. Currently I'm focused on combining various unusual techniques into challenging projects.

My designs express a visual interpretation of Nature's creations. I take natural elements and blend them together with soft and warm to the touch, felt. My work is unique but it is recognizable in that I make wearable designs that are very different from the street chaos that surrounds us.

Felting allows me to dive into the magical world of handmade goods—everything is possible here. As if by magic almost any shape can appear in one's hands from what was originally, formless pieces of wool. I let the flow of images, created in my mind, flow into my hands producing reality.

In her interview with Joan, Galina answered the following questions.

How did your creative career path as a felt artisan evolve?

My first acquaintance with felt began six years ago. I saw a blog of my classmate who lives in Sweden. She posted images of interesting scarves made with a technique that was unknown to me at that time. I was so curious that I started to greedily absorb details of this technique and asked a friend to explain what was involved in felting. I bought some wool and tried to make my first flower and a scarf. It was difficult to find good felting materials in Poland at this time. Since then many changes have occurred. I am always searching for new information about materials, wool and methods. The more sophisticated the techniques I see, the more I want to try them with my hands.

Is there is one particular person who was influential in advancing your skills in this environment?

Apart from my classmate, who was my first felting teacher, I research the work of other felt artists on a daily bases, learning and gaining inspiration from their work.

As an artist where do you find inspiration for your designs?

I live in a village not far from the Baltic Sea. Watching the changing of the seasons will never bore me. I love the changing colour palettes as autumn changes into winter. I gain my inspiration

INTERVIEW CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

from nature and have studied how bare branches are bending in winter, how petals and flowers bloom in the spring and summer. Everywhere I look provides me with inspiration.

How would you describe your style of work? Is there a particular technique that is peculiar to your designs?

The technique that I use is called wet felting. Wool exposed to soapy water becomes pliable material. It is easy to shape it into two and three dimensional pieces. I also produce various textures by working different wool fibres with fabric such as silk. When the wool fibres penetrate the fabric the original material takes on a totally new texture and pattern which is an exciting process. Connecting wool with various fibres and materials can give me unlimited design possibilities. I love producing unusual surfaces. In my designs you will find wool worked into silk, cotton and linen fabrics. I also use a variety of different yarns, fibres and lace.

What workshops are currently on offer at your studio?

Currently, I have been offering felting courses which follow a summery theme. We have been producing dresses using a cotton base and scarves that are worked on silk. As we move into autumn I am offering winter accessories which include gloves and hats.

What type of fleece do you use and what are the special characteristics that make using these wools preferable over others?

Each type of wool has specific characteristics for example for thin scarves worked on silk and cotton I prefer fine, Australian Merino wool. For slippers, bags and wall panels I choose thicker wool, simply because it holds its shape better. I'm in love with grey and brown fleece and use these often in my designs.

What has been the most challenging design you have worked on to date?

During the last six years I worked on several designs that were especially difficult. They were difficult in terms of the fact that I was combining a wide variety of techniques to produce one big project. For example, last year I created a coat with a fish and seaweed pattern. That long coat was made without seams. It featured impressive puffed sleeves and a high collar which was made to look like an ocean wave. The coat was decorated with sea life, shells and underwater world decorations. This year I made a 'panno' on the wall called "Fruit Impression". This work was also made seamless. All the multi-dimensional shapes were created using interlocks.

Are you a member of any felting groups or guilds? If so

would you please tell us about the benefits of belonging to one?

Currently I am not a member of any felting guild. Actually I am a member of a City Hall group called Textiles Art. As a member of this group, I can participate in exhibitions and fairs that take place in our city and country. We paint in the open air, and organize courses.

When you need some serious 'Me Time', how do you spend it?

Me time is spent with my camera out in the country-side or happily producing a painting.



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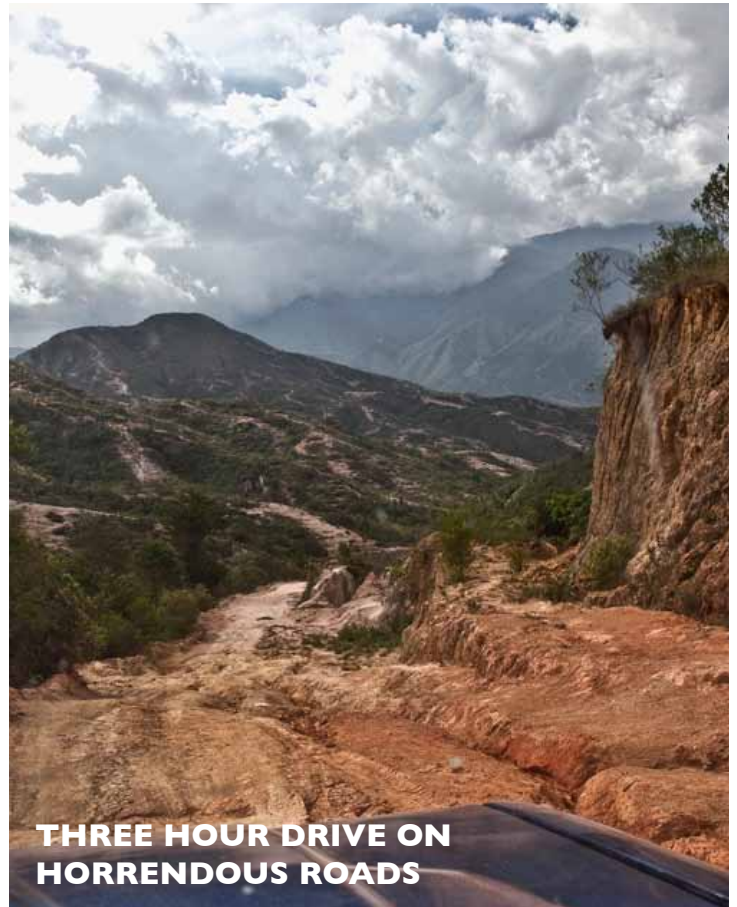


FEATURE ARTICLE

EXPLORING THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS



TOM IN THE CHIEF'S HOUSE



THREE HOUR DRIVE ON HORRENDOUS ROADS

PHOTOGRAPHER THOMAS COOK

Hello, my name is Thomas Cook, my creative interest is photography. I am a friend of Joan Gordon, the editor of this magazine and her husband Andrew. In fact we live in the same village in Llantrisant Wales. After showing Joan photos of my latest trip to Colombia she asked if I would share them and some information about my trip with her readers. Now that I've started blogging I'm finding that I enjoy writing about my experiences as it makes my photographs more meaningful. The following article that commences on page 20 is by Nelly Maria Osma Rojas with whom I shared this adventure. I hope you enjoy our articles and if you'd like to get in touch my contact details are listed below.

My trip to Colombia probably started six months ago when I met Nelly on a website. We immediately struck up a very good friendship, despite the language problem. I speak English and she speaks Spanish. Nelly invited me to Colombia for a holiday, so I combined my yearly trip to the USA to see my son with an extra three weeks in Colombia.

I left for Colombia from the USA on July 11th with a mixture of excitement and trepidation after having been told of the many dangers of travelling in Colombia. As it turned out it wasn't a problem because I was very well looked after by Nelly, her friends and family. Within less than ten days after my arrival, I had come to realize that the Colombian people are some of the loveliest people I had ever met and I have become lifelong friends with many of them.

Before I describe my journey I think I should explain



FEATURE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

a little more about Nelly who prompted me to travel to Colombia and take the arduous journey to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Nelly is quite a remarkable woman. She is a professional psychologist who has spent a considerable amount of her time and money over the past twenty-seven years giving assistance to the indigenous tribes of Colombia. She has helped them survive in the harsh environment in which they choose to live. Nelly is also one of the leading authorities on the history and culture of the tribes and indigenous people in Colombia. She supports them in their efforts to sustain their way of life and in fact, to survive against all odds.

The journey to the Sierra Nevada Mountains is costly, arduous and takes a full day to get there from her home. Nelly has done this journey many times, sometimes twice a year at her own cost and in her own time while holding down a full time professional job. She sometimes stays for long periods of time and lives as the tribes live, which I can tell you from experience, is hard for someone who is not used to living under such basic conditions.

When visiting these people, she brings with her very much needed provisions and carries out any training and medical help that she is capable of doing. She is loved and well respected by the members of the tribes and it was because of Nelly that I was granted the privilege of being allowed to live amongst them for a few days. With their consent I was also permitted to photograph them in their own environment.

I never could have imagined just how difficult that it would be, just to get there.

We started at 4.30 am with a three hour taxi drive to Bogota airport where we flew to Bucaramanga airport. Here we were met and taken to Nelly's sister's home for a wonderful couple of days, based in the lovely town of Zapatoca. This was a very enjoyable interruption to our journey.

To proceed on to the mountains as planned, we had to fly back to Bogota and from there we flew to Barranquilla. On our arrival we then had a half hour taxi ride to the bus station where we boarded a bus that would take us on a five hour journey to Valledupar. Here we stopped and stayed in a hotel overnight as we were too late to catch the connections to the final drive up to the encampments.

Next morning, we had to take a taxi to link us up with yet again another taxi, for a one and a half hour drive to Pueblo Bella town. This town is on the edge of the mountains. On arriving into Pueblo Bella we were picked up by a 4x4 jeep driven by a 17 year old indigenous young man.

To give you a full visual picture of how grueling all this traveling was, during all these journeys of flights, taxis, buses and jeeps, there were myself, Nelly, Sue the interpreter, Nelly's dog with travelling cage, often other passengers, all our private luggage and a mountain of presents and aid collected by Nelly over





ANITA WITH HER CHILDREN

the previous few months that she wished to give to the tribes people.

Our final leg of the journey in the jeep was the three hour trek up into the mountains on the most horrendous roads I have ever experienced. I have to say that our young driver was absolutely brilliant and got us there safely.

We were met by Anita and three of her children. She arranged for help to take our luggage to our living accommodation for our stay in the Main Chiefs house. He is the leader of the Arhuaco tribe. As Nelly is considered to be an honorary member of the tribe we were very privileged to be allowed to stay in his home. Here I lived without electricity, running water or the usual sanitary conditions we Westerners take for granted. It was a life enhancing experience.

I have written this blog as an introduction to the following article written by Nelly about the lives and principles of the Indigenous Tribes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Colombia. It is hoped that our stories will help to convey an understanding of the problems that these tribes face day to day. We aim to reach a much wider audience and encourage others to support these people in their endeavors to survive in their world in way that is fitting to their culture.

A more detailed description of my adventure and pictures is being produced in my blogs, details of which are below.

Safe travels,
Tom



TOM & NELLY WITH THE CHIEFTAINS

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TRIBES OF SIERRA NEVADA MTS





The following, is an English translation of an article written by Nelly Maria Osma Rojas. Nelly writes about the lives and principles of the Indigenous Tribes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Colombia.

Motivated by humanitarian feelings and scientific curiosity, I first visited the SIERRA NEVADA and the KOGUI ethnic group, in 1987. Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, is an independent mountain range of the Andean system rising up to 5.775 meters from the ocean, and it constitutes a unique ecosystem in the world. It was a historical site of cultures that achieved a vast development and left significant vestiges before disappearing under the Spanish invasion. It is currently inhabited by the following ethnic groups: Arawak, Kogis, Arzarios and Kankuamos.

ORGANIZACIONAL STRUCTURE

The Mamos or Chiefs represent an unquestionable spiritual power, and nothing is done by the Indigenous people without his mediation or advice. Their majestic discourses not only teach through

observation and knowledge but are true ethical expressions of coexistence. Currently the Mamos and other community leaders are rescuing the history and tradition of their ancestral culture.

ARHUACO HEALTH - DISEASE CONCEPT

The Mamos recommend living in harmony with the cosmos, to look after the hills, their families, animals, share and serve, forgive and not hate. The upsetting of the existing balance in the Sierra comes from not respecting the traditional laws left by Kakua Serankua (God), and it results in diseases for men, animals and nature. The Mamos make protections (aseguranzas) and compensations (Pagamentos), seeking to re-establish the balance, in order to heal.

BODY CONCEPT

For the Indians, our body does not admit fragmentation; it is a universe in miniature.

HOUSING

Family is the main basis of society, with duties and

FEATURE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

rights. They are monogamous and jealously guard their customs and traditions and share some secrets only with the people who are close to them.

RECREATION

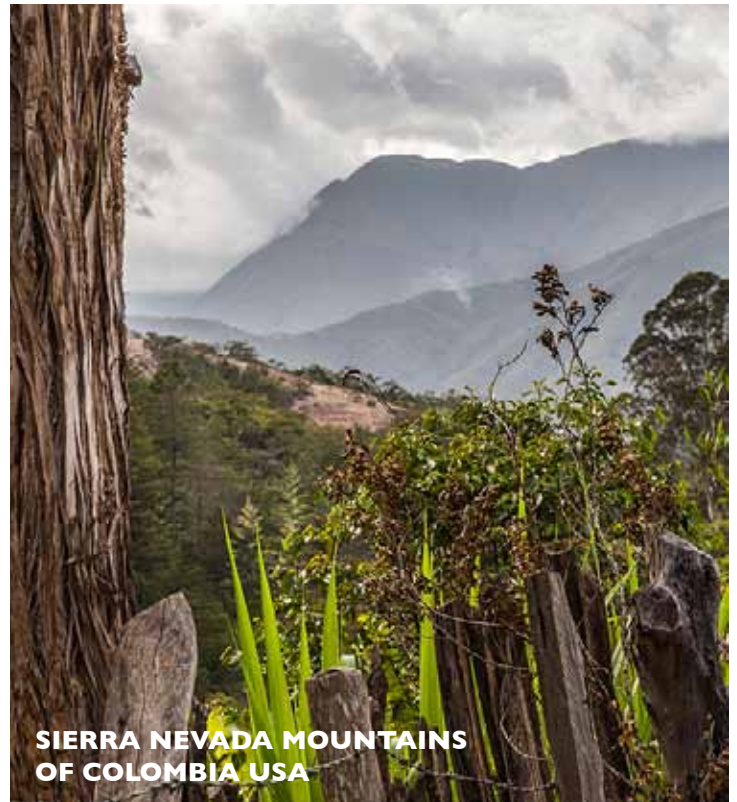
Recreation is basic: The whole family gathers, including their animals, to do diverse activities, according to their culture. They also pick their lice from among themselves.

TEMPLE

It is like man's body or man's body is like the Kankurua.

KANKURUA;

The highest part is like our thoughts. The circumference holding the architecture is like our ribs. It has a middle part that is like our waist, arms and legs. The upper part (sticks), is like our nose.



SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS
OF COLOMBIA USA



NELLY WITH INTERPRETER SUE
OFFER THEIR BLESSING



Are you a member of the International Feltmakers Association? If not, why not? Join now to promote your work, network with talented people from all over the globe, exchange knowledge, learn new skills and share your passion for felt making. Visit their website now for more information and grow your international connections.

INTERNATIONAL FELTMAKERS ASSOCIATION (IFA)

BACKGROUND TO THE IFA

The IFA was formed in 1984.

It has three aims:

- to foster worldwide interest in felt
- to promote members' work
- keep members in contact with one another for exchange of knowledge and ideas.

It currently has over 700 members across the world, including the UK, Europe, Australia and the USA. The members are a diverse group, encompassing professional craftspeople and textile artists, art/craft/textile teachers and leisure feltmakers for whom feltmaking is a hobby. Their interests range from the historical and anthropological aspects of felt to felt as an artistic and creative medium.

The principal benefits of membership are:

- The quarterly journal 'Felt Matters'.
- Regional meetings and workshops in the UK; with an International Officer representing non-UK members.
- Access to the members' only area of the website and the IFA Facebook group.
- Access to the IFA Certificate in Felt Techniques (Foundation).
- Occasional supplier discounts and the chance to submit work to IFA exhibitions.

More information about the IFA can be found on our website.

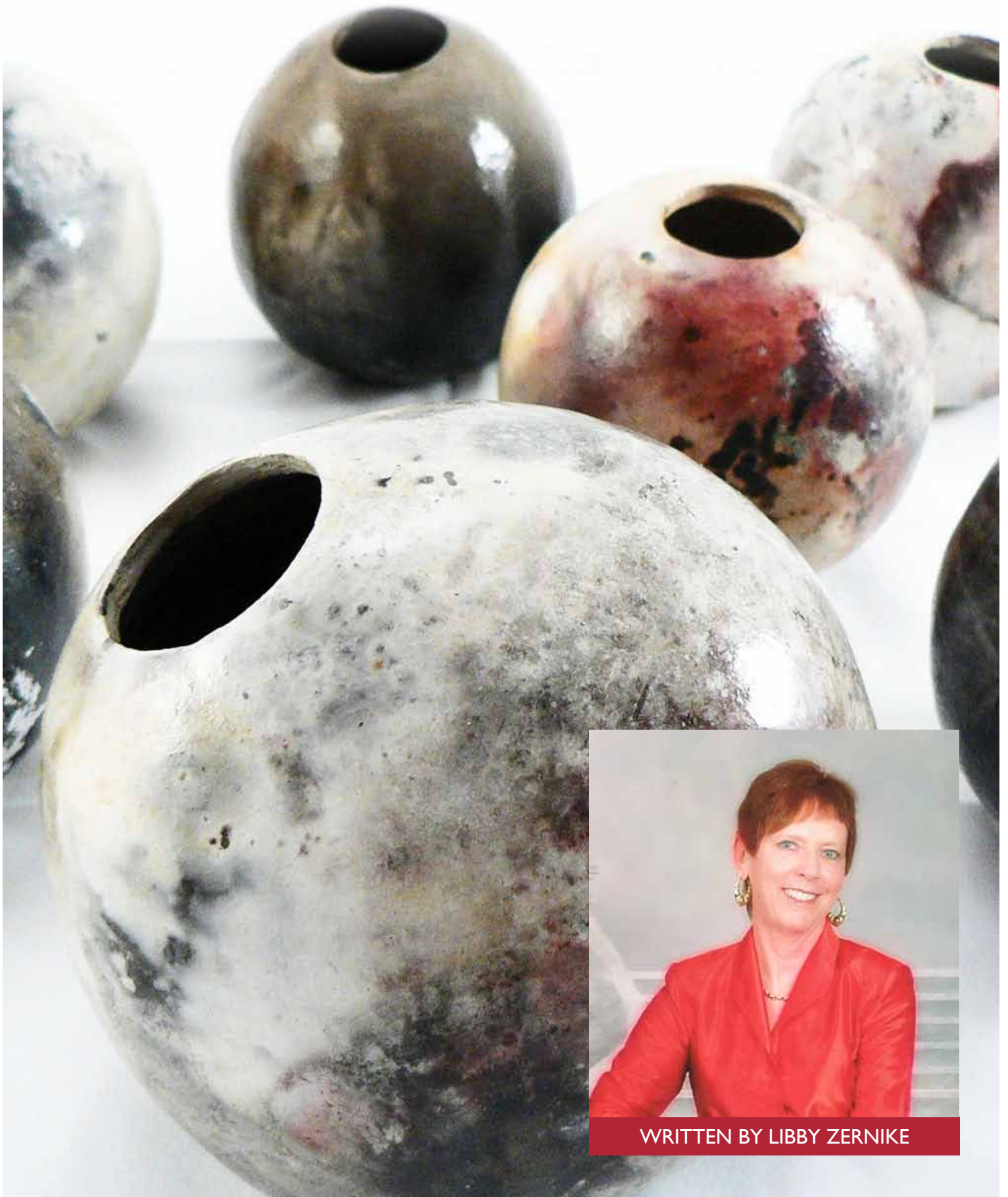
CONTACT DETAILS:

W www.feltmakers.com or Facebook/International Feltmakers Association.



AUSTRALIAN CERAMIC ARTISTS

ANNA-MARIE WALLACE + BELINDA WEARNE



WRITTEN BY LIBBY ZERNIKE

**ANNA-MARIE WALLACE +
BELINDA WEARNE**



AUSTRALIAN CERAMIC ARTISTS

ANNA-MARIE WALLACE + BELINDA WEARNE

From Queensland Australia, Elizabeth Zernike shares with us her recent interview with Anna-Marie Wallace & Belinda Wearne who are the co-founders of Made OF Australia. They are Brisbane based artists and designers.

Although the girls met at high school, it was only after several years of amassing design experience separately that they reunited with a shared vision to connect three of their passions; community, art and design. As a result Made OF Australia was conceived.

Please share a little of your artistic journeys that led you to your present enterprise.

BW – For both of us, art and creativity have always been a large part of our lives. We have worked in and on all manner of creative projects, both together and separately. Whatever other interests we've had, wherever in the world we've been; art has been our constant and our therapy.

AMW – At present we are focusing on Made OF Australia, because the concept is such a simple but



INTERVIEW CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

effective way for us to pay homage to the earth, in particular the place that gave us such a strong sense of “home”, Australia, while giving visitors and locals an authentic, quality keepsake that isn't a mass produced or kitsch piece.

What are the products that feature in your current range?

BW – Our current range is comprised of various sized vessels and dishes in the homewares category, as well as pendants for necklaces, gorgeous beads and earrings. Some of our more unusual and popular jewellery items are the Cassowary, Platypus and Kata Tjuta lines.

AMW – We also make custom pieces, so if you are looking for something in particular for your shop or tailor made pieces, you can contact us to make that happen too. Don't be shy, we like new projects!

Saggar firing is a process that you use. What is saggar firing?

AMW – Saggar firing is quite an ancient process whereby the ceramic pieces are placed inside a purpose built container, called a saggar. The word is thought to be a contraction of “safeguard”, as originally this was done to protect the work from ash, airborne carbon and other debris produced in wood-fired kilns. Since the 20th century though the process has been used to do quite the opposite, the pieces are actually packed into saggars with minerals and combustible materials with the express purpose of making marks.

BW – There is a video of this process on our website if you'd like to see the magic happen. All of the organic matter, as well as the clays & minerals we use are found in the Australian landscape, which is what makes our pieces so authentically Australian; each and every one - Made OF Australia, is literally a piece of it.

What has been your greatest achievement?

BW – We were quite proud of ourselves for being selected to receive a competitive RADF grant (Regional Arts Development Fund). This grant funded our start up production earlier this year and gave us the opportunity to test the viability of our product.



Made **Of** Australia



AMW – Belinda and I have also had to become marketing gurus, website designers, product photographers, copy writers, editors and accountants in the process of creating our business.

What are your future plans for your business?

AMW – Firstly we need to set up our own facility, as presently we work out of community based art centres and hire the kilns, but obviously would like to be completely self-sufficient. We then hope to be producing enough of our products to provide work for other artists, hopefully via both local and overseas markets.

BW – Once we are autonomous, money making and have production in full swing we can focus our energies on more community work too. We are also talking about taking other Australian artists under our wing at that stage. There's no reason other products that fit the Made OF Australia brand and ethos can't benefit from our sales and distribution networks once established.

PHOTO CREDITS ANNA-MARIE WALLACE • MICHEL MARONDÉ • SARAH KEYS - QUEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS • JACQUELINE WACHTEL - CEREBRAL PALSY LEAGUE



For more information please link with us on our contact details that are listed below.

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DESIGNER + BAG MAKER
STACEY PIGNATORE



AQUA CHEVRON AND DONATION PIECE

DESIGNER + BAG MAKER

STACEY PIGNATORE

I am always on the lookout for talented people who use their creative talents to produce desirable accessories. Carolyn Calderon owner of The Purple Poncho, and one of the designers with whom we interviewed last month, put forward Stacey as a maker who, in her opinion, deserved the opportunity to have her work promoted through an interview with our magazine. After viewing some of Stacey's bags online I contacted her. In the following interview she shares something about herself and her lovely bags. By Joan Gordon

“Creating bags and purses isextremely relaxing for me!”

Born and raised in beautiful Southern California, I currently live only a few miles from where I grew up. I am a busy wife and a mother of two. Needless to say, there is never a dull moment here! I am a self-taught sewer, so I often use patterns in my creations. Every once in a while I am able to figure out my own purse pattern and design, which is exhilarating! I love floral fabrics and experimenting with different patterns, fabrics and embellishments. My favourite things are my kiss-lock clutches, medium flower totes and my jewellery rolls!

When did you first decide that you wanted to make handbags and purses?

I had wanted to make purses before my daughter was born. Two kids and about ten years later, I found a pattern for a bag made from a placemat. My Mom reminded me that making purses was something I had wanted to do, so I bought the supplies and tried it! Everyone I showed my bag



STACEY PIGNATORE



INTERVIEW CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

to loved it, so I made a few and started selling them!

Are you self taught or did you attend lessons to learn the necessary practical skills?

The only formal sewing lesson I ever had was in my 7th grade home economics class. I made a pair of shorts that were way too big! I think it's safe to say, I am a self-taught sewer!

What is going through your mind when you are creating?

If it is a new or original pattern I am working on, I am often trying to do my measurements correctly to achieve the desired finish. Most of the time I get really excited as I see cut pieces come together in a finished product. I have been known to change parts of a pattern, or change the linings of purses to make it easier for me to make, and more functional for the buyer.

Where do you find inspiration for your designs?

I get my inspiration from walking through a fabric store, being out in public, shopping, and from magazines. A lot of the time, I walk through a fabric store to purchase one thing and wind up purchasing fabrics that I find attractive. I often look at a fabric and see it already made up as a bag, clutch or jewellery roll. I can also look at patterns, or actual bags and accessories and can see how I want to make them better, or different in my mind.

How do you market your work?

I have a website on Etsy and a Facebook page. I also exhibit at about 7 or 8 craft shows a year. My repeat customers come and see me there. My friends are my biggest fans, and they purchase a lot from me to give as gifts, or for themselves. My business has grown mostly from word of mouth.

Is there a designer that you would love to meet and if so, who is it and why do you admire them?

I would absolutely LOVE to meet Amy Butler. I love her fabrics, and style. I think it's amazing



BAGS + JEWELLERY

that she can come up with her own fabric prints and patterns for all sorts of things. I think I could learn a lot from a chat with her, or even shadowing her for the day.

What is your favourite tool and what do you do with it?

My favourite tool is my Gingher scissors. They were my grandmother's, and they cut fabric really nicely. The entire family knows to keep their hands off that particular pair of scissors for daily home use!

When planning to make a new collection do you sketch the initial designs or work from an image or mood-board?

I have a few sketches, but with running a busy family, I don't often have time to work up my original designs. I often make changes in my head as I am going. Adding length here, trimming there and then changing the interior. I guess you could say it's a more organic approach.

What is the most difficult technique that you have mastered in bag construction?

Zippers were always the hardest for me. As soon as I learned how to work with them, my options opened right up!

Separate from bags and purses do you make other fashion accessories?

I created my own jewellery rolls, and I have also come up with what I call a 'note tote', which I sell at my shows.

What's currently on the drawing board?

I have some ideas for a bridal line. I would love to increase my bridal/evening/special occasion bag line and offer more ring bearer pillow/clutch sets.

If you could have three wishes granted what would they be?

I would love more time and more energy in a day to get everything done!

I would also love to design that one piece that everyone has to have!



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RECYCLING DESIGNER CATHERINE POTTER

RED CORDUROY CUSHION



WRITTEN BY LIBBY ZERNIKE

CATHERINE POTTER



RED CHEESECLOTH FRONT



RECYCLING DESIGNER

CATHERINE POTTER

Catherine lives in a London home with full time occupants now down to a husband, two cats, a son (sometimes) and a daughter (during student holidays only). A gently crumbling orangerie overlooking the leafy sunny back garden, and a dedicated room above, are Craft Central. A vintage haberdasher's glass-fronted 16-drawer cabinet has pride of place for storing and selecting the buttons and fabrics which always feature in Catherine's work. Clutch bags with Catherine's exquisite embroidery, over-sized Christmas stockings to hang, or soft-as-silk cotton duvet covers for cribs are all heritage pieces designed to be used and suffuse their own memories. Inspiration is drawn from the fabrics and buttons which come from a variety of sources. Catherine shares her story here with Australian correspondent, Elizabeth Zernike.

You have the creative ability to up-cycle, reuse and restore. What are the recycled materials that you use?

I use vintage and modern buttons for decoration, ribbons from cosmetic packaging or off cuts, worn-

CUSHION GRID SALMONSILVER



INTERVIEW CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

out 100% cotton shirts, barely-used cotton sheets, evening gowns and blouses, broken jewellery, fabric sample books from haberdashers and remnants.

What are the products that you create?

I make cushions, clutch bags, small purses, cot quilts, duvet covers, over-sized Christmas stockings for stuffing with little 'stocking-fillers', Advent Calendars to re-use every year and small hanging ornaments which can be used to decorate the home or Christmas Tree. I call them Fandangles (because they dangle and they are fantastic! I have recently ventured into bracelets and necklaces made from buttons.

Would you please tell us about your professional journey before you set up your business?

I previously managed the sales activity in a number of children's publishing houses. I am delighted to have the time to dedicate to something as creative and endlessly fascinating as crafting.

How do you market your products?

I take stalls at local craft fairs, markets and fetes, by word of mouth, and online on Etsy which is a great international market place.

What has been your greatest challenge to date and how did you resolve it?

It has probably been making the clutch bags and working out how to sew through eight layers of fabric and stiffener.

What do you consider to be your greatest recycling achievement?

I feel the greatest creative achievement so far has been the clutch bags: they are simply gorgeous, and the general reaction has been "Wow".

How are your products different from similar products on the market?

My particular joy is to re-craft fabric and decoration into something completely different from the ordinary, and marry them with other materials. Gorgeous heavy black silk from an evening gown becomes the lining for clutch bags with my own embroidery. Each piece is slightly different from the last one because each combination of buttons,

DUVET DOUBLE BLUE TOP



STOCKINGS

silks, fabrics and ribbons will be different. The embroidery patterns on the clutch bags are inspired by Florentine patterns. No two of my pieces are the same because I can't go out and buy another set of the same materials.

What are your future plans for your business?

Ensuring my work continues to evolve and attract a market without losing the uniqueness and refining and reusing the best elements of each piece as far as possible.

If you could choose any holiday destination in Europe, where would you choose?

Tuscany in late summer with family and friends.

CUSHION YELLOW/BLACK



CATHERINE WORKING



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PHOTO CREDITS CATHERINE POTTER + DANIELNEWTON

SPOTLIGHT ON YOU

In the following section of our magazine you'll find blogs from people who live their life in a creative way. Their blogs may relate to their craft, experiences or interests. If you have a story you'd like to have published that is relevant to living life creatively, email the editor and if space is available we'll print it in a future issue.

IN THIS ISSUE



RICHARD WALSH

PHOTOGRAPHER

One of my great loves in photography and imagery in general is space, not the interstellar space that surrounds our planet but the space around us all in our lives and in particular I love the way that space, and lots of it can enhance the way we look at people, everyday objects and events in our daily life.



ANNE MACLEOD CRISP

JEWELLERY MAKER & DESIGNER

I live in Lanzarote, Canary Islands. This island was part of Atlantis. I moved to this island 26 years ago. I love the volcanic, palm filled tranquillity of Lanzarote. Join me on facebook if you'd like to share your creative ideas, I'm always interested in seeing what other people are making and meeting new friends. My passion is jewellery and making jewellery using a variety of media.

**YAN FAHEY****WORLD TRAVELLER**

Over the past few years I decided to change how I live and follow my passion for travel. In my blogs I share my personal adventures as I explore the world. In this issue of Creative Life Magazine I share with you my most recent visit to Mallorca. In all my travels I have never felt so welcome and at home. It is a place so full of history, culture and entertainment.

**DEBBIE DEW****LAMPWORK ARTIST**

My bead making is constantly evolving as I try out new ideas but I guess my style is mostly simple classic lines, with the odd splash of novelty thrown in, I make beads very much as I make clothes. I play a lot at the torch, coming up with different themes. I make a lot of hollow beads. I make these when inspiration fails. I work with fine detail and often use dots as a basis for a design. Regular customers tell me they can recognise my beads from a picture. Whether that's from the colours I use most often or the actual style of a bead is anyone's guess.

**JULIA LEWIS****EXPLORER OF LIFE**

Fifty something and recently redundant from a job I once loved, I am now tentatively piecing together a new kind of life that focuses on people, experiences and creativity. Just a few weeks ago I took a late summer short trip with an old friend to south west France; I wanted to fulfil a long time wish to see the Cite de Carcassonne, although everything I had heard and read depicted the medieval citadel as a 'Disneyfied' tourist trap. This is my first blog, I enjoyed the writing process and hope to contribute more in future issues of My Creative Life magazine.

RJW PHOTOGRAPHY

TWO CHILDREN IN A CART



Feel free to contact me with any questions, I'm always happy to help.

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PHOTO CREDITS RICHARD WALSH

CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY + CHILDREN

Richard shares with us his latest photography tips for capturing natural shots of your little ones.

Children, those of us who have them love taking photographs of them. Very often though these photographs become portraits and do nothing to portray the essence of who and what those children are. My contention is that children need to be photographed doing what they do best...being kids!

It's true to say that some children love the camera and some others loathe it, unfortunately both these groups will often look and behave so differently to their 'normal' way of playing or behaving that the result can look like somebody completely different.

I have some quick tips that will help to improve the shots you take of children...especially those in your family.

- Have patience, children have their own 'clock' and need to do things in their own time.
- Be ready, always try to have your finger on the 'trigger' and anticipate what may happen next
- Get down to their level
- Using natural light whenever possible, flash when it is last resort
- Choose your focus and aperture settings carefully



BLOG SPOT

- Be a child again, even if it makes you look daft
- Let them run the session, don't try and control it, you won't be able to anyway.
- If they are not doing anything then give them something to do or play with.
- DO approach it from a perspective of having fun, not one of getting the best photos. The second is a product of the first

GET DOWN ON THEIR LEVEL

When you photograph little ones doing so from an adult perspective makes them look even smaller. Getting down to their level puts you more on equal ground. Get in the mud or sandbox with them, don't stand over top looking down. Crawl around on the floor and have some fun.

Get down to their level literally, and figuratively. You need also to get skilled at holding your camera and playing, colouring, or other interactive things with the child whilst holding and using the camera.

IT'S A SETUP

There is nothing wrong in setting up a shot so that you are truly prepared. Simply give the children the materials to use, tell them where to stand or sit, set the camera up on a tripod and let them go at it until you get the shot you were hoping for. The photo here of the girl with streamers is a classic example of how preparing and setting up the shot you want will give you a great finished result.

Try taking shadow shots and revive the Victorian art of Silhouette Picture making, I bet the parents of the children in my shadow shot will still recognise their child but the memory of the event will be a strong one



BLOG SPOT

despite not being able to see their face. It is easy to do simply turn off your flash and take the photograph against a strong light source like patio doors or set up a flash gun to fire on the other side of the models, try setting your camera on Black & White for extra impact.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A WHOLE KID

Sometimes the memory you want to keep is about what the child is doing or what they are playing with, like my image of Leo, he loves the plastic garage and plays with it all the time so my memory is about the joy and happiness that he got from playing with that object.

Have fun, I promise they will thank you for it sometime in the future when they want to show their children what they were like all those years ago.

CAN I TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF OTHER CHILDREN

The simple answer is yes, although the 1989 children's act does give special rights of privacy to those children who are 'at risk' this could mean wards of court and custody battle subjects for example. Whatever the legal position there is a strong feeling amongst adults that if you are taking pictures of children then you are a potential paedophile so take photographs with caution.

Legally I can take pictures of anyone I choose in the street. I can use them for news reporting or personal use. If I pose a specific model then I need a completed model release form to use the photos commercially.





DO YOU WEAR YOUR OWN JEWELLERY?

From Lanzarote, our international correspondent Anne MacLeod Crisp blogs about her fascination with jewellery.

I did a survey on Face Book with the 450 friends that I have, asking them if they wear their own jewellery or if they buy jewellery. I was happily surprised to find that well over 50% wear their own makes but if they buy, they buy from fellow artists. I bought a beautiful watch from Caroline Clarke, a couple of bracelets, a beautiful large silver cross and much more from fellow beaders and have received many fabulous items from friends as presents. Also from the survey, there are many who share my love of rings and I have received photos of the rings they bought for themselves for birthday treats.

Cathie remembers a gemstone cross she bought on a rare

weekend break with her sister and how it reminds her of the precious time spent together.

I wake up in the morning and look at my earrings display and decide from the colour of the earrings what clothes I am going to wear to match. I also have a passion for rings and I buy from the Chinese shops, of which there are many in Costa Teguse, any item that I like, that I know I am unable to make. The photo illustrated are just a few of the 135 rings I own.

The reason I can't make them is that I have not yet learnt how to work with metal but hopefully that day will come.

The ring above the orange spider was a present from Joan Gordon on her first visit to Lanzarote. It has a gold base and I added the opalite. They know me so well in the local Friday market that I now get a reduction on every ring I buy. The blue spikey ring on the right of the orange spider was bought from the local market as I was trying to keep up with modern trends.

In the survey Mandy Nash (jewellery and felt maker based in Llantrisant Wales), said that she likes to wear her own earrings as they are light and it also helps to sell her jewellery. I find that wearing my own pieces, makes it easier to explain to people what you do. Many is the time I have gone out shopping or to do some paper work in the Town Hall and ended up coming home with no bracelet, no earrings and sometimes no necklace as people have admired them and have either bought them off me or I have given them as presents.

Please look on Face Book at the fabulous jewellery made by Caroline Clarke, Mandy Nash, Jan Thompson-Beresford and Gill Doomgerbil Colling.

The photo featured here is of 'Yours Truly'. It was taken the other evening at a fancy dress party. To accessorise my outfit I wore two pearl necklaces that were sent to me as presents from Jo and Kathy, one of my large rings and a third pearl necklace that I bought from a shop in Costa Teguse.

Have a creative month and I look forward to sharing with you my New Year activities in beading and origami in January.

Anne

PHOTO CREDITS ANNE MACLEOD CRISP

BLOG SPOT

Selection of Jewellery Boxes & Stands **W** www.oliverbonas.com

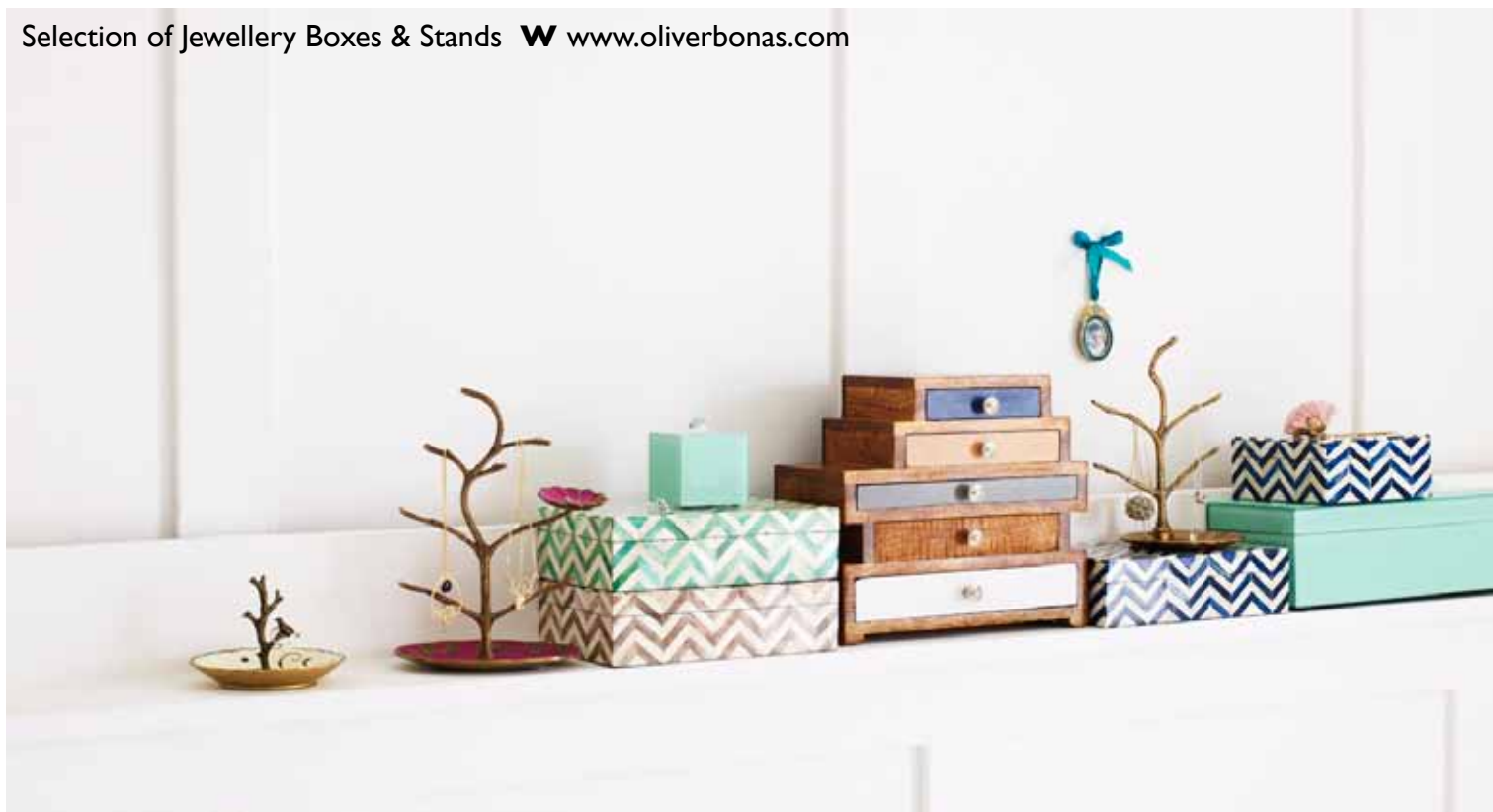


PHOTO CREDIT ANNE MACLEOD CRISP



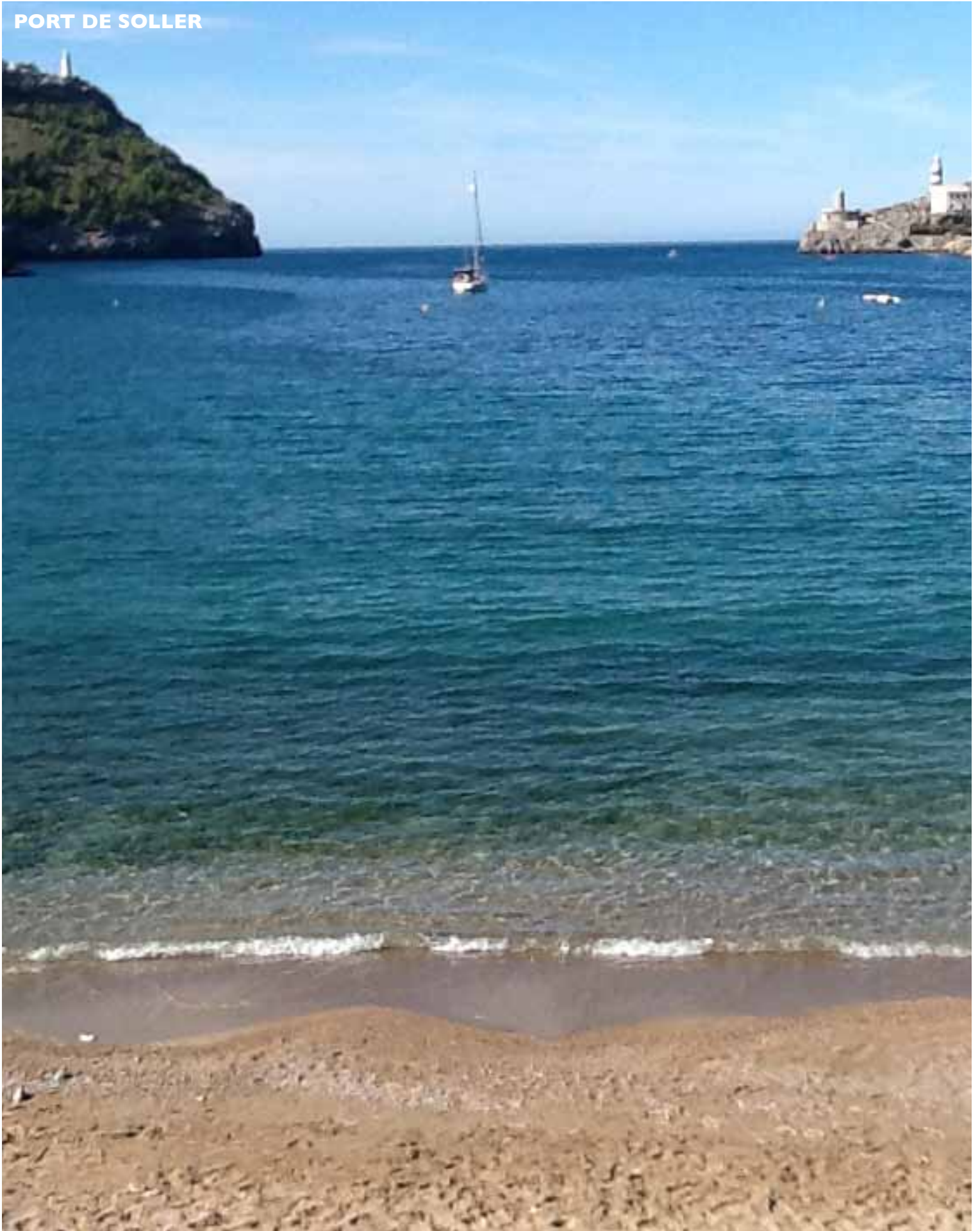
If you have any beading or jewellery making questions or wish to view and purchase any of Anne's beautiful jewellery, you'll find her contact details below.

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BLOG SPOT MALLORCA

PORT DE SOLLER



WATERFRONT WALK IN POLLENCA



YAN IS ON A 'CHANGE OF LIFE ADVENTURE', AND IS EXPLORING THE WORLD. SHE JOINS US THIS MONTH FROM MALLORCA.

Hola!

I have been asked a few times, 'where is my favourite place to visit' and I have never been able to name any one in particular, until I came to Mallorca. I've been here for three weeks and am thoroughly enjoying wandering around the old town in Palma with its fascinating narrow alleyways. There are a myriad number of tapas bars, galleries, second-hand designer clothes and chocolate shops. In fact, there are so many beautiful and colourful shops to poke your nose into, you are spoilt for choice.

I am renting a flat for a month in Cala Major which has a few good restaurants, particularly the Sapore Italian which offers views of the sea and excellent seafood. The waiters at the Sapore are friendly and the Tivoli is where I have great fun people watching. There is a very good, inexpensive bus service to Palma station from where I'm staying, where one may catch the Mallorcan buses to explore different parts of the island. Some buses run until midnight which makes enjoying dinner and the nightlife in

STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

RELAXING IN PALMA



STAIRS TO ANOTHER CAFE

BLOG SPOT

different towns, possible. Another form of public transport that I have really enjoyed travelling on is the wooden train that travels to a town called Soller. It was interesting travelling through the countryside viewing the olive, orange and lemon groves, palm trees and cacti, to arrive at a beach restaurant where I caught up with some friends for lunch.

The number of yachts and marinas here is something to see to believe, I've never seen so many in all my travels. One of my favourite past times is visiting yacht clubs and the Cala D'or is one of the best. They offer, delicious 3 course lunches for €12.50, served on the terrace overlooking the pool and marina.

I love walking. Here, there are many paths to wander along with beautiful views and also many safe paths for cyclists. A walk along the breakwater at Puerto Portals marina looking back over the hills and yachts and out towards the sea is one that I often take. Throughout this Island there are lane ways or steps to waterfront cafes overlooking crystal clear water where you'll find people sunning themselves or enjoying a drink and the vista.

After a day of exploring I enjoy resting my tired feet in one of the many alfresco restaurants, sipping sangria, eating olives and tapas whilst watching the passing parade of holiday makers, street acts and musicians. My other favourite spot is the fish and produce market in the centre of Palma where you can sit at one of several bars and enjoy a glass of wine whilst eating fresh oysters, tapas, paella or sushi.

Mallorca is beautiful, vibrant and clean. It's easy to get around and great for shopping. This is a destination where you are sure to relax.

It is one place that I will most certainly return to.

Until next issue,

Adios!

Yan x

THE CATHEDRAL IN PALMA

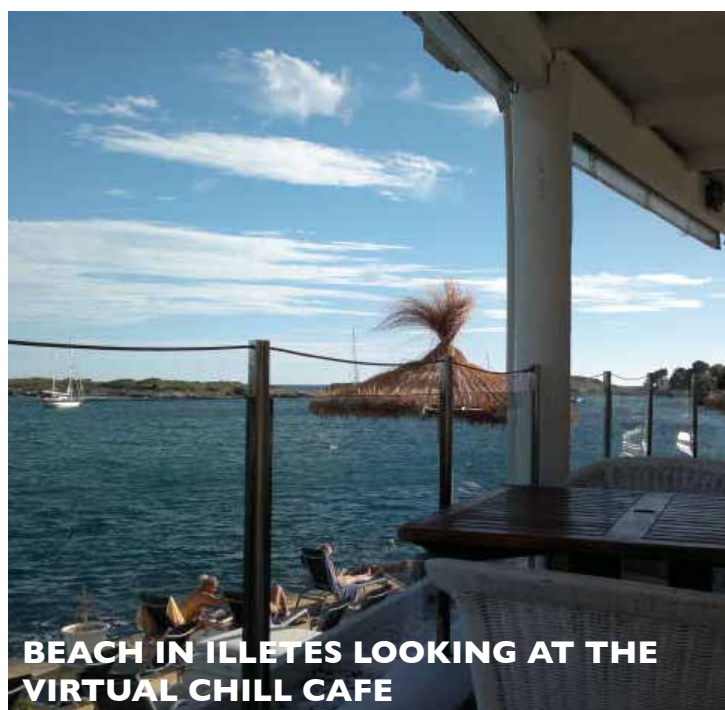


TRAIN FROM PALMA TO SOLLER

BLOG SPOT



EXPLORNG THE ALLYWAYS



BEACH IN ILLETES LOOKING AT THE VIRTUAL CHILL CAFE



CALA D'OR YACHT CLUB

TURN TO PAGE 70 TO VIEW YAN'S HEALTHY EATING, GOOD FOOD RECIPES.
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PHOTO CREDITS YAN FAHEY



LAMPWORK ARTIST DEBORAH DEW

INSPIRATION – WHERE DO YOU GET IT?

Deborah Dew is our resident lampwork correspondent. This month she blogs about finding inspiration for making desirable lampwork beads to sell at fairs. If lampwork ignites your mojo, make sure you check out her tutorial on page 64 & 65. In this tutorial she guides you step by step through the technique for making feather murrini.

It's that time of year again where I'm attending lots of fairs. This year I thought it would be nice to have some finished items on the table and it got me to thinking, which actually hurt quite a bit! As I was pondering, ideas on things I could make kept popping into my mind, but I felt it important to stick to a few basic ideas. I finally decided on a few things that could be sold at a price that would make them suitable to be given as gifts. For example, bottle openers, key-rings and pendants.

As I concentrated on my ideas for different styles of pendants, I eventually settled on putting tiny lampwork beads inside glass globes. Making

beads this small was quite a challenge as I usually work quite large, but once I got going, there was no stopping me. As illustrated in this article you can see my final design which I like and hope you do too.

Whilst in my creative mood, after I made the miniature beads I then went on to make lots of cheesy grin beads which I wrapped onto key-rings. To finish my time at the torch, I made some big barrel beads on larger mandrels and threaded them onto bottle opener blanks. Grouped together, they made a lovely display on the table.

Whilst on the subject of 'Inspiration', what instigated this blog was what someone said to me at last weekend's fair. When this person was looking at my beads they asked me 'where do I get my inspiration from?' Hmmm... good question, where do I get it from? This isn't an easy one for me to answer. Some people claim to get their inspiration from nature and the countryside around them. Others say it comes from a visit to the seaside but for me it isn't so straightforward. Sometimes ideas pop into my head in the middle of the night, other times I look at an array of glass rods and a colour combination strikes me or inspiration might ignite from a conversation about something completely different and this sparks an idea. Maybe the right answer is; I get my inspiration from anywhere and everywhere!

Wishing you lots of inspirational moments,
Debs

VIEW DEBS BEADS AT:

<http://79.170.44.81/silverartz.co.uk/>

www.makeglassbeads.co.uk/Reviews.html

www.britishlampwork.co.uk/tag/debbie-dew/

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Glassmania

BLOG SPOT



TRAVEL BLOG JULIA LEWIS

HISTORY - MAKES ME BUZZ



TURRETS OF THE INNER DEFENCES

TRAVEL BLOG

BY JULIA LEWIS

Fifty something and recently redundant from a job I once loved, I am now tentatively piecing together a new kind of life that focuses on people, experiences and creativity.

Just a few weeks ago I took a late summer short trip with an old friend to south west France; I wanted to fulfil a long time wish to see the Cite de Carcassonne, although everything I had heard and read depicted the medieval citadel as a 'Disneyfied' tourist trap.

There is something about the high tragedy of Carcassonne's history from the 12th century legends of the Cathars to more recent history of the 2nd World War that makes it irresistible to the frustrated historian in me. And so in late summer, as the air had found its autumnal edge and the bright sunshine filled days were shortening, I took the short road trip from Vieille Toulouse down to Carcassonne.

Avoiding motorways and opting instead for a route that took us through beautiful natural landscapes and villages there was a definite sense of heading south; the temperature rose; the air felt thicker and more scented. The serene Canal du Midi that connects the Atlantic with the Mediterranean ports accompanied us occasionally, snaking in and out of view and somehow giving reassurance that we were heading in the right general direction. Even the trees were changing - from the soaring plane trees that edged the canal to lines of upright, shimmering cypresses that directed us south.

In the far distant west the silhouette of the mountains of the Pic du Midi was clearly visible. On each side of the road the wide open landscape revealed field upon field of sunflowers, just past their best, their faces turned to the same direction and looking as if they are patiently waiting.....

Entry to the modern city of Carcassonne was not particularly what I had imagined or wanted. There were all usual accompaniments of modern life, the supermarkets, petrol stations, traffic and people. But there were also beautiful buildings, wide boulevard streets and a tricky one-way system to negotiate. After a few attempts we were on the right route to the Cite, then a sharp right turn, a sharp left, another right and the road opened out as it crossed the Aude river bridge and there, spread across the hill, was the citadel - a glorious confection of honey coloured walls and faded tile-topped turrets, a double ring of ramparts and 53 towers - a perfect image of a medieval walled city. My excitement coupled with trying



JULIA LEWIS



DETAIL OF CATHEDRAL FRONT

BLOG SPOT

to take photos with my phone meant we missed the final turning and so once more around the one way system before we got it right. I was the designated navigator so I have no excuses to give!

What the visitor sees today is largely a modern reconstruction as the Cite fell into a ruinous state in the 18th and 19th centuries and by 1840's it was at risk of total destruction. Later centuries have been kinder with much restoration carried out in late 19th century. So what is there to see? Within the citadel there is a simple but beautiful cathedral, the restored 12th century chateau of Raymond Roger Trencavel. There are little winding streets, inner and outer walls, stories and legends of heroism and torture, and endless towers and turrets to get lost in. There are views to the mountains in the west and of the town below, spreading out beneath the citadel. The old houses are now filled with shops, cafes, hotels and restaurants and these streets are made for leisurely browsing but not so pleasant if it is tourist packed. But we were lucky, a late September Friday meant fewer crowds and it was easy to meander through the streets and find a table for a simple lunch in a dappled courtyard warmed by sun-baked walls.

So was it worth the effort? Yes without a doubt, this journey has set my imagination buzzing. As we returned home via the same route my mind drifted. Memories of Carcassonne were firing all sorts of thoughts - 'what happened to the Cathars? When was the Cite finally restored? Who was Dame Carcas?' and many more. Then there was the landscape, the calmness of the canal shaded by huge plane trees, the mysterious peaks in the far distance – these images are still running in my mind like a silent movie.

But my abiding memory of this trip? It's those fields of sunflowers, standing in sad endless rows like elderly ladies, all looking south and waiting, just waiting.

P.S. When I got home I began reading the novel Citadel by Kate Mosse. Set in and around Carcassonne during WW2 it tells the story of the resistance efforts of local women. Not so much a history but a herstory!

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Flight from Bristol to Toulouse with EasyJet
Enterprise Car Hire at Toulouse Airport – Vieille de Toulouse is approx. 30 min drive
Stayed at Hotel La Flanerie, Vieille de Toulouse
Lovely restaurant in Falgarde on the Garonne river – Le Bellevue – for a wonderful cassoulet and bottle of local wine.

PHOTO CREDITS JULIA LEWIS & MARTIN BULL

FIELDS OF SUNFLOWERS WITH PIC DU MIDI IN THE DISTANCE. TAKEN WITH MY PHONE OUT OF THE CAR WINDOW WHILST TRAVELLING.



CHATEAU ENTRANCE



MY FIRST VIEW OF THE CITADEL AS WE CROSSED THE AUDE RIVER.

JULIA WITH BIRD OF PREY

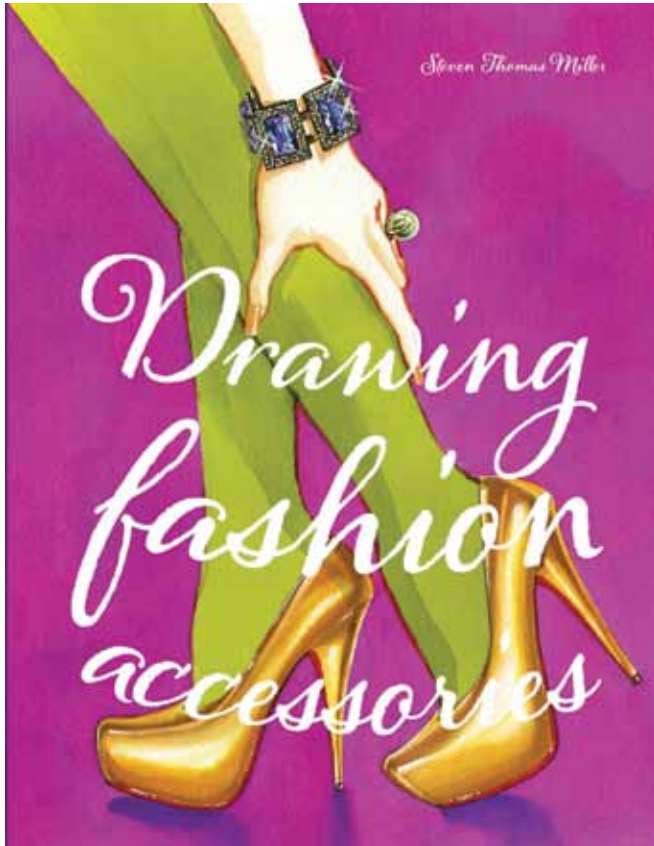


I COMMISSIONED THIS FROM MY ARTIST FRIEND CHRIS LANGLEY. HE COMPOSED THIS DIGITALLY USING IPAD. IT WILL END UP ON MY LIVING ROOM WALL AS A PERMANENT REMINDER.



BOOKCLUB

Five fabulous books to entertain and inspire you.
By Jennifer Schembri.



Drawing Fashion Accessories

by Charlotte & Peter Fiell, £22.50

Published by Laurence King ISBN 978-1-85669-788-0

I was initially drawn to this book because shoes are one of my favourite things to sketch. Give me a cup of tea and a book of Manolo Blahnik illustrations and I'll be happily engrossed for hours! So I hoped this might give me a few pointers and the inspiration I need to get out my sketchbook on a more regular basis.

Covered first is the array of media and tools that can be used to create different effects; from charcoal and graphite, to pencils, paints and pens. The accessories are then covered by chapter: footwear; millinery; bags, purses and belts; cosmetics; and jewellery. Each section is full of details that will help you accurately reproduce textures and details, and step-by-step guides to illustrating a huge array of items.

The final chapter is a guide to fashion figure drawing – those beautiful long, lean and stylised figures favoured by the fashion industry – and this is the section that has got me hooked. It's one thing to draw shoes, but learning to illustrate beautifully from head to toe is incredibly satisfying.

This book is of a high technical level, making it ideal for professionals, whether you are a designer or an editorial illustrator, but it is also accessible and beautifully presented. So if like me you just really love drawing shoes (or jewellery, or bags...), you will find everything you need here to fire your imagination and improve your techniques.

Bake It Like You Mean It

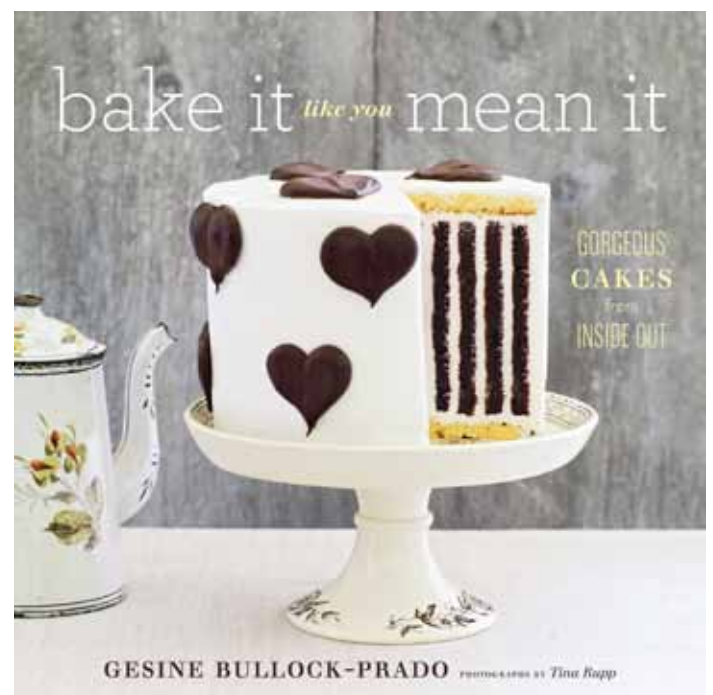
by Gesine Bullock-Prado, £18.99

Published by Stewart Tabori & Chang ISBN 978-1-61769-013-6

Baking always appeals more to me as we head towards winter. Don't get me wrong, I'm a fan of cake all year round, but there's no denying that a hot cup of tea or coffee and a slice of something delicious are even more enjoyable when the temperature outside drops.

Bake It Like You Mean It isn't just the book's title, it is also the author's mantra. She is passionate about creating cakes that are beautiful inside and out, and this gorgeous book will show you how to make stunning cakes in simple steps. Gesine uses various methods of cutting and assembling multiple layers of cake to create finished pieces that you cut into, to find an interior that is striped, checkerboard, or marbled and every bit as exquisite as it is on the outside. It's not necessarily tricky to do but the end result is impressive!

Recipes include coffee-hazelnut meringue tartlets, citrusy angel food cake, marble pound cake and a chocolate pyramid cake to name just a few. Or for something simpler try the victoria sponge cake or banana caramel slices – there are even croissants and brioche! Words really don't do these beauties justice, so if you are a true lover of cake, get yourself a copy and see for yourself exactly why I'm so smitten.





Bikinis, Bell-bottoms & Little Black Dresses

by Kate Mulvey, £17.95

Published by Merrell ISBN 978-1-8589-4588-0

Bikinis, Bell-bottoms & Little Black Dresses, chronicles 70 of the most iconic and influential clothing items of the last 100 years. Fashion's cyclical nature means that trends can disappear as quickly as they emerged, only to be resurrected decades later, so what makes certain pieces iconic? For some it is their universally flattering cut or classic design, for others it is a more quirky item made desirable by a particular person.

Find out about each piece's sartorial evolution, and which celebrities made it famous. Audrey Hepburn is as synonymous with the ballet pump as Kurt Cobain with the plaid shirt. Many of these items come from humble and practical beginnings, they are then made fashionable on the streets and on famous faces, refined by designers and sent down the catwalk.

First up is the infamous little black dress, made popular by Coco Chanel in the twenties (the colour was previously only acceptable for domestic servants and the bereaved), followed by a stylish trip across the last century, exploring those memorable items such as crop tops, hot pants, pencil skirts, trench coats, parkas. Accessories haven't been forgotten either, with the cowboy boot, the stiletto, the beret and the trilby all gaining a place on the list. Each item is accompanied by fabulous photos, illustrations and a wealth of information to keep even the most die-hard fashionista occupied for hours.

From India

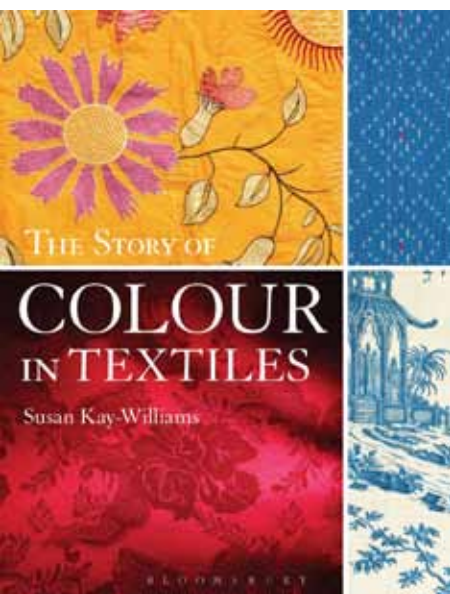
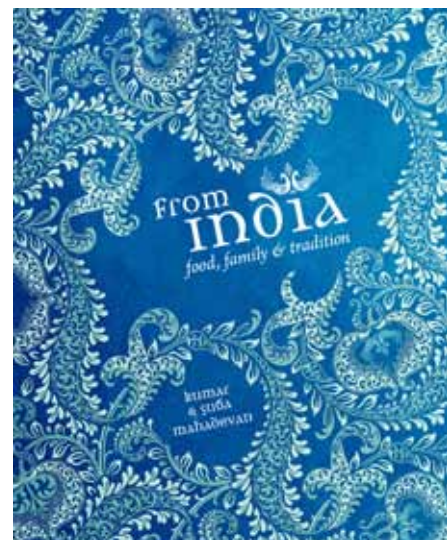
by Kumar & Suba Mahadevan, £25

Published by Murdoch ISBN 978-1-7419-69283

From India is a wonderful collection of recipes from chef and restaurateur Kumar and his wife Suba. I was sold on this book before trying a single recipe, thanks to its beautiful textured cover and the personal introduction by Kumar, which charts his life story from traditional beginnings in southern India to his current career success in Australia.

Inspired by his grandmother and guided by an astrologer, Kumar is hardworking and full of passion. Together with his wife he has established two hugely popular restaurants combining traditional Indian cuisine with quality Australian ingredients. The dishes in this book are as varied as they are delicious, with a wealth of curries including lentil & spinach, aromatic chicken, eggplant & chilli, and chicken & potato.

There are some interesting seafood options too such as fish fritters, pan-grilled scampi and coconut chilli crab. The side dishes are some of my favourites, with several chutneys, lots of rice dishes and even chapattis – plus sweet treats such as pistachio ice cream and pineapple semolina cake for afters! Every once in a while you *can* judge a book by its cover – if you love Indian cuisine, this is about as authentic as it gets.



The Story of Colour in Textiles

by Susan Kay-Williams, £ 19.99

Published by Bloomsbury ISBN 978-1-4081-3450-4

The history of colour in textiles is a vast topic that any one working with fabric will be interested in. In an attempt to tackle such a broad and detailed subject matter in a reasonably compact book, the author focuses on European history, stretching further afield to India, China and America where appropriate. Aimed equally at textile students and the craft dyer, it is full of fascinating information for anyone interested in the history of decorative arts.

The introduction explores the topic in the context of human history's four main fibres: wool, silk, linen and cotton. Each chapter then takes you through a different period in history, starting with the earliest known examples of dyeing cloth, stretching back potentially as far as 6000BC in China. European examples began much later, and you are taken through the dark ages, the middle ages, then the 15th century and each subsequent century up to the present day.

It is fascinating to learn not just how the colours were created using natural materials and later synthetically, but about certain colours' significance and popularity over time. For anyone who works with fabric, this is a very interesting read and an ideal way to gain an overview of fabric dyeing and its lengthy history.

SURFING THE NET

As an online magazine we are always surfing the net, gathering information, finding professional people to interview and broadening our knowledge. Here are a few sites that you may find of interest.

SELF PUBLISHING

Are you thinking of writing a book or producing an EBook to sell online, to promote your work or further your creative business? This website is very informative. The company produce professional books and offer a variety of online and hard copy options. This site is worthy of a browse if self publishing is on your to do list.

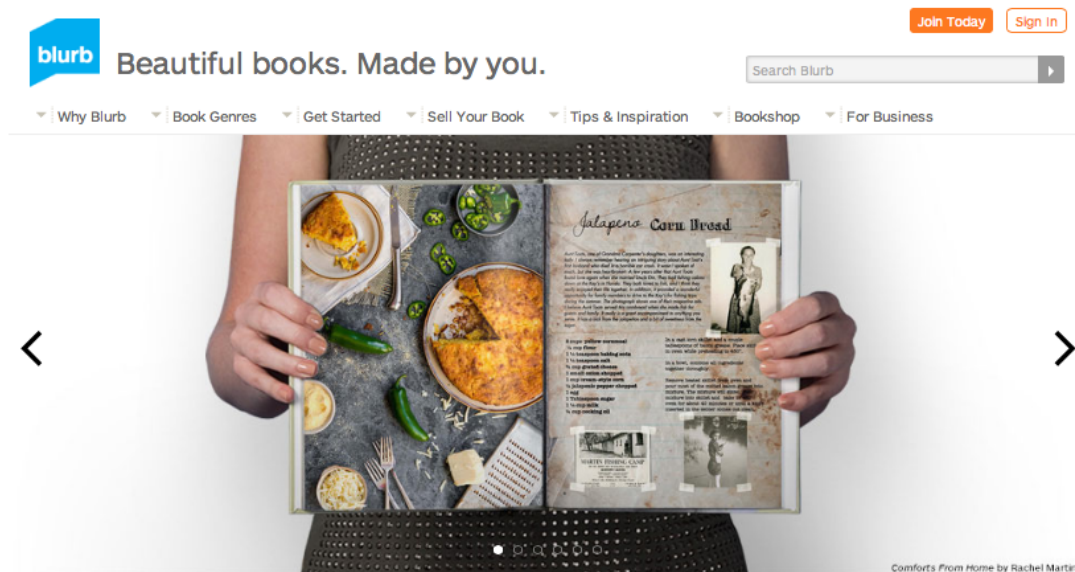
RESOURCE **W** www.blurb.co.uk

Blurb and you. That's how books are born.

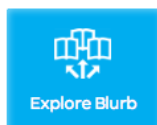
We love beautiful books. Which is a good thing, because beautiful books are our business. And helping you make your book with our tools – no matter what that book is or your reasons for making it – is our passion. We can print just one book for you – or a thousand. Want to sell your book? You can do that with us too. And we make it easy to share and promote your book if that's your thing. Want to make a personal photo gift book? Invented here. Are you an author? Welcome. Want to make a book for your business?

You're in the right place.

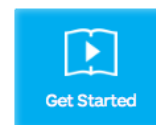
From portfolios, cookbooks, reports and fine art books, creativity comes easy with Blurb. Choose a free book-making tool that works for you, from easy-to-use, downloadable BookSmart® to our professional Adobe®-integrated creative tools: the Blurb InDesign® Plug in and LightRoom® 5 book module.



Blurb and you. That's how books are born.



We love beautiful books. Which is a good thing, because beautiful books are our business. And helping you make your book with our tools – no matter what that book is or your reasons for making it – is our passion. We can print just one book for you – or a thousand. Want to [sell your book](#)? You can do that with us too. And we make it easy to share and promote your book if that's your thing. Want to make a personal photo gift book? Invented here. Are you an author? Welcome. Want to make a book for your business?



You're in the right place.

WEBSITE REVIEWS

FELT MAKING

New to felt making? This site offers tutorials, ebooks and more. We liked the colourful clear images and interesting projects. The site is simple to navigate which is a plus! Click on the link and take a peek.

RESOURCE **W** www.rosiepink.typepad.co.uk

About rosiepink

'rosiepink' is me, Annie, and my Mum, Lyn and we both live on the South Coast of England. We love textiles and fibres and have a passion for felt artwork. Stitching on felt gives such beautiful textures so we combine hand and freestyle machine embroidery with our feltmaking to create wall art. We write this occasional blog to share some of the things we create and some of the lessons we learn along the way. Please feel free to comment on any post - we'd love to hear from you whatever your interest in our blog may be.

Annie & Lyn rosiepink

Email us: rosiepink@btinternet.com



ARTISTS NETWORK

We've mentioned this site in My-Creative Diva magazine but feel it's worth mentioning again. There is so much on offer here for people looking to take up painting or drawing as a hobby or more seriously, those looking for art instruction, wishing to improve their technique or for anyone looking to promote their work and network on an international platform. Congratulations online Editor Cherie Haas--we think this is an excellent site! Click the link to find out more.

RESOURCE **W** www.artistsnetwork.com/free



PHOTOGRAPHY INSTITUTE

If you rely on taking good images to sell your work or wish to take up photography but can't manage to attend workshops or classes, then try an online service that offers professional guidance and tutorials that you can work on, in your own time and at your own pace. This site seems to offer very practical advice, click on the resource link to check it out.

- Become a professional photographer or start an exciting new hobby!
- The "Professional Photography Course" is provided online. You study at home, in your own time and at your own pace.
- Cutting edge online diploma course in photography.
- Contributions from leading photographers.
- 24 Hour student support.
- Exclusive Facebook group with over 10,000 students worldwide.
- Student discounts on all Adobe products.
- Flexible payment options.
- 7 Day money back guarantee.

RESOURCE **W** www.thephotographyinstitute.co.uk



FOCUS ON FASHION



Eugene Lin was born in Singapore and is now based in London. He graduated from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design with a BA (hons) in Fashion Design Womenswear and a distinction from the Post-Graduate Pattern Cutting course. He honed his pattern cutting skills at Preen and Vivienne Westwood whilst still studying at college. Upon graduation he worked for other successful UK-based designers such as Roksanda Ilincic and Ashley Isham.

He has been featured in Vogue, ELLE, Harper's Bazaar, L'Officiel, The Times, Surface, The Untitled Magazine, VOGUE.CO.UK, AnOther, China Daily News, Glamour and more.

Lin established his eponymous label in 2009 and continues to show seasonally at London and Paris Fashion Week. With a strong focus on creative cutting and a sharp eye for detail, the clothes express the brand's aesthetic of sophistication through intelligent design and creative craftsmanship - clothing of exceptional quality.

Artists and designers find inspiration for their work from many sources including nature, urbane landscapes and in Eugene's case, historical mythology. Eugene Lin's S/S14 collection is interlaced with allegorical references to the fabled Valkyries of Norse mythology. These female spirits of battle become swans with the aid of feathered cloaks – and legend has it that if one captures a Valkyrie whilst bathing in a river, they can extract a wish from her.

We have featured this collection of stunning garments in Creative Life magazine to acknowledge Eugene's talent. He has demonstrated over the past five years that learning under controlled knowledge, combined with inherent talent, is only one step towards creating a successful business. This designer is a grounded business man who uses his intelligence to achieve results. We think he is truly inspirational.

To read more about Eugene Lin please visit his website.

CONTACT DETAILS

W <http://eugene-lin.com>

Follow Eugene Lin on **Twitter** @EugeneLinRTW

PHOTO CREDITS **CHRISTOPHER DADEY**

FEATURE **EUGENE LIN**



LASER ARTIST
MATTHEW MOREY



TRAVEL BLOG

LASER ARTIST MATTHEW MOREY

Matthew changed careers from a heavy welder (mine equipment, buildings, super structures, fire trucks, etc) to a high school teacher in 2005 where he is now an Industrial Technology and Design specialist teacher. He is currently part of the Creative Design faculty at a local Sunshine school.

Matthew lives on the beautiful Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia with his family. He spends the weeknights designing and producing items with his lovely wife, Jenni by his side as his quality assurance inspector to keep him on the right path. On the weekends you will find Matthew and his family at one of Sunshine Coast artesian markets selling his goods. Matthew enjoys being challenged and finding solutions to improve the effectiveness of the art or craft problems that people encounter. He also wants people to get value for money and most of all he believes in quality not just quantity. He said time can go very fast and before he knows it, it is 1am in the morning. In his interview with Libby Zernike, Matt talks about his creative career.

Please tell us about the extensive range of products that you produce and the techniques and materials that you use.

We undertake many projects that range from card making and scrapbooking shapes to laser engraved photos and everything in-between. We cut acrylic quilting templates in many shapes and sizes. The earrings and necklaces are designs that my daughter has made. We enjoy creating wedding table and party settings that include place cards, invitations and table names. Our two newest products include candle holders and acrylic mirrored signs that are glued to painted wooden blocks that can hang on the wall or can sit on the window sill.

What have been the experiences and training that led you to work as a laser artist?

My experiences as a welder and then as an Industrial Technology and Design student at university prior to teaching has helped me grow as a laser artist. I have had extensive training in engineering and computer design but most importantly I am a creative person and love to make things.

How do you market your products?

We have always enjoyed the word of mouth approach from the markets. We also use Facebook to get our name



INTERVIEW

out there. The best thing about the local markets is when customers spend a great deal of time looking at our range, take something away and then they come back with a bigger order.

What has been your most rewarding experience as a laser artist?

It is when our customers say “Wow how do you do that?” and are shocked when I say it has all been done with a laser that cuts 0.1mm wide. I then explain that a laser works in similar way to the old magnifying glass where the sun light burns things but the laser is far more refined.

Do you have any tips for people who are trying to create a business from arts and crafts?

The biggest would be to have a vast understanding of what artists and crafters want. You also must have a very good understanding about materials and how they can be manipulated to create useful products. On the machine side, it's about having the very good understanding of drawing programs like Coreldraw, Inkscape and other computer aided design programs like Autodesk Inventor, Solid Works or Pro/engineer. All required a great deal of time and patience to know how to get the best result for the client.

What are your future plans for your business?

We are currently working on a big new venture, not to mention expensive, but that is all I can say about it at this stage. We are also in the early stages of engraving photo albums and about to take the wedding products to the next level.

Have you thought of conducting workshops?

For sure, but people will just need to wait until we get the new venture off the ground. We believe it will be just like my year 7 industrial design class that do not want to leave the workshops and also feel that 70 minutes only lasts 10 minutes.

What do you do when you want to relax from your work as an artist?

That is a very hard question to answer because I always have new ideas running around my head. I find that my artwork is my relaxation from my day job, teaching.

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P (07) 5493 9147

PHOTO CREDIT Matt and Jenni Morey



INTERVIEW



CREATIVE MAKE



CHRISTMAS WREATH

Design a smart Christmas wreath using natural branches.

Christmas is just around the corner. It's time to fetch the Christmas tree ornaments from the attic and consider how best to decorate your own four walls for the festive season. Wreaths are always a good idea. They look good both on the front door and around the home. You can make a festive Christmas decoration in next to no time with the right tools!

STEP 1

Buy branches that have been coloured white to make an attractive wreath or spray paint white, branches that you have collected. Bundle and bend them carefully into a wreath. Fix them unobtrusively with wire at regular intervals.

STEP 2

Draw a star on a sheet of wood using a set square and a pencil. Superimpose two equilateral triangles onto each other. Each has an angle of 60° . The apex of the first triangle points upward and the superimposed one will point downwards.

STEP 3

If the hexagram (as the equilateral six-pointed star is also known), is a success, sawing is the next step. Use the Dremel® 4200 and the EZ Speedclic woodcutting wheel SC 544 to cut off the superfluous wood along the pencil line.

STEP 4

Put a 6 mm wood drill (636) bit in your Dremel® 4200, which thanks to the EZ Change quick switch system, does not involve using a wrench or spanner. Drill a hole between two sharp points of your star. You will use it later to fix the star into the wreath.

STEP 5

Spray paint the star red on both sides and allow it to dry. Write your Christmas greeting – Merry Christmas, for instance – on the star. Run the ribbon through the hole you drilled and make it just long enough for the star to hang in the centre of the wreath.

STEP 6

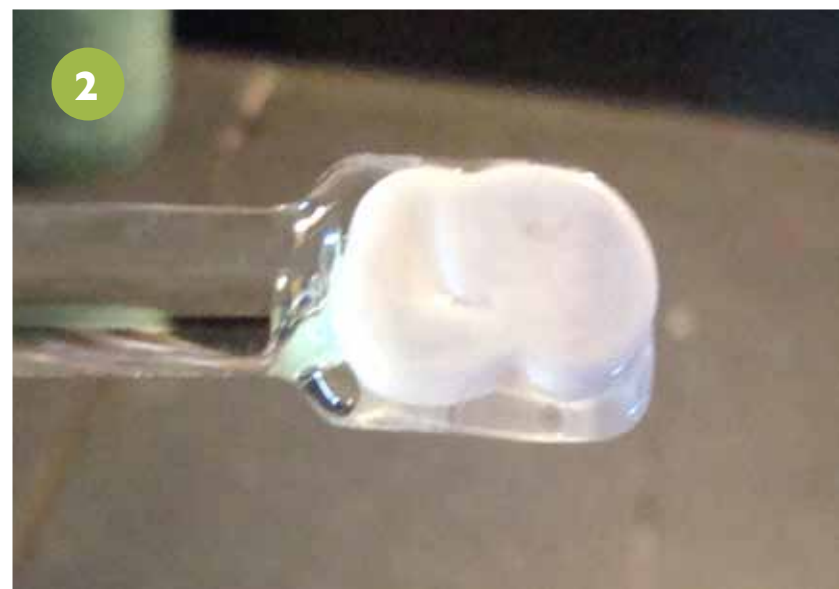
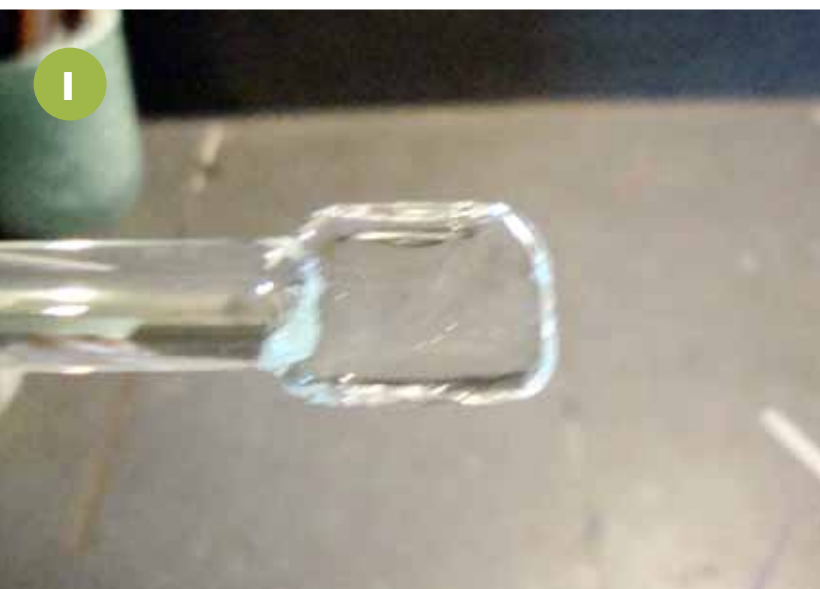
Use your Dremel® Glue Gun and gluesticks GG02 to add the final decorative highlights to your wreath by gluing a few mini Christmas tree balls to it at regular intervals. Wait till the hot plastic has cooled down before hanging the wreath – Merry Christmas!

Tools are available from all good DIY shops or online at:

W www.dremel-direct.com
www.tool-shop.co.uk
www.amazon.co.uk



LAMPWORK TECHNIQUE



FEATHER MURRINI

I don't claim to be the inventor of this technique. I'm sure there are lots of tutorials by other artists; however, this is the method that I use. Some of the pictures illustrated here aren't the best quality. It isn't easy melting glass and taking photos at the same time but I did the best I could with only two hands. I hope you find this tutorial useful.

YOU WILL NEED

2 rods of clear glass - I used rods about 10mm diameter
1 rod of light grey
1 rod of multi or iris orange
Mashers
Glass nippers

TECHNIQUE

Using your clear rod melt a blob about the size of a grape and squash flat with mashers, shape it into a rough rectangle

Add a layer of light grey to both flat sides, melt smooth and gently squash flat again

Cover the grey with clear.

Add another layer of light grey to both sides and cover with clear

Keep building up layers of grey and clear until you have 10-12 layers of grey

Try to keep the rough rectangle shape as you go along by squashing between your mashers and smoothing out the sides

Using your rod of multi/iris orange, add a layer to just the top of your murrini and cover with clear

Encase the whole thing in clear, making sure there are no gaps for the colours to bleed into each other.

Using your other rod of clear, attach a punty and heat gently and slowly until the heat is all the way through, then pull very slowly, you're aiming for murrini that's about 5mm in diameter.

Leave to one side to cool before cutting into thin pieces ready for use.

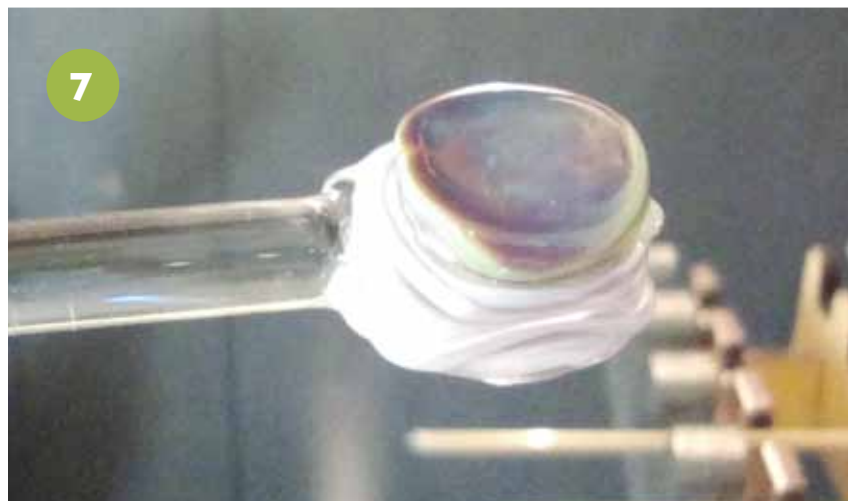
HOW TO USE MURRINI

To use your feather murrini, make a base bead of your choice, turn down your flame to a pinpoint and heat just where you want the murrini to sit. Make sure you get this spot hot enough for the murrini to stick to the bead. Apply a little heat to the murrini and pat gently, I use a pair of flat nose tweezers for this. Do this several times, so your murrini doesn't distort, you want the murrini to stay raised on the surface of the bead. Take a thin stringer, I used cobalt blue and whilst your murrini is still hot, drag through from where the iris orange is to the bottom of the murrini and add a little twist. Heat the whole bead up and pop into the kiln.

RESOURCES

VIEW DEBBIES BEADS AT:

<http://79.170.44.81/silverartz.co.uk/>
www.makeglassbeads.co.uk/Reviews.html
www.britishlampwork.co.uk/tag/debbie-dew/
www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Glassmania





ABOUT THE DESIGNER

Maggie Jones arranges and delivers demonstrations for jewellery, sewing and general crafts. She also runs workshops and courses, particularly in the Lancashire and north Manchester areas and writes projects, focused on jewellery and stitching, for various magazines.

CONTACT DETAILS

W www.maggiejonesdesign.co.uk

F www.facebook.com/craftdemon



‘LUCY CROMWELL’ ADVENT CALENDAR KIT FROM PAPERMANIA

Maggie Jones is our in-house kit reviewer. Here she takes us through the process of making an Advent Calendar from Papermania at Do-Crafts who design and supply products for paper crafters. This kit has all the paper and card to make a Christmas tree shaped calendar with little boxes for holding your choice of tiny presents. There are enough patterned papers to allow you to select what to use and you can insert each individual box in strict numerical order, or totally at random. Some basic tools and adhesives are required to make this project.

KIT REVIEW

MATERIALS + TOOLS

Papermania 'Lucy Cromwell' advent calendar kit.

Scissors, craft knife, cutting board.

Adhesive – Maggie used wet glue, spray mount, and double sided tape.

PRESENTATION

The kit is housed in an attractive cardboard box, with a finished product on the front and images of the contents on the reverse. There is a clear cellophane window to see the contents. The box is ideal for storing the components in whilst you are constructing it.

COMPONENTS

Pre-cut corrugated card tree shape, pre-cut shelves and sides, pre-cut boxes, A5 sheet of die-cut numbers, 2 X A3 sheets of patterned paper (red, green), 4 X A3 sheets patterned paper each with two designs, templates for shapes to cover boxes.

MAKING UP THE KIT

I followed the instructions which were generally good and I followed each step as advised. The images illustrated here show different stages of construction. When covering the main board – I used spray mount and trimmed it with a craft knife. Each side of the 'clapboard' and each shelf should be covered.

If I were making this project again, I would consider painting instead of papering. Some further detailed instructions would also help. For example, you need to cut through the paper which covers the slots which the shelves fit into. To make the structure more rigid, I would glue the tabs into the slots and spend some time arranging the little boxes so that the patterns are distributed along the shelves.

The numbers for the box fronts are die cut and pop out easily. Although I used double sided tape for fixing on the numbers, I feel sticky dots would be better. I used the red stripe as the main backing paper.

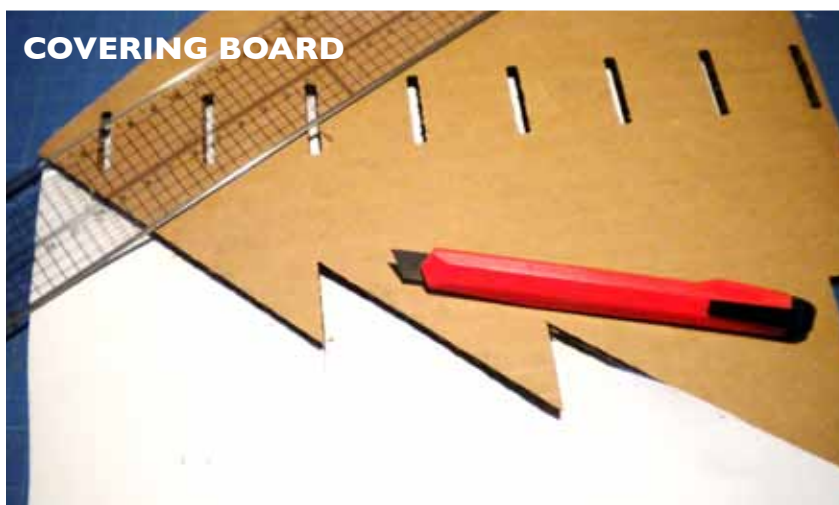
OVERALL RATING

I would give this kit 8/10. The end result is quirkily pleasing, and makes a good alternative advent calendar. This kit isn't advertised as a family project, but children could help with cutting paper to shape, arranging the layout of the boxes and perhaps adding their own embellishments with glitter and gems. When glued, the tree is fairly substantial so could be used again next year.

RESOURCES

This kit is widely available from Do-crafts stockists and retails at £12.95. The product code is PMA 105917. Retailers are on the do-crafts website.

W: www.docrafts.com



HEALTHY EATING

WITH YAN FAHEY

As you have probably realised from my blog spot, I love travelling. My other passion is making and cooking healthy food. On the following pages you'll find my recipe for a health drink that I enjoy every morning. When our editor Joan and her husband visited me recently where I was staying in Scotland, I made this health drink to share with them for breakfast. Joan said very rude things about it when she first saw it! I think she said something along the lines of 'what is that green slime'? Just as well we have been friends for a long time is all I can say! Despite her initial reaction, on drinking it Joan was surprised at how delicious and refreshing my veggie juice is and asked me to share the recipe with our readers.

With the pulp left over from the juice I often make a curry and if there's sufficient left over, a moist carrot cake. I hope you enjoy making and eating them just as much as I do and don't let the colour of the juice put you off, it really is yummy!

Wishing you good health,

Yan

PS. You may use whatever you think will produce the maximum volume of juice however, for me, with experimentation I like to blend these ingredients together. They are very tasty. With the remaining pulp you can make up your own curries or cakes. Enjoy!





Celery, tomatoes, carrots, apples, cucumber, broccoli, water cress, rockets, spinach, mint & lemon grass. Put through juicer.

JUICE INGREDIENTS MAKES 2 LITRES

- 2 x bags of mixed baby spinach, watercress & rocket or just spinach
- 1 x head of celery
- 1 x head of broccoli
- 2 x heads of Cos lettuce
- 1 x large cucumber
- 4 x tomatoes
- 1 x kg carrots
- 3 x apples
- 2 x lemons

METHOD OF WORK

In a juice extractor, juice the celery, broccoli, green leaves, lettuce, cucumber and tomatoes first. Pour this juice into a large jug.

Save the pulp in a bowl and rinse the extractor.

Next, pulp the apples, followed by the carrots to create a separate pulp. Add this juice to the large jug and place the pulp into a separate bowl.

Squeeze the lemons and add this juice into

GOOD FOOD

the jug of veggie juice for a tangy finish. Store in the fridge for up to one week.

USE THE PULPTO MAKE DHAL CURRY

INGREDIENTS

1 x pack yellow dhal, soaked in cold water for 8 hours

1 tbsp x cumin seeds

1 dozen cardamom pods

1 tbsp x poppy seeds

1 dozen cloves

10 x tbsp green pulp & 2 tbsp carrot pulp

4 tbsp x grape seed oil

1 x knob garlic, crushed

1 x large onion, shredded

8 tbsp x Malaysian vegetable curry powder

Coriander leaves

2 x sprigs curry leaves

2 x Knorr vegetable stock cubes (or similar organic cubes)

Salt to taste

Water

METHOD OF WORK

Place oil, cumin seeds, cardamom pods, poppy seeds, cloves, garlic, onions and curry leaves in a large pot and gently sauté until fragrant.

Add curry powder, stir ensuring it does not stick. Then stir in dhal, salt, stock cubes, pulp and water to cover the curry.

Bring to the boil, then lower heat to simmer for 1 hour or until the Dhal is soft. Garnish with chopped coriander

before serving.

MOIST CARROT CAKE

INGREDIENTS

5 tbsp x carrot & apple pulp

525g x grated carrot

450ml x vegetable oil

400g x plain flour

2 tsp x bicarbonate of soda

550g x raw sugar

5 x free-range eggs

½ tsp x salt

2½ tsp x ground cinnamon

150g x chopped walnuts

METHOD OF WORK

Preheat the oven to 160C/325F/Gas 3. Grease and line a 26cm/10in spring-form cake tin.

Beat the sugar, eggs and oil together. Mix all of the ingredients into the creamed sugar mix (except the grated carrots and walnuts), together in a bowl until well combined. Stir in the carrots and walnuts.

Spoon the mixture into the cake tin and bake for 1 hour 15 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Remove the cake from the oven and set aside to cool for 10 minutes, then carefully remove the cake from the tin and set aside to cool completely on a cooling rack.

Once cool, make icing with soft cream cheese mixed with icing sugar or serve it plain with vanilla ice-cream.

GOOD FOOD

DAHL CURRY



MOIST CARROT CAKE WITH ICE CREAM



DREMEL CREATES TWO HA



For this year's season of Xmas cheer, Dremel's new kits bring the opportunity to gift the fun of handicraft to the family in two very different presents.

The Dremel 3000 Multitool Project Kit consists of a Dremel 3000 multi-tool, 45 accessories, four attachments including the Flexshaft, the Shaping Platform, Detailer's Grip and the Comfort Guard - and all the materials required to make a wooden car with the kids over the Christmas holiday. Simply unpack the set, make a drawing of your favourite car on the block of wood and cut out the shape with your Dremel 3000 and the spiral bit. Then fix the wheels to the axles that come with the kit and your model car is ready to race! Paint it for a bit more fun and add some detailing. The Dremel 3000 makes light work of precision cutting, sanding, routing, polishing and engraving. Switching accessories is fast and easy with the Dremel 3000 EZ Twist nose cap, an integrated wrench that enables you to change accessories without a spanner or key.

Once Christmas is over, the Dremel 3000 will allow you to pursue your own projects all year round, especially those requiring an eye for detail, such as, precision grinding, sanding, cutting, polishing and engraving - whether these are hobbyist applications or for DIY in and around the house. The Dremel 3000 Multitool Project Kit comes packed in a reusable tin storage case. It will retail at £89.99, including VAT.

The Dremel VersaTip Decoration Kit provides the perfect gift for creative family members based around the Dremel VersaTip cordless soldering iron with its array of different tips - along with wooden snowflake and star shapes, an embossing pen, red, gold and silver embossing powder, and 70 hot fix rhinestones. Have fun making beautiful decorations to add to the Christmas tree, or to hang up against a window, or as a child's mobile, or simply propped up on a shelf in a family member's bedroom over the festive period. Just sprinkle the embossing powder onto the area where the embossing pen has been applied, shake off the excess powder and heat it up using the Dremel Versatip until it's liquid, then leave it to cool. Add sparkle with the pre-glued hot fix stones by heating the back of each with the Versatip and sticking them down.

After Christmas, the six-in-one Dremel VersaTip is a hobbyist, crafter and model builder's dream tool. It solders, melts, hot cuts and welds. This handy and easy-to-use butane gas soldering iron comes into its own when there's detailed work to be done and it's easy to switch uses with the different tips included. The Dremel Versatip comes with a soldering tip, a hot cutting knife, a heat deflector, a hot blower head, soldering tin and a flat wide flame head and is packed into a reusable tin storage case. It will retail at £44.99, including VAT.

RESOURCES

Both kits are available at <http://www.dremel-direct.com> and <http://www.amazon.co.uk> and <http://www.tool-shop.co.uk> and DIY shops.

ADVERTORIAL

DIY CRAFT KITS FOR XMAS



DIY HOME PROJECT

UPCYCLE A VINTAGE SUITCASE

Look around in your attic or at jumble sales and flea markets to find a suitable old suitcase then give it not only a new look but an original function as a designer easy chair.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Dremel® 8100 with drill bit 150
EZ SpeedClic metal cutting wheel SC456
EZ SpeedClic mandrel SC402
Dremel® Moto-Saw
General purpose wood cutting saw blade MS51

FROM HOME

An old suitcase

FROM THE HARDWARE STORE

2 pieces of MDF board the size of the suitcase (18 mm thick)
2 pieces of MDF board (10 cm x 40 cm x 18 mm)
2 pieces of foam the size of the suitcase (5 cm thick)
12 wood screws (c. 4 x 45 mm)
Small nails or staple gun
4 chair legs (4 mm x 45 mm)
Acrylic paint, spray-on adhesive, 4 buttons

DIFFICULTY RATING 6*****

METHOD OF WORK

STEP 1

The first step is to measure the width and depth of the suitcase and have two sheets of 18 mm pine wood cut to size at the DIY store. Draw the internal outline of the suitcase on to the wooden board.

STEP 2

This is where the practical Dremel® Moto-Saw saw and general purpose wood cutting saw blade MS51 come in. You can use them to round off the corners of the wood easily and accurately so that it fits into the suitcase with ease. Spray the sheets of wood with spray-on adhesive and attach pieces of foam on to it.

STEP 3

Lay your fabric on top of the foam padding and fasten it to the back of the board with small nails or a staple gun. Note: Choose any fabric you like keeping in mind that it should be hardwearing and easy to clean.

STEP 4

To attach the upholstery buttons, screw two screws on top of suitable washers 20 cm apart in the middle of the wood, passing the screw through the textile covering and foam padding. If the screws protrude from the back of the wooden board, the excess metal can be removed with the Dremel® 8100 and the EZ SpeedClic metal cutting wheel SC456

STEP 5

As a guide, mark two points on the pine wood boards, which are approximately 10 cm x 40 cm x 18 mm in size. These are where the chair legs will be fixed. Pre-drill the holes by using the Dremel® 8100 and drill bit set 628. To give the easy chair a touch of elegance, paint the chair legs with acrylic paint in a colour that compliments your fabric and suitcase.

STEP 6

To fasten the chair legs, lay the two prepared sheets of wood in to the suitcase. Fasten the chair legs to the suitcase, passing the screws through the wood and the suitcase. Lay the upholstered sheets in to the suitcase and secure them in place with a screw that passes through the suitcase and board.



RESOURCES

Dremel® tools are available at <http://www.dremel-direct.com>, <http://www.amazon.co.uk> and <http://www.tool-shop.co.uk> or DIY shops.



DIY HOME PROJECT



A PLACE IN THE SUN

Don't let the change of season stop you from enjoying your garden. This garden seat with planters will brighten anyone's mood. For listening to nature's melody in the daytime, or for counting the stars at night, a garden seat with planters is always a fitting refuge. Dremel® equipment enables you to create a garden seat in just a few steps. When finished, it is an inviting place to relax.

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

MATERIALS

FROM DREMEL®

Dremel® 8100

Drill bit set 628

Dremel® DSM20

Multipurpose carbide cutting wheel DSM500

FROM THE HARDWARE STORE

19 wooden battens (2 m x 3.4 cm x 3.4 cm)

Wood glue

Wood screws (4 x 50 mm)

Screwdriver

Filler and putty knife

Sandpaper, 120 grain

Paintbrush, weatherproof varnish

6-8 hanging flower pots, plants

METHOD OF WORK

STEP 1

Cut the wooden battens for the frame to size, using a Dremel® DSM20

with a multipurpose carbide cutting wheel. You need to saw 22 pieces 48 cm in length and 18 pieces 98 cm in length. Use sandpaper to remove loose wood fibres along the cut edges.

STEP 2

Refer to the assembly plan, on which the holes to be drilled are marked by red dots. Mark the drill holes on to the wood by means of a pencil. To pre-drill the holes, insert the drill bit onto the Dremel® 8100.

STEP 3

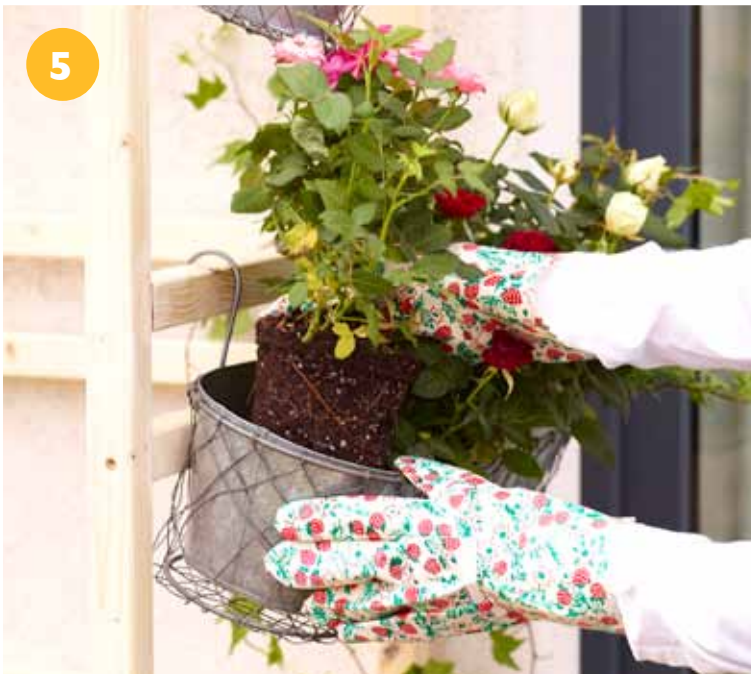
Start joining the pieces with screws whilst keeping the plan where you can see it. Screw the individual pieces together with 4 mm x 50 mm wood screws. To strengthen the join, paint the cut edges with glue.

STEP 4

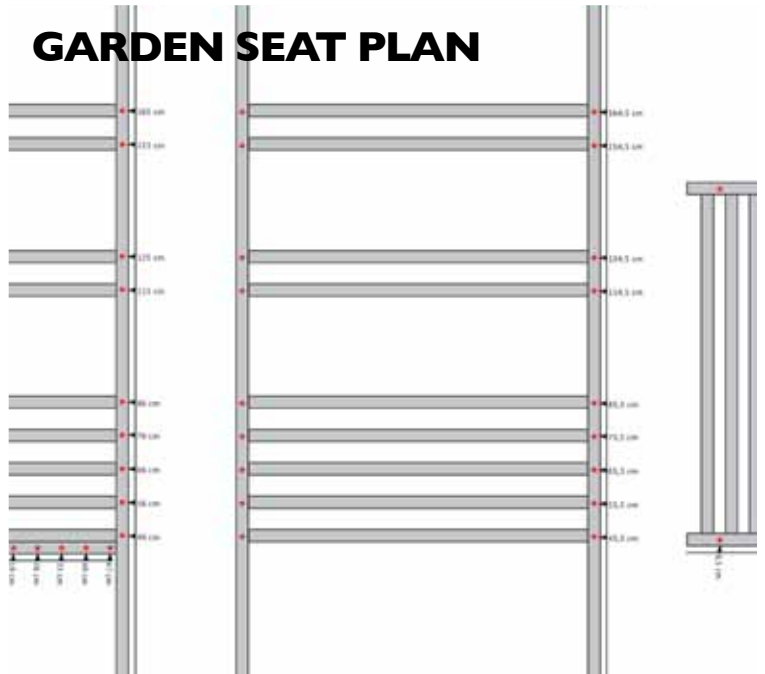
Once your basic frame is ready, you can start on the final touches. For example, an elegant way to conceal visible screws is with filler. To make the garden seat resistant to wind and weather, you can paint the wooden parts with a weatherproof varnish and leave them to dry.

STEP 5

Decorate the garden seat with hanging flower pots and plant them up with your favourite flowers. Roses of different colours are especially attractive. If you are a cooking enthusiast, Mediterranean herbs such as rosemary are sun worshippers, exude a wonderful aroma and are aromatic kitchen aids. If you live in a cold climate choose hardy plants that will withstand frost.



GARDEN SEAT PLAN



ALTERNATIVE CHOCOLATE XMAS PUDDING

Searching for an alternative to the traditional Christmas pudding? Celebrate with chocolate! This edible Christmas pudding is filled with crispy Belgian chocolate orange and covered in chocolate honeycomb balls - topped with a drizzle of Belgian white chocolate. It makes the ideal gift for adults, children or that person who has everything! A personal message can be added. This product will stay fresh for up to four months if kept in original packaging in a cool dry place. All of the sweets shown are edible. Approx 15cm diameter for the Medium, 10cm for the Small and 7cm for the Mini. View product on company website:<http://www.shopyourdoorstep.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=ST-xmas-pud>. Price: £11.00 Company: Shop On Your Doorstep

If you'd like to make a Xmas pudding that is a delicious alternative to a mixed fruit pudding then try this ice-cream cake recipe. I make it every year and it is truly delicious. Remember to let people know that it contains raw egg and nuts. Enjoy!

NUTELLA & MACADAMIA NUT ICE-CREAM

INGREDIENTS

1 x jar of Nutella
360ml of whipping cream
3 x free range eggs separated
8 x tablespoons of castor sugar
2 x cups chopped macadamia nuts
1 x teaspoon of vanilla essence

METHOD OF WORK

Separate the yolks from the whites of the eggs. Beat the yolks with the sugar until creamy. Clean the beaters and then whisk the whites until soft peaks form.

Whip the cream with the vanilla until thick. Fold 4 large tablespoons of Nutella into the cream.

Gently fold the egg yolks and white into the cream until the mix is uniform in colour. Fold in the chopped nuts.

Line a large pudding bowl with cling film. Pour in the ice-cream mix and freeze over night.

To serve, invert the dish onto a plate. Remove the cling film from the ice-cream. Allow it to stand for 10 minutes to soften before slicing. Decorate each slice with fresh fruit and sprigs of mint.

Eat the ice-cream within one week.



MAKE YOUR XMAS MEMORABLE

It's starting to look a lot like Christmas... Personalise yours and give gifts that will raise a smile. Set the scene with a colourful array of china, cups, glasses and decorations. After all this is the time to be Merry!



Christmas tableware from Iapetus

IAPETUS

This company is based in The UK and ships to all countries globally.

www.iapetus.co.uk

SHOPPING



1. Snap Pop Bang Crackers, Berry Red www.berryred.co.uk £15.00, Sweetly Does It Macaroon Gift Set, 2. Whisk Hampers, www.whiskhampers.co.uk £26.50, 3. Personalised Christmas Hessian Sack - Santa Stamp, Getting Personal, www.gettingpersonal.co.uk £19.99, 4. Embroidered Christmas Bunting, View product on company website: www.shoonyourdoorstep.com/Embroidered-Christmas-Bunting-p/wg-xmas-bunt.htm £18.50, 5. Popcorn Maker, Prezybox.com £24.95, 6. Atlas Flask, The Oak Room, This company is based in The UK and ships to: all countries globally www.oakroomshop.co.uk £12.99, 7. Petra Boase www.petraboase.com £18.00 8. Dobbies Tweed Deer Decoration, Tesco Christmas 2013 www.tesco.com £3.50, 9. The Christmas Star Gift Hamper, Whisk Hampers www.whiskhampers.co.uk £37.50, 10. Volkswagen USB Flash Drive, Volkswagen Campervan Gifts volkswagen-accessories.com/en.html £25.00.

DIY HOME PROJECT

NAPKIN RINGS

NAPKIN RINGS

Napkins rings that you have decorated yourself are guaranteed to be an eye catcher on every festively laid Christmas table. Whether they are decorated with glitter stars or sport red and white stripes reminiscent of candy canes or sticks of rock. With the right tools, you can make something truly special that expresses your personal style. And in just a few steps. Merry Christmas one and all!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

FROM DREMEL®

Dremel® VersaTip with hot blower head, tips for pyrography and soldering tip (included in the set)

FROM HOME

Brush
Tweezer

Cardboard base

FROM THE HOBBY SHOP

Wooden napkin rings (about 4 cm in diameter)
Hotfix rhinestones
Embossing powder and embossing glue
Acrylic paint or spray paint

DIFFICULTY RATING 2**

METHOD OF WORK

STEP 1

Start by spraying lots of paint onto your wooden napkin rings. Coat them evenly inside and out and leave to dry. Choose any colour you like.

STEP 2

Here is how to make a success of the candy cane look. Carefully draw diagonal lines in pencil, one or two centimetres apart, on the napkin ring. Take a thin brush and apply embossing glue to each alternative section.

STEP 3

Sprinkle embossing powder on the alternative sections to which you have applied the glue. Loose powder can simply be removed using a clean brush.

STEP 4

Heat the powder with the Dremel® VersaTip's hot air blower nozzle until it turns liquid. Once it has cooled down, it sticks to the ring firmly and securely.

DREMEL CREATIVE TIP

There are no limits to where your imagination can take you in decorating the napkin rings. If you prefer glitter, place Hotfix rhinestones where you want them on the ring using tweezers and fix them precisely with the Dremel® VersaTip and the soldering tip. It heats the glue on the back of the stones until they are firmly attached to the wooden ring. As an alternative, creative patterns can be burnt into the wood in deep grooves using the poker work attachment which comes with the Dremel VersaTip.





CREATIVE TIP



FINISHED NAPKIN RINGS



NEXT MONTH



We hope you have enjoyed reading creative life magazine! The new layout and style gives it a fresh new look without changing its content too dramatically. We believe that our new title is representative of the people we focus on in each issue. Now that the magazine has become bi-monthly we are including more interviews and feature articles so that you won't be short of a good read when you're taking time out to relax.

In issue 15, which will be online on the 5th of January, you'll find interviews and blogs from our group of talented professional artists and designers plus articles contributed by fellow makers who would like to share their interests and skills. We are also inviting guilds, groups and galleries to contribute informative articles about what's happening in their field of expertise. If you belong to such a group please get in touch and where space is available we will publish your story. The true essence of this magazine is about recognising and promoting people who choose to live a creative lifestyle.

We welcome our readers input. If you wish to share an event, a project or technique with like minded people, please email me at creativelifemagazine@gmail.com.

Please continue to support us by subscribing, as your subscriptions keep this magazine online and flourishing.

May this Christmas bring you, good health, warmth, friendship and much laughter.

See you in January!

Joan

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Issue No.14

CREATIVE LIFE MAGAZINE

Inspired reading for creative hands

IN THIS ISSUE



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
SCULPTOR - WICK AHRENS

PAGE 36 BLOG SPOT
PHOTOGRAPHY, JEWELLERY
LAMPWORK, FASHION, TRAVEL
PLUS COOKING + XMAS
PROJECTS FOR YOU TO MAKE

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS IN THIS ISSUE...
UK PHOTOGRAPHER TOM COOK & PSYCHOLOGIST
NELLY MARIA OSMA ROJAS - EXPLORE COLOMBIA!
BRITISH RECYCLING DESIGNER CATHERINE POTTER
POLISH FELTER GALINA BLAZEJEWSKA-GALAFILC
AMERICAN BAG DESIGNER STACEY PIGNATORY
AUSTRALIAN LASER DESIGNER MATTHEW MOREY
AUSTRALIAN CERAMIC ARTISTS ANNA-MARIE
WALLACE AND BELINDA WEARNE

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READER GIVEAWAY



WE HAVE TWO KITS TO GIVE AWAY!

The Crafty Kit Company design and sell high quality, reasonably priced crafting kits that will encourage young and old alike to turn their hand to traditional 'make and do' skills, such as hand sewing, crochet and jewellery making.

Each Crafty Kit comes with full instructions, templates and all the materials you need, with the exception of jewellery pliers and scissors. Our kits are designed in-house and packaged using recycled (and recyclable!) materials right here in the UK.

AND THE WINNERS ARE!

R ALVERAZ - SPAIN

A CATTERALL – UK

The winners name and address will be forwarded to Craft Kit Company for the distribution of all prizes. Creative Life Magazine does not accept any responsibility for the distribution of the prizes.

WEBSITES CREATED OR UPGRADED

Are you are designer, artist or maker who is in the process of developing your business? Do you need a website, especially one that you can easily update yourself?

Dr J. Ricardo Alvarez [Doctorate of Computer Technology - Kent University UK] is offering special discounted rates to Creative Life Magazine Subscribers to help you build your business. Once he has custom designed your website, he will guide you through the back office of your site to help you manage it with confidence. When you have mastered the basic skills you will be able to change images, set up an online shopping basket, regularly update articles, post live videos and more at the click of a mouse.

To achieve public awareness and to market your work, you need a website that projects your style, image and ethos. Richard will help you develop a site that meets your requirements and targeted market.

No matter where in the world you live, get your business online!

Contact Richard to discuss your creative business now.

CONTACT

EMAIL rickalv@dralvarez.net

SKYPE Dr J. Ricardo Alvarez

MOBILE +34 600 526 688

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ANNELYSE TAYLOR CREATIVE LAMPWORK DIVA & CHOCOLATIER

If you'd like to view some of Annelise's work visit her website or send her an email.

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www.annelysetaylor.co.uk/index.htm

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/pages/Au-clair-de-la-lune-Lampwork-beads/348577015159043
<https://www.facebook.com/CrescendoChocolate>



JILL EGAN CERAMICS DIVA

I gain inspiration for my work from the things I see around me every day, I live in the countryside and I'm inspired by nature and her moods, wildlife and textures. If you would like to book a workshop or view more of Jill's work you'll find her contact details listed below.

CONTACT DETAILS

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FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/KilnFiredArt



HAROLD DOWSE BAKING DON

"My passion for making bread began when I moved away from my home town of Albany, NY for the first time and found I was at a loss for Real Bread". If you wish to learn more about bread making you'll find Dusty's (Harold Dowse) contact details below.

CONTACT DETAILS

P 207-717-4578 **E** dustydowse@aol.com **FACEBOOK** [www.facebook.DustyDowse](https://www.facebook.com/DustyDowse)

CLARE JOHN RESIN DIVA

"My interest in resin has evolved since I discovered resin at Art College in the 1970s- resin has changed so much since then". To learn more about resin, to book into a class or to purchase product you'll find Clare's contact details listed below.

CONTACT DETAILS

E info@resin8.co.uk **W** www.resin8.co.uk **FACEBOOK** www.facebook.com/resin8



MAKERS ADS



OCEAN VIEW ESTATE A PASSION FOR WINE AND TOURISM

Ocean View Estate is a stunning destination. It's based at Mount Mee a picturesque rural area about an hour drive north of the city of Brisbane in Australia. If you would like to visit Ocean View Estate in person or online, all the contact details are listed below.

CONTACT DETAILS

P 07 3425 3900 **E** info@oceanviewestates.com.au **W** www.oceanviewestates.com.au
FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/oceanviewestates



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CONTACT DETAILS

W www.ceramicartsdaily.org/potters-council



GILLIAN CORCORAN CREATIVE DIVA

"I draw inspiration for my work from my local surroundings and my very vivid imagination"! If you would like to view more of Gillian's work you will find her contact details listed below.

CONTACT DETAILS

E gilliancorcoran@gmail.com **W** www.etsy.com/shop/ResinRoad **T** twitter.com/ResinRoad
FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/ResinRoad **B** gilliancorcoran.blogspot.ie/



SANDRA YOUNG LAMPWORK DIVA

"My greatest pleasure in life is bringing a creation into being from the ideas that crystallise in my mind during the quiet hours, just after dawn, when 'magic is in the air'."

CONTACT DETAILS

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THE BEAR INN LLANTRISANT

On your next visit to Wales, come and visit us at The Bear Inn. We're at the top of the hill opposite the Bull Ring and Model House Creative Centre in the charming historic village of Llantrisant.

CONTACT DETAILS

P (01443) 222271 **A** Heol-Y-Sarn, Llantrisant CF72 8DA, Wales



BEADS UNLIMITED

For all your jewellery making and bead supplies look no further. Visit our website and shop online, we have a fantastic range of products!

CONTACT DETAILS

W www.beadsunlimited.co.uk

MAKERS ADS



MARY BURR

Without discipline a diva won't achieve success. A diva needs to be passionate about what she does.

CONTACT DETAILS

Burr and Blue Ribbon Farm. **E** bburr@tdstelme.net **W** www.blueribbonfarm.net



SAMARIE DESIGNS

Use your hands, enjoy the process, live life, eat well, be strong and use loads of colour.

CONTACT DETAILS

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MANDY NASH

I enjoy making jewellery and accessories that people actually buy! Join me for workshops in aluminium jewellery and felting.

CONTACT DETAILS

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DEBBIE DEW LAMPWORK DIVA

I make glorious glass beads in amazing colours and designs. Check out my website for what's currently on offer!

CONTACT DETAILS

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ANNE MACLEOD CRISP

My favourite quote is 'live to love and love to live.' None of my pieces are ever repeated so the buyer is guaranteed a unique piece from 'Lanzajewel'.

CONTACT DETAILS

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F [anne.macleodcrisp@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/anne.macleodcrisp)



MOSAIC DIVA SUNNY VICARS

My inspiration stems from nature and a love of colour, texture and reflective light. I live in a mini rainforest that is as colourful as my work.

CONTACT DETAILS

E enquiries@my-creativediva.co.uk

MAKERS ADS



SEWING DIVA

I have a passion for sewing and I love to share, inspire and get others as hooked on sewing as I am!

CONTACT DETAILS

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NATURES DIVA

I decided I wanted to help protect nature's treasures that provide me with so much peace and pleasure.

CONTACT DETAILS

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P +61 (0) 74684 5157



LEIGH ARMSTRONG

Metal Clay is an amazing medium, fabulous on its own or stunning when utilising other mediums. I make to sell and teach metal clay and mixed media workshops from my home studio.

CONTACT DETAILS

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MICHELLE GRIFFITHS

The Resist Gallery/Studio facebook page is a good link for people to view as it's got the most up to date information as to "What's On"! Beginners are very welcome.

CONTACT DETAILS

F www.facebook.com/pages/Resist-GalleryStudio/310300432358252 **W** www.shibori.co.uk



CAROLYN SCHULZ

I am a freelance craft designer, teacher and businesswoman. I love creating jewellery for so many reasons.

CONTACT DETAILS

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VICTORIA CONSTABLE

I take a lot of my inspiration from nature and my surroundings. I am registered with the London Assay Office and so all my pieces are hallmarked where appropriate and stamped with my makers mark.

CONTACT DETAILS

E milajewellery@live.co.uk **W** www.milajewellery.com **P** 07788 131466

MAKERS ADS



LESLEY MESSAM

Lesley has been making Jewellery for over 15 years. She also has her own studio in Chichester where she teaches a variety of jewellery classes.

CONTACT DETAILS

E lesleymessam@btconnect.com **W** Silverwithlesley.com **P** 01243787829



DEBBIE KERSHAW

Debbie is a jewellery designer. She absolutely loves her work and is passionate about jewellery!

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ROBIN FOLLETT

I've been writing since I was ten years old. I love the peace and tranquillity of the woods as this is where I draw my inspiration.

CONTACT DETAILS

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CATHERINE POVEY

Catherine Povey is a Welsh milliner whose work is sold and displayed around the world. Her creative talent has been recognised by both the National Museum of Wales and the Cardiff Story museum, where she has pieces displayed in their current collections.

CONTACT DETAILS

Catherine Povey Millinery

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MAGGIE JONES

Maggie Jones arranges and delivers demonstrations for jewellery, sewing and general crafts. She also runs workshops and courses, particularly in the Lancashire and north Manchester areas and writes projects, in jewellery and stitching, for various magazines.

CONTACT DETAILS

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F: www.facebook.com/craftdemon

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