

ONE MORE TIME AROUND

UP-CYCLED TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE

MEMBER FEATURE YEARBOOK 2023



2023

Yearbook



MEMBER

FEATURES





CHANDRESHAKAR M.V.

<https://studiometaphor.in/>

In 2000 Chandreshakar started Metaphor, a textile design studio made up of a small, dedicated group of trained textile craftsmen and women. Metaphor's studio-line clothing focuses on form, authentic textiles and unique textures.

The artisanal approach from which his unique style emerged, comes from an instinctive understanding of fiber and weave. He explores the inherent qualities of the fabric and documents changes that the yarn or textile goes through in the process of dyeing, printing and stitching. His forte lies in pattern-making.





Metaphor strives for zero-waste, producing colorful and vibrant textiles from discarded post-production cloth. By bringing various craft elements into play to create unorthodox forms, they redefine individually crafted pieces that offer rich tactile experiences.

His work is a part of an on going exhibit on Victoria Museum, Australia. Click through to this link to learn more about it...

<https://youtu.be/PPcXof6fVmk>

We are super thankful to have so much authentic talent in our community. If you would like to add your story to our member features, send your story and pictures to...

melanie@upcycledclothcollective.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

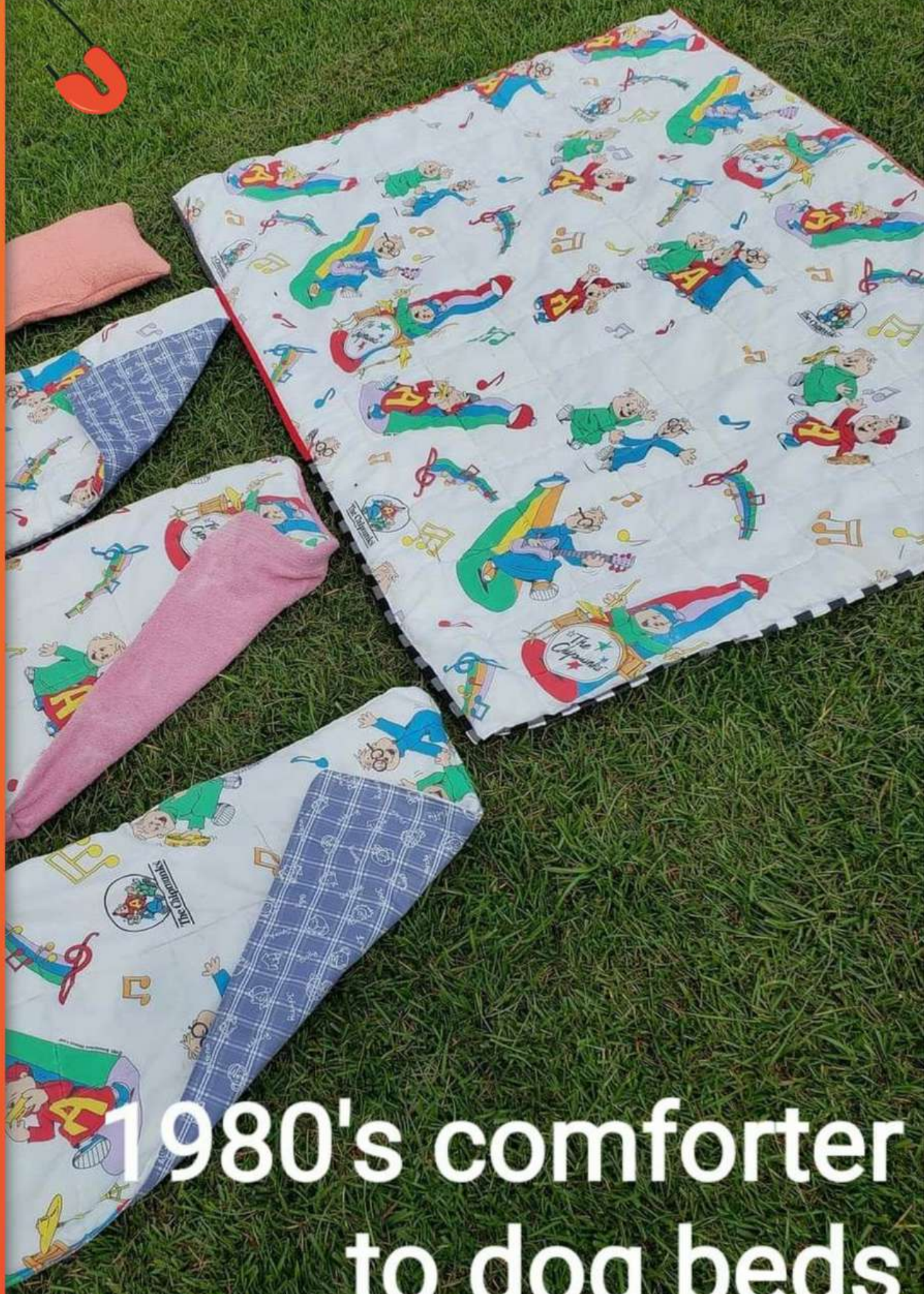




ROWDY SMITH

I've been sewing since I was 4 years old, on my Grandma's old black Singer. I started with doll clothes and blankets. Then around 7 yrs old I was cutting out patterns for my mom and started sewing clothes. I continued sewing clothes in my early 20's. Dyeing sheets and making skirts and embellishing jackets. When I moved into my second apartment I moved onto home decor....pillows and valances. I started Quilting in my early 30's....often using men's shirts because of the quality cotton. I've made several memory lap Quilts for family members out of shirts, jeans and khaki pants....also making small heart ornaments. With my leftover bits I cut small and use to stuff dog beds for the animal shelters. There is such a great need! I've made approximately 400 shelter beds from San Diego to Myrtle Beach!

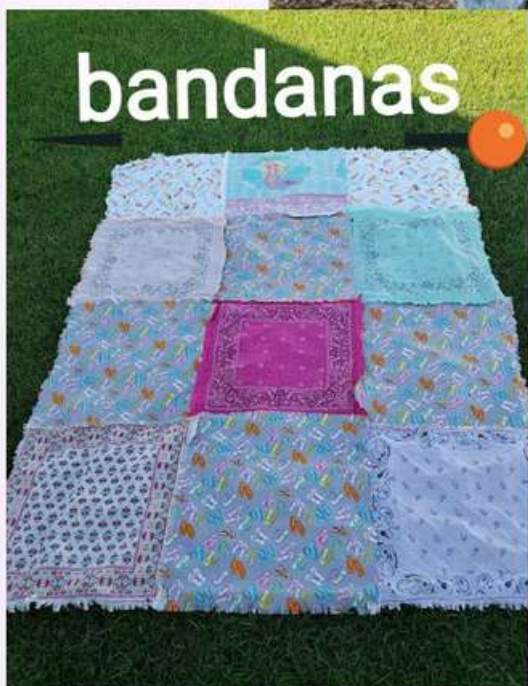




1980's comforter
to dog beds



I try and keep my new consumerism to a minimum and reuse, repurpose, recycle and shop thrift and 2nd hand stores. ~ Stay stitching.



I love the creativity in the Up-Cycled Cloth Collective! I always find something new to learn there.



TARA PLUKE

I live in South Africa on the East Rand in a town called Benoni. I live with my fiancé, Alan. We love being creative and are avid chili growers. I am a creative person and love shapes, color, and design, and love seeing it in nature as well. I am an artist; painting is a huge passion and I enjoy using bold, bright colors in abstract form.

It has always been my dream to create a business within my passion.

<https://www.facebook.com/tara.pluke>



South Africa has a shortage of jobs as I am sure it is the same in so many other countries. In desperation to find employment we signed up for a course called "Work For A Living" and it was mind blowing.

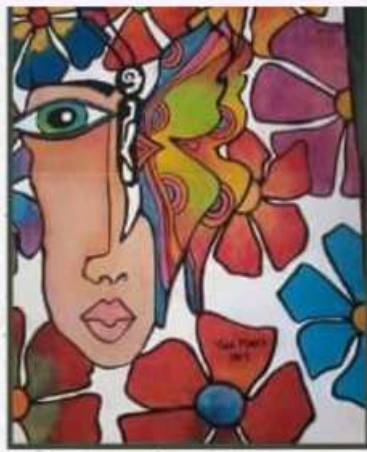
While doing the course I decided to do their business course I and submitted a business plan. A local transport company that supports BEE took the business plan and decided to fund us.

We have set up shop for now in my bachelor flat. My business is called Out Of The Ashes! referring to God who will take your ashes and turn it into beauty.

We use only up cycled fabric mainly denim but other fabrics as well, the goal is to grow to the point where we can train and employ others to work in our business or help them start their own businesses.

To up-cycle is not only to benefit nature but it can also create employment and educate us all about looking after our environment and ourselves "Out of the ashes."





— ● — OUT OF THE ASHES — ● —





MARIE ALHOMME

I am 43 years old and I live in the Loire region with my husband and our two children. I hunt for fabrics that inspire me because they "whisper" something to me. I then imagine a piece in a creative and artistic process that will reveal this message to you, and sew it with a high level of technical precision.

I love what I do and I get excited each time I can tell the story a piece is trying to tell through me, or when I get to see people tear up when they receive their "new object" and they see the soul of it shining through and know they can have it with them everyday.



I am "Cousettes Fantastiques, Créations d'Exceptions".

As a textile artist, I create accessories that tell stories.

Bags and wallets with a distinct identity, in unique and numbered pieces, conceived and sewn with passion and rigor in my workshop in the Loire region (France).

I also offer fully customized creations with "Marie Alhomme, Sublimatrice de Souvenirs (Memories Alchemist)", to give a new life to your sentimental fabrics.

Unique and precious creations, just like your memories.

You can learn more about this and contact me at

<https://marie-alhomme.com>

<https://cousettes-fantastiques.fr>





CO-
CREATORS
EDITION

MEMBER

FEATURES





ALICE OLSEN

I would like to share how this group has helped lift me up after the death of my spouse last November, and how making things from his clothes for his family members (and me) helped us all as well.

Here's my story... The death of my spouse was, and still is, hard. Finding this group after his passing was a blessing for me. It gave me a community to belong to; a community of caring, supportive, and creative members.



I was inspired by many of the wonderful things that the members made. This encouraged me to create things from the clothes of my loved one to give to his relatives as remembrances. I made a lap quilt from his flannel shirts for his mother. I made a rug from his t shirts for his sister. His niece got a tote bag made from his jeans and having the precious reminder made her cry. This year for her birthday, his sister is getting some beads made from his old jeans.

These were all projects inspired by the group.

For myself I made a carrying case for my music stand from the leg of his jeans. Since we were both musicians, that held extra meaning for me. Every day I look forward to seeing what new amazing thing members are sharing. And I can't wait to take a picture when I create something new, so I can share it with my "friends".





This is a quilt that I made from my spouse's flannel shirts as a gift for his 96 year old Mom.



JOSEPHINE LEACH

I spent my childhood in Renmark in the Riverland of South Australia. The River Murray runs alongside the town and the fruit growing settlement. We had a free and easy upbringing.

My Mother encouraged me to sew and I spent hours sewing clothes for my dolls. We did sewing at school and I made my first skirt when I was about nine or ten. In my late teens I trained as a Mothercraft Nurse (Nanny) and I lived and travelled overseas for years.



I married and after my children left home I went back to further my adult education and I enrolled in a two year designer dress making course. I loved every minute of the time I spent studying and for the next 25 years worked from home with my own dressmaking business.

During this time one of my sons designed a winter liner for hard hats. These we called HannayHeadwarmers. The Headwarmers were relatively successful and I started going to markets to sell them. This led on to making bags and jackets and other items from recycled jeans. I gradually started making hats from recycled fabrics and denim and I became more adventurous about mixing colors and fabrics.

I later changed the business name to HannayHandmade.



My hats have calmed down a bit now color wise as I've had to go with what buyers are looking for rather than following my own ideas.

I haunt the op shops looking for unusual fabrics... curtains, duvet covers, etc. Later I added colorful newsboy caps and twenties style cloche hats to my range.

My sewing/work room is an outside room that can shut away when I am not sewing. In fine weather I usually sew with the door open so I can look out at the garden. I'm very messy and mostly cut multiple items at one time. Then I tidy up before I start to sew. I use my Grandmother's 120 year old sheers to cut each piece.

Ollie, our Border Collie/Belgian Shepherd, has been our faithful companion for fourteen years. We have a combined family of five children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



I enjoy going to Creative Writing and I also teach a small group of retired ladies music. I try to find to relax playing the piano and getting out in the garden.

Over the years we've done quite a lot of overseas travel but as we are both in our eighties now we tend to stay closer to home.

I'm happy sewing!

We usually have a market stall in a nearby town every month.

Since joining the Up-Cycled Cloth Collective this worldwide Group continuously astounds me with their talent and imagination and their will to re-use all sorts of things. They are all so supportive of one another. I congratulate the founder and her administrators for doing such an incredible job.

HannayHandmade

<https://www.com/shop/HannayHandmade>







FATIMA ABBASS

+27 73 145 7443

WhatsApp

My name is Fatima Abbass. I am a 58 year old granny and everyone calls me "Nanna". I love to bake, create, make beaded jewelry and many other crafts. My biggest love is crocheting with T-shirt yarn. I would love to turn my hobby into a business where i can teach unemployed ladies in my area of Mitchells Plain to create mats, baskets, and bags. Before I can do that one need to educate the people to start supporting our own and especially hand made stuff. We need a mind change as people are not into wearing a bag that was made from an old sweater.



I am an optical receptionist currently but previously I worked at an NGO that dealt with HIV positive people. I was an administrator and when the people or those infected or affected did counseling I looked after their kids I kept them entertained. This is how I came up with little beading projects and recycling goodies to keep kids occupied and at minimal expense. That is where I started researching and found I could combine my love for crochet with recycle material.

A "little known fact about me" is that i suffer from pediophobia ... the fear of dolls. That is why I was always looking for things to make or re-arrange my life instead of playing with dolls. Now I am at the point that I can crochet and make stuffed dolls but not yet touch or play with life like ones.







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ADRIENNE BRUNTON

Hi, I am Adrienne Brunton, from a small seaside town called Orewa which is just north of Auckland, New Zealand.

I share my home with two of my four children, Toffee my Cavalon dog and his best friend Luna the 8 month old kitten. There is also Coco the Cockatiel and Bella the cat (who likes to intrude next door at every chance).

I am a Bespoke Clothing and Mixed Media artist.



My passion and total ethos for my practice is to create with mainly found and thrifted fabrics, notions and anything I need for my work. I use fabrics as my main source but love to work with teabags and coffee stained doilies, tablecloths and crochet tablecloths, buttons, zips, paints and so much more.

After making the most of small spaces, the edge of my bedroom, a mini office, spare bedroom and more over the years I have finally sold the TV and couch to create a lovely French Inspired studio where I spend every spare moment I have.

The video of my studio is on my Instagram and Facebook so take a look @Villa112.NZ



I only create OOAK (one of a kind), special, interesting and unique pieces. I can achieve this all because I thrift and upcycle quality preloved pieces of clothing and textiles. My happy place is Op Shopping (opportunity, thrifting) or at home designing something to share or sell. There are many hours spent collecting enough treasures before I can even contemplate starting a project... but totally worth the journey.

I make what the fabrics and trims feed my imagination. What the end product becomes is what I find in my extensive stash of mediums. Therefore each piece is very individual and bespoke. Some creations are completed in a seamless process and others take months to be finished. Its all about the process that excites me and feeds my soul.



I feel my clothing is for the wearer to feel empowered and confident, to love the story of the garment, the creation and bespoke design.

As for my mixed media, this comes in many different forms but currently I am working on books or albums made from old book covers, fabric pages and lots of notions or slow stitching which I find relaxing and enjoyable.

One I am currently working on, the cover is an old needlecraft book which I stained with walnut ink. I have then coffee dyed some old laces, trims and doilies and old tea towels to create the signatures to go inside. Each signature has 3 leaves so 6 pages. I have 4 signatures which will be filled to complete the album. This album is solely about antique sewing notions, decorative stitches and embellishments.



This provides me with a bit of free headspace to relax and just slow stitch whatever takes my fancy.

The second album I am working on is quite different. I have again found an old antiques book. This one I have removed many of the pages to allow for the additions of my creative works to fill the book. This album will take time and lots of handwork to create.

Slow stitching, research and recreation of some gorgeous parts of history. How our garments have changed from such structure to free flowing and so individual for the wearer. It will be an album of vintage corsets, mannequins and the history of them. I will also include articles on the different undergarments made in history, fabrics and notions, trims etc they used.



Instagram
@Villa112.NZ

Facebook
@Villa112.NZ

Email
Villa112.NZ@gmail.com





DAWN EDWARDS

My name is Dawn Edwards and I have been a feltmaker for almost twenty years. These have been some of the best years of my life, teaching, creating, traveling, and meeting and being inspired by talented fiber artists from around the world. I live in Southwest Michigan, just a short drive from beautiful Lake Michigan. We have four distinct seasons which provides for an ever-changing source of inspiration found in nature.

My favorite felt items to create are sculptural hats and vessels.



I find great joy in looking at items found in nature, whether that be flowers, shells, leaves, pinecones, and recreating a version of them in felt. I liken many of my felt hats to small sculptures, and find that they are actually quite wearable and fun to be worn, too.

You might think that tree fungus would be an odd thing to recreate in felt as a hat, but take a look at the hat shown on the next page, and you may nod your head in agreement with Van Gogh's quote, "If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere." I love that through feltmaking, we are able to look at things in different ways and find beauty in the unexpected. This has been a gift to me.

I've heard it said that, "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life.", and I have found this to be very true in feltmaking and I am thankful for this opportunity.



Dawn Edwards is a felt artist and tutor based in Plainwell, Michigan USA. She sells her work under the label 'Felt So Right' and teaches extensively within the USA and internationally. Her felt art has appeared in numerous exhibitions, shows, magazines and books, including...

Books

Ellen Bakker's Worldwide Colours of Felt

Magazines

Australian 'FELT' Magazine

Dawn's felt vessel, 'The Earth Beneath My Feet' (2022) and her 'Blue Coral' felt hat (2020) were both chosen as juried selections for FELT: Fiber Transformed in the magazine, 'Fiber Art Now'.

Journals

The International Feltmakers Association's Felt Matters

The HGA's Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot



Dawn is the co-coordinator of the not-for-profit group, 'Felt United', which currently has over 7,500 members, with the goal of uniting feltmakers from all around the world.

You can find her via the below links. Her workshops are listed on her website under the Workshops tab, 'Attend a Workshop'.

<https://www.feltsoright.com/>

www.facebook.com/DawnEdwards.FeltSoRight

https://www.instagram.com/dawn_edwards/



Felt So Right

B Y D A W N E D W A R D S





RÉKA OROSZ

When I was little girl, I learned to sew very early. I used fabric left over from my grandmother's projects, or old unwanted shirts, skirts to make my dolls beautiful dresses. Then I made my first trousers at age 10. Since then, I make my own clothes. I always kept the left overs from anything I made, and designed patchwork pillowcases at the beginning.

Then I realized I can make summer dresses and ballgowns of discarded scarves, used dresses and stock fabrics from my friends grandmothers. I love to use every single little piece of material. Recycled fabric is a real treasure for me, which holds abundant opportunities to create something new of old things.





I was born in Hungary and learnt textile and design at university. I was working mostly for my friends during university. I participated many times in Budapest Fashion Week. Then I opened a little shop in Budapest.

Unfortunately I had to close it, then moved to London, England. I received invitations to many countries to showcase my designs. After a decade in London, both my kidneys have stopped working, and I moved back to my hometown.

Now in the final stage CKD, I go to dialysis three days a week. I'm happy again, because I can work, making clothing from old material.

It gives meaning to my life.

You can find me on Facebook at this link...

<https://www.facebook.com/oroszreekadesign>



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ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



AUGUST 2023

Fun with goats edition



RENEE HUNT

I was born in New Zealand and it was there that I met my husband, Jim. We were married in 1991. We have two adult daughters. In 2008 we moved to the Gold Coast Australia to take on a new venture and experience living in another country.

We have two gorgeous female corgis, Elsie and Bonnie and a ginger cat, George.

One of my earliest memories has been looking on the sides of roads or countryside when going for a drive or walking along beaches or just the local neighborhood to find something that I can turn into something lovely, imaginative and unique.



In 2015 I trained as a florist and I remember my tutor saying to me that she loved my creativity to always think outside the box.

When COVID hit us three years ago, I started watching YouTube videos of women in America who also were creative and they would share their skills. So it was then that I started up-cycling home decor items and started selling them at markets.

However, I have always loved making quirky dolls. So after looking on Pinterest and getting lots of ideas, I came up with my 'shelf sitting' dolls made out of recycled clothing and accessories and hair. Their bodies are made from recycled kitchen board from RV's.

You will find me on Instagram @dandedolls





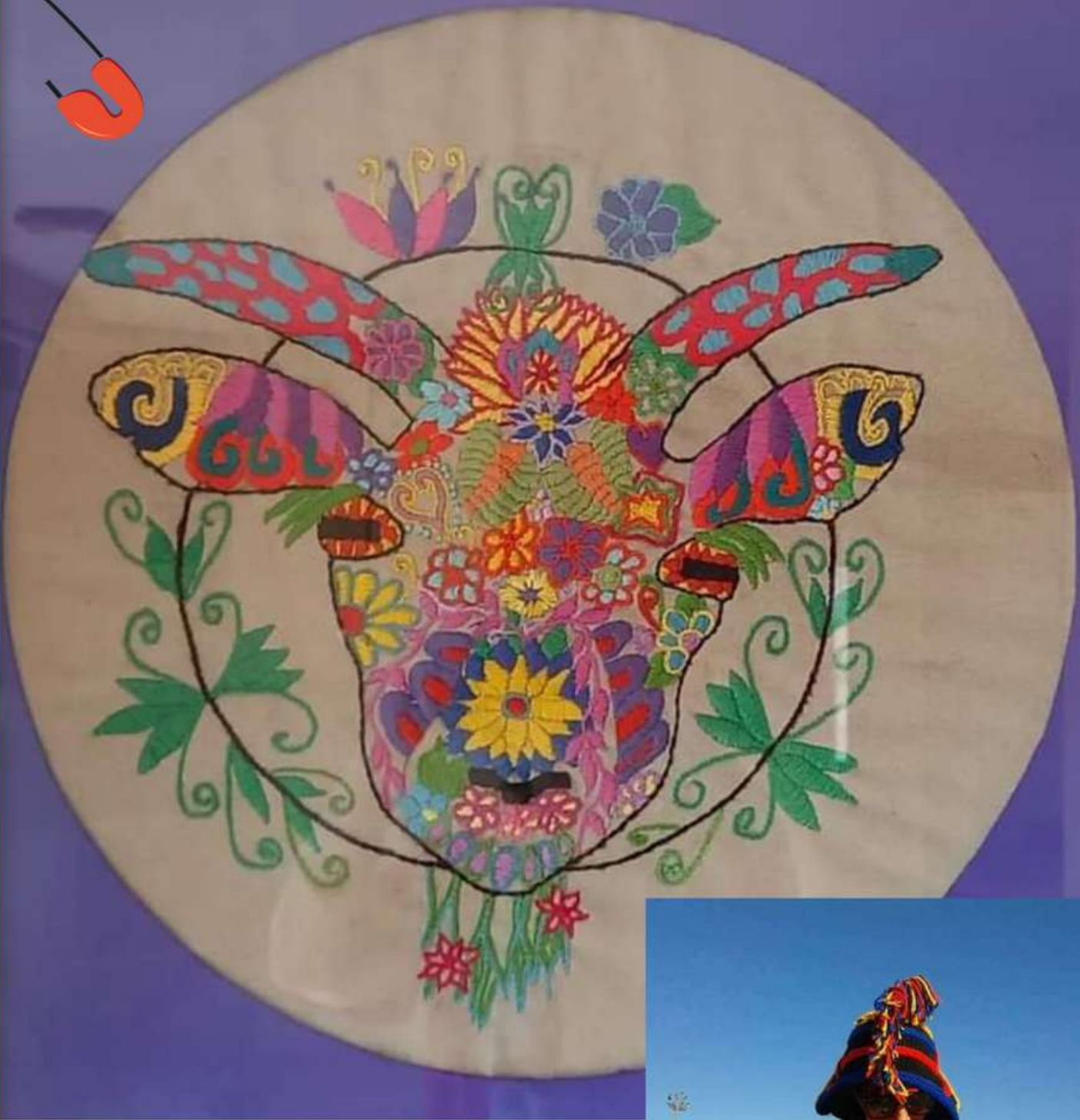


SUE LIGHTLEY

I'm from the UK but moved to Spain 18 years ago. We renovated an old farmhouse which is almost finished. I have a little farm with goats and George a miniature Shetland pony, pigs and a variety of poultry. I used to raise goats but had to stop. I now just have 7 as pets who I walk every day. That's when I do most of my embroideries. Denim is the best for me to work on as it's more durable.

A little known fact about me is that I have goat hoof print tattoos up one leg.





Everything I do is upcycled. My garden is full of upcycled stuff even my husband is 4th hand (we've been married 30 years). I used to have a goat page called Pickle and pals. It's still running but I don't post on it.







MEMBER

FEATURES





ALISON GORROD

I run sewing and art workshops for all ages in a variety of forms and also do a community class for a theatre group based on recycling.

These are just a few example pieces for an introduction to applique and free machine embroidery to show a community class I run based around recycling textiles. It's a group of mostly retired older ladies, some of whom have never sewn previously. I do mini projects to get them sewing using scrap fabrics and old clothes. These pieces were layered onto some felt to be a bit sturdier, the bird is further embellished with beads from broken jewellery, then brooch pins are sewn on the back.



This had a notebook made from fabric scraps and soluble embroidery stabilizer to create a new fabric using free embroidery to hold it all together

<https://www.facebook.com/ExploreMakeCreate>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/749770311856711/>



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ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



SEPTEMBER 2023

Launch the learning
edition



AMY SANCHEZ

This was a quilt my mother made for me when I was a child about 50 years ago. The fabric squares are from dresses that she made for me and my sisters. There is very much a late 1960, early 1970's vibe to the fabric squares.

It's been in a trunk for many years doing no good in there.

So after making a few practice jackets, I decided to turn the quilt into a jacket that would get some use.



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BARBARA MCNINCH

This upcycled t-shirt skirt was the result of eyeing a brown and mustard striped long-sleeve t-shirt which my sister-in-law wore a lot. Since I drooled over the stripe color combo, we joked about her keeping an eye on it so I didn't take my scissors to it. Eventually, I found a similar shirt in a thrift store so I could begin cutting on one of my own. I started gathering coordinating t-shirts from my collection and then raided my rust dyed and eco-printed stash. I have recently begun eco-printing and added the green piece with plants from my yard.

I used a panel which when cut out eight times makes a skirt. After cutting out several pieces, I trimmed the width of some and serged a differing fabric onto their side for added interest. The small precious piece of turquoise rust-dyed t-shirt is stitched over a seam and another rust-dyed gold piece was added to a panel. I had extra difficulty with this particular waistband, redoing it a couple times which shortened the skirt. Wanting it longer, I cut two-inch tall t-shirt pieces of various lengths and serged them together to make a long strip and serged it to the bottom. My color inspiration was the sandhill cranes which nest in my Alaska community. The grey, rust, and olive I see when zooming them in with binoculars takes my breath away.

I love to make things and really value using discarded knit clothing, often times from the giveaway area at our local landfill.

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BARBARA ZELL

Living in Austria - near Vienna - I started to RELOVE used fabric years ago and only work with gifted material. My friends know about this and very often, they gift me with resources because they know they get something new back. These Lavender sachets are made of linen (an old curtain) and some pieces of cotton for the backside. The size is 17cm x 12 cm , filled with lavender from the garden, folded like an envelope and closed with a button. They are easy and quick to make and a very useful gift.



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BONNIE ROBERTSON

The Elizabeth City Historic Ghost Walk is a yearly event featuring actors portraying local people of history. This was actor Laura Vestal, portraying Theodosia Burr Alston, who was lost at sea off the coast of North Carolina in 1813. She was the daughter of Aaron Burr, a US Vice President.

The fabrics used were a set of curtains (complete with the fringe trim), and a bed sheet with a wide lace border.

This year's major costume is for a former slave Moses Grandy who was freed, and then became an abolitionist. The coat fabric was on a clearance rack, the vest was a woman's velvet jacket, the ascot a man's tie, and the shirt a donation! Our event is Oct 13 & 14 this year.





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DILHARA SAWALL

Im Dhillhara ..a blessed grand ma with two grand sons.. I reside in Sri Lanka ... a beautiful country rich in natural resources..

The string bucket bag is made with discarded denim and a piece of left over lace. The combination of these are transferred to be a beautiful bag. My main aim of upcycling is to contribute to nature in my little way.



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JULIE KONG

This dress was part of an upcycle competition here in Redding, CA. We were asked to create a piece of clothing by using only upcycled materials. The theme was floral and spring.

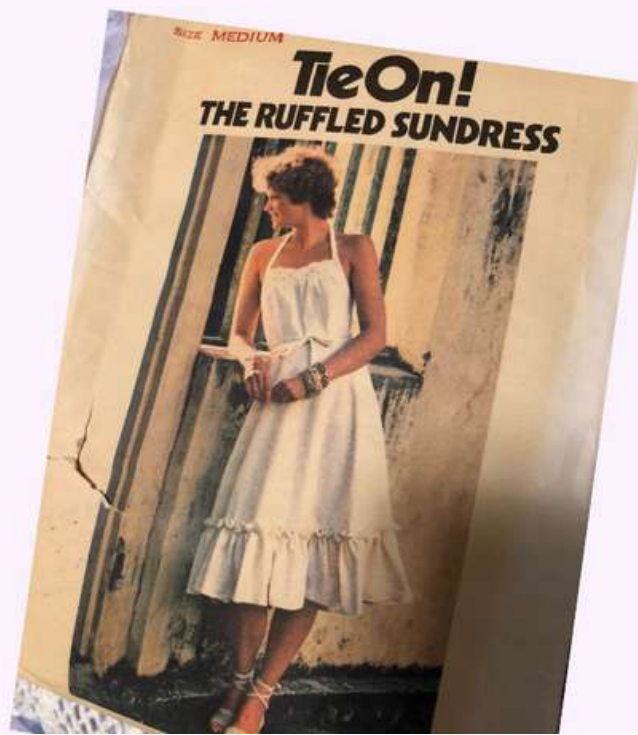
I started with a white tablecloth. It had a stain on it that was so hard to get out!! It started out as a mustard stain but by the time I was done, it was a pinkish red and in a very inappropriate place. I ended up sewing another piece of the tablecloth over it.



This tablecloth became the skirt. I then cut a doily up and used the flowers on one corner of the bottom of the dress. I also sewed sparkly crystals in the center of the crochet flowers. I also cut out flowers from a 2nd hand dress and sewed them around the bottom of the skirt. Next I used a white embroidered table runner for the bodice. I lined it with a pale yellow scrap of fabric since it was see through.

My pattern was from the 1970's.

I actually made this dress back in high school and loved it! I also upcycled a dress for myself. Surprised and shocked that I actually won first place! What an honor.





KAYE LANE

Fabric - Cotton check fabric 1m x 5m - discarded end of bolt that languished in a fabric shop in Colchester UK and thrown out as space was needed. As a student who would use anything to explore with potential, I was excited to make use of this resource.

Techniques -

3 Screen prints

Several heat print designs

Silk hand embroidery

The concept was to take a discarded piece of fabric incorporate a design that related to organic growth structures used to inspire architecture. I looked at zoomorphic pieces and structures. Free painting natural form, taking it into screen print. Then applying heat pressed pencil drawings showing tiny natural forms that hide within larger forms. Finally choosing areas to embroider as natural structures change and grow within architecture themselves.

Thank you for enjoying the piece.



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KRISTI CAPONE

Hi! My name is Kristi Capone. I'm the creative services director for Cottontail Vintage, my little vintage-inspired crafting business. I reside by the sea in sunny St Petersburg, FL. We have a vibrant art and craft community here, and Cottontail Vintage has thrived heartily since 2005.

I'm inspired by antique and historical crafts and old items such as 1960s rick-rack and 1940s lace and buttons (honestly, I must have the largest button collection in town!), and it takes all of my will to not own more fabric than I do!





COTTONTAIL
VINTAGE
♡



LENA ARCHBOLD



This tunic a Japanese apron was created out of previously felted tunic. Previously felted tunic was made out of merino wool and silk garments found in charity shops. I used nuno felted technique. I also added silk hand dyed leftovers from other projects. I originally created that tunic 5 years. There was nothing wrong with the original garment, however it was not wearable. It was beautiful, but not practical. I decided to repurpose it. I made a pattern of a Japanese apron, then cut the tunic into squares and stitched them all together. This one is also reversible. I have more fabric left to make another garment.



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MARY JO HULTMAN

I am a recovering furniture painter and a retired Occupational Therapist. For some reason I moved into fabric because I love to create, but am not artistic or gifted in many skills. At age 77, I don't know if I can become a better sewer, so I chose to concentrate on simple patterns. Vests appealed to me the most. Material is basically thrifted, including the dog pattern fleece. Then I dug up the paw fabric for the pockets. (Rummage sale) I messed up on the neckline, so I added a scarf to make up for it. A comedy of errors? But people are drawn to the quiriness of it, I guess. I am enjoying this so much. Hoping to do more themed pieces. I made my husband a 'big guy' one, and now have more requests for rugged looking ones. Fun! So far I have not 'sold' anything. Not thinking of that, but maybe will have to charge for materials. It adds up quickly.



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NKANYEZI PRINCE

My name is Nkanyezi Mbatha, a brother to Nkosikhona Mbatha, living in Johannesburg, South Africa. We are both visual artists inspired by our parents careers.

After graduating from high school we were fortunate to be part of a visual arts program in Newtown. We learned multiple art techniques including printing, sewing, design and ceramics. Through the programme we were able to diversify our skills and work with well established individuals within the art space.





We worked together on the pieces and it was a dedication to woman "imbokodo" as it is woman's month in South Africa. Imbokodo is a Zulu word loosely translated to a rock ...which personifies the character of the woman in South Africa... strong... courageous to say the least.





PAULA CAWLY

<https://www.facebook.com/Binkyboomakes>

My FB page is named after my wirehaired sausage dog.

This bear is made with recycled vintage mohair. My mushrooms are made from silk velvet, silk for the gills and vintage linen (stalk) all recycled fabrics from clothing, the beads on top are from old bracelets and even the stuffing is recycled! I pride myself on using every inch of a garment in all my makes, even down to the buttons.



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PENNY HOWARD

I was gifted a container of unwanted quilt binding remnants. They were all quality quilting cotton strips of various lengths and cut 2- 2 5" wide. Luckily there were plenty of bright colours in the mix to make strong and interesting contrasts when they were combined. I hand twined the strips (using 2 strips at a time) to make approximately 20 metres of rope. I then used my Bernina 570 with an applique foot attached, and a thick jeans needle, to zig zag the rope together to form a coiled pot. To do this I first stitched the coiled rope to form a flat circular base of 8", then formed the sides, by tilting the base up against the machine while I continued zig zagging the rope coils together. I stitched till I thought the sides were high enough (about 9"), then securely back stitched the rope end by machine to prevent it unravelling, then used a toning embroidery thread to bind the end tidily.

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REBECCA RYAN

Hi! I'm Rebecca (Bec) I've been making bags, homewares and other accessories for around 15 years. My passion is giving vintage and preloved fabric and materials a new life.

My other passions are sustainability, creativity and community. I live in Lismore, in Northern NSW which you may be familiar with due to the catastrophic flooding we experienced in early 2022.



Prior to the flood I owned and operated a local handmade collective shop called The Curious Kookaburra and a creative workshop space called The Creatory. Unfortunately they were both destroyed.

Following the loss of my businesses I started making heart banners to show love and hope to my devastated community. This grew into a movement that was recognised nationally and led to the concept and opening of the @loveforlismore Heart Space.

I'm super proud to say it's now become a registered charity ! We also won a local Australia Day award for Service to Community by a Group.

Now thanks to the popularity of the blankie bags, I sew full time and also have time to devote to the Heart Space. Thanks so much to every single one of you who has liked, commented, supported and ordered. You're all allowing me to redefine and follow my creative dream and that means the world to me

Photo taken in Port Macquarie with one of their fabulous yarn bomb trees. And yes I'm wearing a vintage Ken Done wool cardigan



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ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



JUNE 2023

Launch the new look!



ROBYN NICOLL

My husband Neil had many pairs of jeans, and although some were very new and hardly worn he would anyways choose his favourite pair that were many years old. It was our running joke each time he wore them where I'd ask "Oh are you wearing your new jeans today? That's fantastic". My wonderful husband of 44 years passed away tragically and unexpectedly during surgery three years ago and I eventually went through the heartbreaking task of sorting through some of his clothes for family, friends and charities.



His favourite jeans could not fall into any of those categories and I just couldn't pass them on. I decided to upcycle them into a couple of items I could use to keep him close when I ventured out without him. The market bag was sewn using the jean leg pieces and I added some of his shirt fabrics and a piece of Liberty as trims. The pocket was sewn on and embroidered with a few x stitches before adding a press stud to keep my mobile secure inside. To add texture and feature, I frayed a section of denim then gathered it along the length of the bag. I embroidered a heart and the word Love as Neil captured my heart at the tender age of 16. The moon was created using bleach and a stencil brush stroked into a circle before being embroidered with the man in the moon's face and x for stars. Four tabs were sew to the top to hold the drawstring fabric cord. The lining was made with one of his favourite shirts.



I didn't have a plan or style when I commenced my bag so it really just evolved as I continued. My inspiration was to make my bag cheerful and meaningful. Even the jeans brand tag became an element of interest and usage. I couldn't waste any of this precious much loved denim therefore I also sewed a zip pouch using the same technique for the moon. One side of the pouch was created with several lengths of the left over denim that I frayed to add detail and texture. The wrist strap is made from the side seam showing the original stitching. I truly love my bag and pouch and I feel my husband's presence whenever I take them on outings. They provide a functional use as well as providing much joy knowing his loved item of clothing is now living a new life.

Neil wasn't one to waste, so I feel sure he'd smile at how I've transformed his favourite old pair of jeans into something useful.



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SANDRA VAN LEEUWARDEN

My friend's mother passed away with dementia just over a year ago & I asked her if there was something I could make from some of her clothing that she could remember her by. She chose a few pairs of pants & 3 x tops for me to work with. She decided on a throw for her guest bed. It was quite a process... disassembling the clothing & cutting into various sized squares & rectangles to then arrange into a patchwork design. I used the plain pants fabric for the backing & the patterned tops for the front. Keeping with the blue theme I made the binding from a preloved cotton sheet from my stash.

I even managed to keep one of her mother's name tags (from the nursing home) on a piece on the back of the quilt. She now has a lovely permanent reminder of her mum!



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SANDY CARLSON



This vest is made from a vintage tablecloth.

It was a special order from a lady that collects vintage cloths. I also lined it with a second cloth.

She loved it and wore it out of here!



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TASHA HESS

In making my Misfit dolls I have found the perfect avenue for using extremely small pieces of fabric/yarn etc, that would otherwise be left unused or scrapped. Each have different personalities depending on the type of upcycled fabrics and notions I have on hand.

And they show what can be done that's a bit out of the norm of upcycling.

I also do other textile and fiber art. Slow stitch, embroidery, knitting, crochet. I make these little mushroom hangings from upcycled yarn, scraps of sari silk, and found sticks.

Instagram [@slowhandstitchn](https://www.instagram.com/slowhandstitchn)





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MEMBER

FEATURES





ANITA GIELEN-SLOESEN

About me...I am 63 years young. Born in a little village in the Netherlands, married with Aad. We have two daughters, 5 grandsons and 2 granddaughters, two horses and three cats and live now in Germany for 17 years. I have worked for many years as a pharmacy assistant in a pharmacy and later in a general practice. When I was 6 ,my mom learned me knitting and crochet, and I made clothes for my dolls. My mom sew it together. I had always ideas, sometimes I made some together with my dad.



When I was 18, I took a sewing course with my sister. Only for 2 months, we did not learn anything at all... Then I learned it myself...with many ups and downs. But I learned a lot from the downs....I have made a lot and sold it or give it away as a gift. In 2018 a horse was ill, the vet made the wrong diagnose and in the evening he died when I was with him. My heart cried... That was the beginning of these projects, I started with a bear....and then followed more and more. I make them of old sheets, tablecloths, clothes and then I paint them, that takes many hours. But that doesn't matter....that's hobby! When the process is growing and growing then I see what a character it becomes. Make the clothes ,and then I can't wait no longer and want to finish it. For example, I create bowls and body' s from old newspapers and egg cartons. also low budget, and recycling materials. My husband asked me often when do you sell it? Then I say: when I am old.



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ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



OCTOBER 2023

Anita Gielen-Sloesen



CAROL GARRISON

They called me ‘Olive Oil’ when I was young (as in Popeye and Olive Oil cartoon), because I was rail thin. We lived in a tiny, remote town in the American Midwest with little (none actually) access to retail stores so my clothing came from yard sales, hand-me-downs, and mail order catalogues. As a result, with the help of my Aunt, I learned to sew at an early age so I could alter clothing to fit my thin frame. Upcycling was a necessity from an early age and continued to be an asset through most of my life. It only became a hobby after I retired.



I remember with humor some of my early sewing projects. We had a Singer treadle sewing machine where my first attempt ending in sewing through a finger. I once made a one-piece pajama jumper with raglan sleeves. I accidentally sewed the leg piece where the arm was supposed to go. Instead of tearing it out, I adjusted the leg to become an arm, and shortened the correct leg to match the errant arm (now a leg). Upcycling was in my DNA.

Artistic expression was the other constant in my life. I studied art in college, primarily oil and acrylic painting. It also wasn't until I retired that I combined sewing with art in an art form called 'Fabric Collage' or 'painting with fabrics'. I have created many art pieces using only fabric pieces and thread.



We live in the Pacific Northwest, Gig Harbor, Washington - a beautiful area of trees, water, and mild climate located on Puget Sound, a large water area that connects with the Pacific Ocean. I have 3 cats, 1 dog, and a husband. My cats like to keep me company when I sew, whether I want them to or not.



My granddaughter and her cat also live with us, and she is an accomplished seamstress as well. We have accumulated a lot of sewing machines - sergers, embroidery machines, freemotion longarm, and an industrial machine that can sew through ½” of leather like butter. I have 3 mannequins that scare the wits out of visitors when they accidentally stumble upon them. I love denim and wool - and those are my main thrift store goals.



My favorite projects are transforming them into totes, purses, or hats. I create my own patterns. We are fortunate to be able to sell them online, at gift shows, and in local boutiques (or I'd have a house full of projects!)

My business name is CARAUT - stands for CAR (Carol - that's me) and AUT (Autumn - my granddaughter).

My online links are:

CarautHandmade -

www.facebook.com/carauthandmade

for upcycled handbags, hats, jackets, skirts

CarautStudios -

www.facebook.com/carautstudios

for my Fabric Collage Art with step by step progress pictures

My Etsy Shop is:

<https://caraut.etsy.com>

My granddaughters Etsy shop is:

<https://peppermintrainart.etsy.com>





Caraut Studios

Eco-Friendly Fashions



CARAUT Eco-friendly clothing





DIANNA HACHEY



I don't sell anything as I upcycle just for myself as it is a hobby only so maybe not a good choice for your cover. Thanks for considering my submission. Right now I am going through the stash of knitting from my sister-in-law's mother-in-law who passed away and turning her large amount of knitted triangles into something decorative or useful. Little Christmas ornaments are my project right now which her family can decorate themselves at a Christmas themed party.



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OCTOBER 2023

Dianna Hachey



EMILY DAVIDSON

My name is Emily Davidson. I'm 31 and live in Northern Michigan with my husband, our two kids, Great Grams and my dog, Lulu. Up-cycling is in my blood. I can remember getting in trouble with my sister in the attic of my grandma's auction house, while my step grandpa Jim was selling things on the auction block below. My mom, Dad, sister & I would drive from Troutdale Oregon to Astoria Washington Friday night to be there for auction day Saturday. It was amazing to be a kid, and see all the interesting things people were buying.



The best part was getting to know serious collectors who displayed their collections proudly... very inspiring. My Grandma was a crafty, savvy & inspiring role model to have growing up.

Visiting Dads parents was just as exciting to me, whimsical even. A quick 16 hour drive down the I-5 to Burbank California where my lovely Mimi & Papa had their forever home. Mimi is 97 and has been a sewing, crafting, fashion queen all her life. Making swaddles has been her new favorite craft for all her Great grand babies. My Papa loved going out to sales and thrift stores, he loved a good deal. Upcycling some of his dress shirts into a patchwork quilt was one of my first projects.



This has left me with an appreciation for all things used, thrifted, and loved that the world has to offer. To me, it's important to pay tribute to the people who collected the items or made the quilts before us. I'm a firm believer in "use what you've got".

I jumped into doing clothing upcycles after my Grandpa Dick passed away and left us all his beautiful hot rod t-shirts. It took a while to be ready to touch them. But I ended up making 5 Dresses for all the ladies in our family & a patchwork quilt for my uncle, his son. It's incredibly gratifying to be able to turn something left behind, into something meaningful. Currently I am working on two patchwork quilts for sisters made out of sweatshirts from their late mother.



I am addicted to the thrill of the hunt and it is very hard to not go to the thrift store when I go to town to get groceries. Things just seem to find me, and I've really enjoyed doing vintage material, afghan, and t-shirt flips from my "thrift store scores". My journey through the craft world has taken me from making bottle cap art, through many different medias, all the way to where I am now: up-cycling memories for my friends, family, and customers. Will you be my next project??

You can follow my journey on Instagram or Facebook, search: Rose Valley Craft. The love and support I've received from my family and friends since starting this journey has been uplifting to say the least. I'm a Mama on a mission, I don't think I can stop this train, so just picture me rolling.







GEN ROSSOUW

My name is Gen and I have a son and 2 beautiful rescue dogs named Felix and Bessie Mae. My business is named Jhoomka which means trinkets in Nepalese. I use doilies to make earrings, brooches and accessories by painting and stiffening them and also I make feathers from fabric I find at op shops. I have been running my business for the last 6 years and you can find me at www.jhoomka.etsy.com







GINI HOLMES

I was born and raised in California and am now living in the true northern part of the state by Lake Shasta. I say “true northern” because we are 5 hours above what others consider to be the North: San Francisco. 5 hours away from urban resources, so we excel at fending for ourselves - a tradition instilled in me by my mother’s side of the family. “If you can’t make it, do you really need it?”



Sewing, Art, and Science have always been a big part of my life. I really can't separate them, for they are all a form of creation based on curiosity, skill, exploration, discovery, failure and perseverance. I was fortunate enough to bring these three together via a very random path. I grew up sewing, studied art as an undergraduate, and was then invited to be a visiting artist in at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology,) graduating with a Masters Degree in Art and Technology. Upon graduation, my husband and I made the radical decision to move to Shasta, 40 years ago. 40 years of wonderful discovery. No more ready access to anything I wanted. Learning, once again, to make it myself. Meeting successful, like-minded artists with boundless curiosity. Raising two amazing sons with my musician husband, and rescuing endless numbers of cats. All of this has fed my creativity more than anything I can remember.





My work is diverse, but it always contains a recycling element. I make my print papers and dress forms from my junk mail. My embroidered prints use thrown out fabrics. Repurposed and upcycled papers, waste, and fabrics form the base of my clothing. And now, I am obsessed with creating jewelry from thread scraps left over from sewing classes. I leave jars around the classroom for students to put their clippings in, telling them that it's just like building sand paintings in jars. With these threads, I build a sculptured necklace - never having an idea what it will be - just following the threads as I embroider. Oftentimes, these jewelry sculptures lead to a complimentary piece of clothing.

You can see my work at:

www.suitevirginia.com

<https://www.facebook.com/suitevirginiah>

<https://www.instagram.com/suitevirginia/>





SEE DEAD FABRICS
SV
Virginia



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HELEN OAKEY

My name is Helen aka 'Eclectic Minx' and I am a textile artist based in Yorkshire, England. I create one-off soft sculptures, mainly of birds and art dolls, from reclaimed and vintage materials. I also love to produce muted, subtle coloured fabrics using botanical dyes, sourced from my own garden and local surroundings.

Although my background is in graphic design, my passion has always been for textiles. From an early age, I always loved making things with my hands, especially sewing, and delighted in rummaging through fabric offcuts given to me by my mum's dressmaker friend, which I stored in an old vintage suitcase.



My mum and my auntie were both creative with textiles; knitting, crocheting and sewing. Both were from the 'make do and mend' generation, when people were far less wasteful, something that I now realise, as well as being central to my work ethic, also provides a comforting sense of nostalgia, connecting my past to my present.

Reclaimed fabric appeals to me because as well as the obvious environmental benefits of not buying new, it has a history and so much more personality, be it a stained, yellowing vintage tablecloth with damaged lace edging, a bejewelled evening dress or a pair of heavy velvet curtains that have nested for years in an attic. Each piece takes many hours to make and is unique due to the nature of the materials used. I make similar birds for example, but no two are ever exactly the same. Each has its own personality.

If you would like to know more about my processes and see more of my work, please take a look at my social links.

www.facebook.com/eclecticminx

www.instagram.com/eclectic_minx

eclecticminx.etsy.com



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



OCTOBER 2023

Helen Oakey



JACQUI FUNK

I'm a self taught sewer, learning from lots of trial and even more error. I've lived in the middle of Kansas all my life. I've worked at a honey processing plant for 33 years. I spent the last 11 years coordinating a small group of ladies to sew clothing protectors and lap robes for nursing homes, and baby items for crisis pregnancy centers. We donated over 11,000 items during those years. I recently decided to try to figure out what I could sew that might sell well. I kind of accidentally made my first cow bag on old denim jeans and someone immediately wanted to buy it. I made a few more to see if they were popular and the rest is history. My goal is to figure out what works to sell so I can have a bit of an income when I decide to retire.





Jacqui is responsible for one of the most successful posts we have ever had in the Group. It was widely shared and brought us a number of new members. You can view it at this link...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UpCycledClot hCollective/permalink/2539209232912801/>







JANE BARNETT

My name is Jane Barnett, and I am an artist working under the name Brigante Textile Arts. Apart from my threads, nearly all my materials are recycled. I live in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire in the UK with my partner and french bulldogs. Most of my work is based on folklore with a darker twist, and witches feature heavily in my work as my metaphor for having autism. I am also inspired by books, music, and films. I made a piece based on Hellbender, my favourite horror film, which was bought by the filmmakers (the Adams family) and has been given a cameo in their latest film 'Where the Devil Roams'.



I am off to a film festival to see the film for the first time this month, and to meet them, so I am very excited. This is Zelda Adams (model, musician, film maker, actor) with my 'Hellbender' piece.



I am also lucky enough to be friends with the brilliant textile artist Mister Finch, and recently got one of his 'figments' (creatures that help stitch witches) tattooed on me.



I sell through my pages on Facebook and Instagram, through the Inverarity Gallery in Scotland and the Centre for Folklore, Myth and Magic in Yorkshire. I also take commissions and have work in various venues.

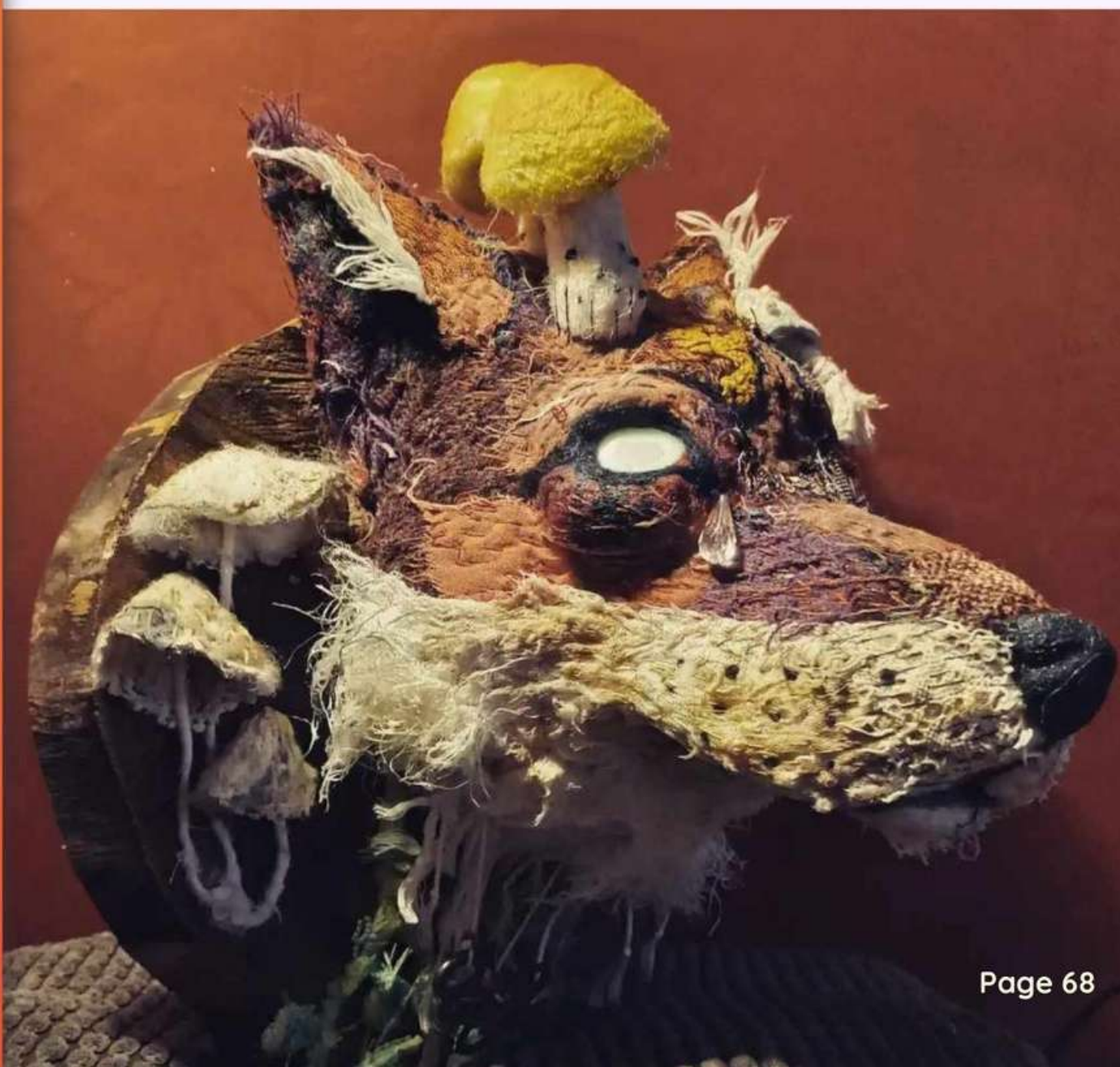
Instagram

#brigantetextilearts

Facebook

@Brigante Textile Arts

www.brigantetextilearts.wixsite.com/jane.b



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



OCTOBER 2023

Jane Barnett



JANE BLAKE

My name is Jane, I live in Sheffield with my 14 year old son who has additional needs. I also have 8 other grown-up children and five grandchildren. I use recycled fabrics and natural dyes in my work and try to be as eco-friendly as possible. A lot of my current pieces are inspired by social issues, which I'm passionate about such as mental health and disability awareness. I use foraged plants and berries to dye some of my fabrics particularly for the vintage style hares which I make .

I sell my work on Etsy and through Instagram.

<https://dollswithattitudes.etsy.com>

@dollswithattitudes







LILA BERMAN

I grew up with textiles. My mom was a professional seamstress and worked in the garment center for 35 yrs. I stood for hours as she pinned clothes for me. I learned so much about fabric, construction, and quality craftsmanship!

I fell in love with deconstruction, avant-garde, Japanese designers, Boro, and artsy clothing.



As an immigrant child I learned from my parents the value of saving everything. My dad brought home used stamps from around the world. Studying those images taught me about focus, culture and art. And so I began collections of all sorts. I saw the beauty in ordinary things!

I always knew that I wanted to become an artist and when my daughters grew up I started studying painting, which I thoroughly enjoy. And I never gave up on my love for all fiber arts. I have done so many art forms but I try to stay focused on fiber and painting. I even took some millinery classes and love wearing hats!

I took an online class on draping and I've been sewing denim ever since when I asked my draping instructor advice, she said "follow the cloth".



Coincidentally, my art teacher said, “follow the paint”. I think all art forms develop being in the moment!

And so I saved my many scraps and thus started piecing them together to form clothing , hats and accessories. I have a long list of project and so little time! One of the downsides of sewing is having lots of threads following me everywhere 🧵🧵!

IG
@lilinke2



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OCTOBER 2023

Lila Berman



MCKENZIE RITCHIE REINTS

I'm not sure the personal story part...I have always been interested in clothes and fashion since I was little...(like I was the kid who watched fashion files on VH1 every Saturday morning growing up.) I didn't seriously get into consistent sewing until about two years ago. I made my first post on Instagram March 11, 2022 and almost two years later, I have 750 followers, follow countless other makers, and I've never looked back. In my past I struggled with addiction and could not find myself.



Through sewing, I found my true passion and have a stronger sense of self and accomplishment. I wouldn't say that it saved me, but it has been an instrumental tool in my healing. Sewing is my new addiction, as well as promoting and supporting other female makers and designers in our industry. I don't get paid, I support them because I love to do so. Everyone needs a cheerleader in life and i love celebrating with my fellow makers and designers. It feels more like a family in the sewing community and I am grateful to be just one voice in it.

Instagram

@Southern_mims

Facebook Group

@love it, learn it, sew it

Facebook Page

@mimsandrannon



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



OCTOBER 2023

McKenzie Ritchie Reints



ROBIN MILLNER

Hello fellow up-cyclers, I'm a mom I'd four daughters, grandma and teacher who has been sewing since childhood. I was taught by my mom and passed on sewing, crocheting and crafting to my girls. I get the most joy from gifting my creations to friends and family, but I do have a little spot in my daughter's resale store. Robin's Nest is the name of my little business. We all love thrift at charity shops and big church rummage sales throughout the Mid-west in the USA.

Whether it's reselling treasures, modifying for new creations or costumes, crafting or sewing, part of the thrill is the hunt! My up-cycled items have ranged from toys to bags to holiday decor to chemo beanies. I love the inspiration I get from this creative, international group.





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OCTOBER 2023

Robin Millner



ROSE CIAPPARA-WILLIAMS

My name is Rose Ciappara-Williams and I am a sustainable fashion designer and upcycler based in West Wales, UK. I love to create beautiful one of a kind fashion from second hand fabric and "waste" material that would have otherwise ended up in landfill. I have a custom upcycling service which allows people to send me their preloved clothing for me to rework into something new and unique, helping people fall back in love with their clothes while also preventing them from being thrown away. Everything I sew is done on my grandmothers vintage sewing machine, and with secondhand materials. I save all of my scrap material to try to keep my studio as "zero waste" as I possibly can.



These scrap materials go into patchworks and get made into stuffing material for quilted pieces like bags and jackets. I offer a made to order service for my custom designs which include hoodies, jackets and denim jeans. I also recently showed my first upcycled collection at Swansea Fashion Week which was a lot of fun to do a runway and show my work. My love of upcycling stems from my love of nature and the environment and a desire to protect it. If I am not sewing in my studio, I am probably surfing or swimming in the sea with my husband and my dog Pippa."

Image of me wearing a fully upcycled outfit made from scrap and waste materials from my custom upcycling service:

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions for me! I've attached a few photos here of my recent work and some of my Swansea Fashion Week collection. Please feel free to use any of these and also any images found on my social media:

www.slowrovestudio.com

www.facebook.com/slowrovestudio

www.instagram.com/slowrovestudio

www.tiktok.com/@slowrovestudio







SUSANN NILSEN

My name is Susann Brox Nilsen (artist name "Susi"), I'm a self taught artist from Tromsø, Norway. My sewing interest started in 2008 when my son was around 2 years old. He had a favorite teddy bear that was very worn out, so I decided to take action and repair it. I didn't have so much fabric, so random things were used, if I remember correct an old curtain and a colorful jacket. It ended up looking like a messy patchwork , however I realized that I loved the outcome! It developed its own personality and a unique style.



Over the years my sewing grew from just a hobby, to doing commissions, and today it's a large part of my daily work. In 2022 I started to make people's pets in my style, that grew into being very popular. I've made lots of dogs, cats, and even a penguin!

Many find my dolls to be "creepy-cute", which is the perfect combination if you ask me!

Online shop:

www.weirdwonderfulsusi.bigcartel.com

Instagram

Susi_theweirdandwonderful

Facebook

@artbysusannbroxnilsen







SUSAN TREEN

I have been a sewer since I was a child and made my first quilt in my early 20's. (I'm now 65). I have taught quilt classes, and most recently owned a gift store for 16 years where I used my talents for merchandising and also creating recipes and items to sell.

Among those were different popcorn recipes and I created a popcorn company. 2 1/2 years ago I sold my gift store and then this year I sold the popcorn company.



It did not take me long to determine retirement was not for me, and a longtime dream was to own a longarm quilting machine and spend my days being creative on my own terms. I am still adjusting to my new normal and enjoying every minute of it. I am at the beginning of this new life journey and along with creating new quilted items, I am repurposing old cutter quilts into baskets, buntings and whatever my imagination takes me.

My business name is Olmstead and Hanover (which represents the 2 streets I grew up on and is what I consider my journey). I have a Facebook page @olmstead & Hanover and an IG page olmsteadandhanover and I am working on my Etsy page here is the link to that <https://olmsteadhanover.etsy.com/>.



I do have a few wholesale places that carry my work and also sell in person.

Another hobby is buying unfinished quilts and finishing them on my longarm. And I am currently working on a t shirt quilt for a friend.

This is an old sweatshirt I am turning into a quilted jacket



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ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



OCTOBER 2023

Susan Treen



MEMBER

FEATURES





CAROLE LAMBERT LAFLEUR

My name is Carole Lafleur Lambert. cL Creations is my company name.

A bit about myself:

My first long-term career was as a professional hairstylist.. I also was a member of local and provincial advisory boards and marker when students took their practical exams to become licensed beauticians. I started working in a salon when I was 13. I loved the creativity and the ever changing nature of the beauty industry.



My Norwegian grandmother, my mother and my aunts all knitted, crocheted, sewed and embroidered. My mother taught me to knit when I was very young.

My second long term career was as in the Mental Health and Addictions Field. I worked as a counsellor, life skills coach and workshop facilitator. Every week, when I worked at a recovery house for women, one group session was devoted to creativity. For many of the women it was their first attempt at exploring their creative nature.

Myself and other staff taught the women how to knit and crochet. For Christmas project, we knitted and crocheted squares, staff member sewed them together and blankets donated to local charities like women's shelters, Cancer wards at hospitals.



I have thrift shopped most of my adult life. I started seriously up cycling about 20 years -making bags from jeans, then making fabric bags, lined, hand sewn. Then wearable art up cycled jeans and jackets, hats, cufflets (bracelets). Also fabric art on canvas (16x20 ins) and wall hangings: fabric, doilies, lace, notions (all recycled materials)

I do also still enjoy knitting and crocheting (recently made dishcloths for a fundraiser for Ukraine) and beading. I love combining different textures and mediums in my pieces.

I do, at times, sell my creations at local markets and now on FB marketplace sites. I'm currently working on making a coat from a Jean jacket. I love the inspiration and motivation I receive from the Upcycle Cloth Collective group and other up cycling groups. Happy Creating!! 🌸❤️



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NOVEMBER 2023

Carole Lafleur

Lambert



CLAUDIA SANDER

I'm Claudia from Germany, art educator and Head of an after school care center. My English is far from perfect, so please excuse me if my diction might seem a bit peculiar!

I live in a rural region between Frankfurt and Heidelberg called "Odenwald", surrounded by beautiful nature. Since I was a child, I'm constantly interested in crafts. My range has increased in volume the older I got, and I've experienced a lot of different techniques like drawing, painting, sculpting, paper crafts, textile crafts, all sorts of handicraft and some more.



For over 30 years, one of my main interests has been doing mosaics; for 6 years now I have started to create a very special kind of this, namely mosaic in sardine tins.

But besides that, especially in the colder months, I love to sew. As I hate shopping and prefer any kind of upcycling by the way, I use mostly used fabrics or small pieces of for example upholstering fabric from pattern books for what I create.

And I really love to sew with paper, especially wallpaper! I have collected over 30 wallpaper pattern books, saved from the landfill.



As you can imagine, I have loads of materials of all kinds in my studio and in the basement. But that's what I need: A huge variety of everything, from vintage china for my mosaics to boxes full of felted woolen sweaters and all in between! And all of this belongs together, has something in common: The multicolouredness, the playfulness and the aspect of upcycling.

Thank you for reading!



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ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



NOVEMBER 2023

Claudia Sander



DIANE SMITH

I decided to keep a fabric diary for the year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

I used a piece of old pillowcase for my backing fabric. I divided it into 12 sections - one for each month - with basting threads. For each day, I select an icon - just a little picture - to represent something that happened that day. A house with an initial when the kids come to visit or my dog when she's not feeling well. I design the icon and embroider it. Most of my embroidery silks are second or even third hand. If nothing stands out, I use a flower.









HILARY MC COOL

Well it was lock down wasn't it and what was I going to do that would keep me out of mischief, no trying to subvert the Internet or theatre workshops for me. So as I had been playing about with denim and I have some millinery skills I decided to make a top hat. Then I decided to make a coat. Silly me.

Anyway everything you do presents a problem and one which must be resolved using the scope of criteria you set.

Mine were that I did not want to have any top stitching and the coat had to be made with no traditional seams, in other words no flat pattern. So it was literally built on the form, you could call it drape, but this was not, this was building, brick by denim brick.

It is, like the topper a work in progress, I haven't resolved the armhole and it will be lined and heavily decorated.

But I digress, the hat. This was shaped and then denim stretched over the form. Each piece of denim had to be stitched into place, the form wired and then embroidered. Then I had to repeat the process on the underside while securing the brim in place.





I work organically so while my ideas started with Sashiko I moved into a mix of more traditional forms and an exploration of maps, which I have carried into other work. The mix of needlework traditions seems to suit the work, and my particular approach to things, and I am by no means an expert. I happen to like the imperfection.

Like I said silly me I did not realize how many challenges would present themselves.

This is the unusual thing I have sewn





JACKIE BELL JOHNSON

About me...These are pics of my installation "The Land Of A Thousand Suns" which was on view during the Tryst at fair in Torrance this past weekend. There is dyed cheesecloth wrapping these metal rings, with cotton cord tied across to create the "Suns". The fabric, metal, paint, were all salvaged and reused from previous artworks of mine. No sewing in this project, (unlike some of my others), but salvaging/recycling/reusing material, and critique of climate change and consumerism are themes that run through my entire art practice.









KAREN ALLEN

Hi there fellow crafter's, My name is Karen and I live with my grumpy old Jack Russell in a small Village in the Shropshire Hills in England.



I first got into crafting and sewing when I was around 10 years of age after my Brother bought me my first old Singer hand sewing machine. I started with rabbits and teddies for friends and then when I was older I got into making my own clothes. Then work and life got in the way like having three children and so for a long while in fact many years I never got around to making anything.

But as you all know you can't keep a good crafter down for long, so a few years ago I got so angry with all the plastic bags being sold in every shop that I started collecting any fabric I could find to turn into shopping bags, I designed them to have wider handles so they would not cut into your fingers and all have linings and are washable so will last for years.



I started giving them away to family and friends in the Village, then went onto doing fete's/fairs to sell for charity. To date I'm sure I have made over 500 plus and still cutting them out and making them.

That is how my up-cycling journey began, but now I make many more things from the scraps left over, I started these little pictures, which are now framed, little houses which are then turned into other things along the way.



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



NOVEMBER 2023

Karen Allen



KIRSTY LITTLE

I have been following your group for sometime and love all the creative and innovative ways the group up-cycles fabrics. My business has been running for over five years now and as well as reducing textile waste and upcycling fabrics into usable items I also try to spread the love of upcycling and educate others in the process. I have held several webinars on sustainable sewing, talking about the textile industry and different techniques that can be used in upcycling fabrics too.



Hi, my name is Kirsty Little and I am the woman behind Little reCreations

I have been working in the Live Events Industry in the UK for over 15 years and I love what I do, the variation, the people, the places - I feel very lucky to have a job I enjoy, which I am passionate about and which naturally gives me a work/life balance.

I stumbled into the world of events after leaving University where I had been studying Contemporary Lens Media, the need of a job and an interesting opportunity set my career path...

LITTLE
reCREATIONS



In 2012 I had the opportunity to volunteer at a Community Festival, I was asked to become the Production Crew Manager, recruiting, organizing and managing 400 volunteers on site. This was a massive opportunity for me to develop my skills and to explore the world of Festivals but the company I was employed with at the time refused to give me the required time off So, I quit!

My Mum thought I was mad, leaving a secure job to go and ‘prance around’ in a field for two weeks, and it was a scary jump, I had been in full-time employment since finishing my education, but I knew it was what I needed to do to progress and grow my own skills. It was the best decision I ever made!



I have since travelled the world working on large scale live events for a multitude of Corporate Companies and I spend my Summers working on Festival sites in Management and Creative roles.

Working for myself encouraged me to explore different interests, I have the time to potter in my garden and flex my not-so-green fingers in my greenhouse, I design and make crocheted items ([available in my shop here](#)).

I spend much more time having random adventures with my partner Josh and our super grumpy Ginger Tom cat and, of course I have been able to focus my passion for up-cycling, creating and educating by creating and building up [Little reCreations](#).

LITTLE
reCREATIONS 



One thing I have NEVER understood about festival goers is how they can enjoy the beautiful landscapes and iconic countryside for the duration of the festival - then leave such a wasteful mess behind them when they leave. It baffles me how anyone could happily abandon the refuse from their whole weekend, including perfectly good tents and camping equipment.

After walking miles around different festival sites staring in horror at the apocalyptic scenes first hand, I knew I had to be part of the solution to clear up our countryside and prevent tons of perfectly good equipment going to landfill.

I began by speaking to my industry contacts to see whether anyone else was feeling similarly outraged at the wasteful attitude of the average festival goer, and happily discovered that I was not alone.



In 2016, I joined the Festival Waste Reclamation & Distribution group and spent an afternoon walking through campsites at Boomtown Fair, helping various charities to collect any items that could be passed on to people needing a helping hand. These items included brand new tents, chairs, sleeping bags, pillows, torches, sunglasses, hats, clothing, and food.

FWRD do an incredible job by linking up festivals to a huge range of different charities and not-for-profits around the country, and managing the salvage operations for different festival sites. It was at this first salvage that I met Angus and Mark from Herts for Refugees, an amazing charity who ensure that refugees get the help and respect they deserve.



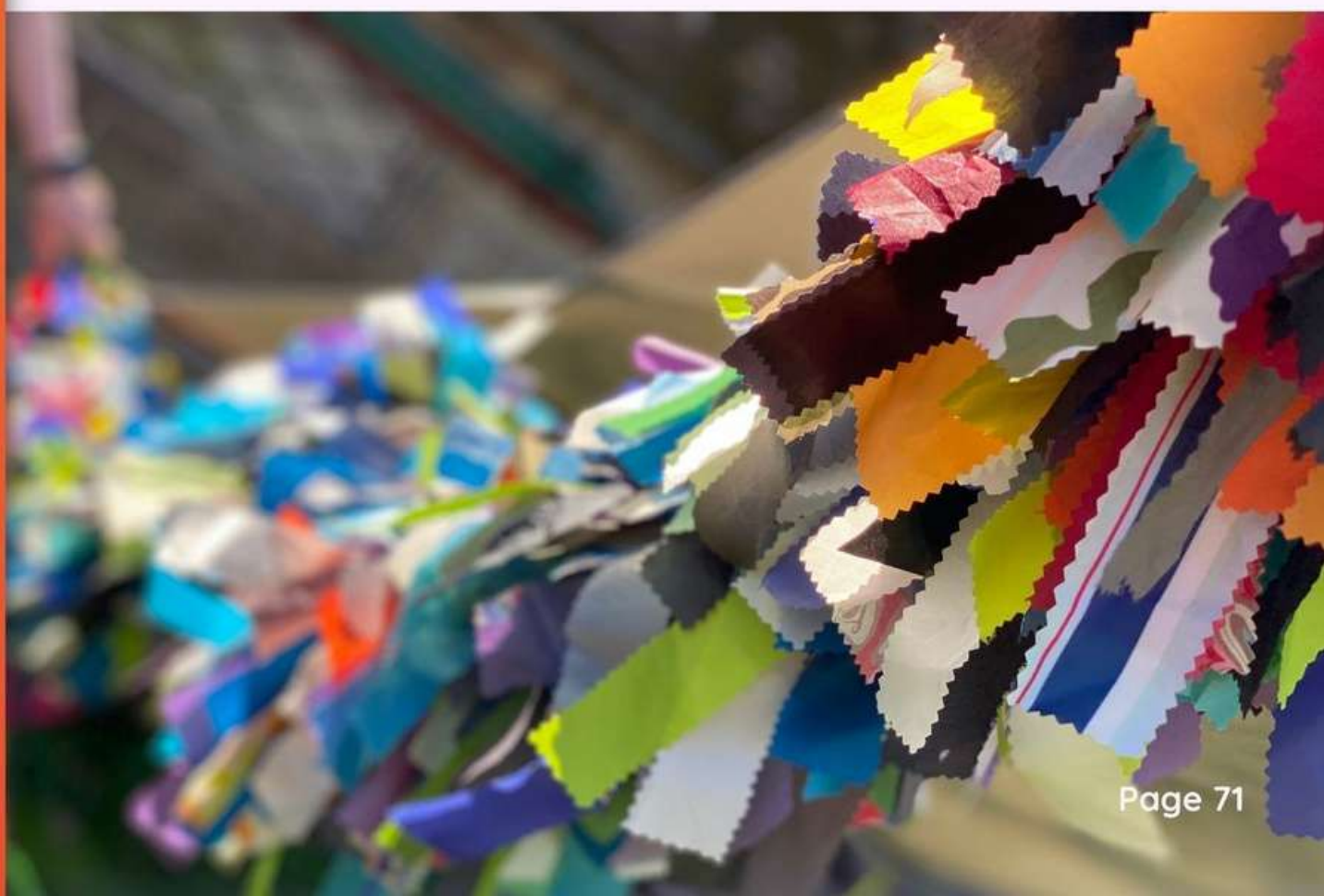
Whilst walking around the sites, I noticed that while many of the tents were damaged and un-usable, the fabric was fabulous! The colours were bright and some of the patterns were absolutely stunning - surely there was something I could do with that? So I started collecting them. I had no idea what I was going to do with the material at all, but in just four hours I had collected three bin bags full of beautiful, colourful fabric... and that was only from one field!!!

My other half thought I was crazy when I returned home with my van full of “rubbish” and rolled his eyes in that supportive yet uncertain way, but it didn’t deter me and I got straight down to washing everything thoroughly before cutting it into strips with my pinking shears.



After a little help from my friends, bribed with good food and beer we created the first few meters of Tent Tinsel, and it looked amazing.

My imagination and ideas have continued to grow... as has Little reCreations - with an ever-growing range of products and many more ideas being developed, I now sell a range of Sustainable upcycled accessories and hire my fresh up-cycled decorations back to the festivals they originally came from, often to decorate their campsites (how ironic!).



I am still very much involved in helping FWRD at festivals, in particular Herts for Refugees.

I still enjoy pottering around campsites with my scissors alongside Angus and Mark (plus any other friends I manage to drag along) stripping down the broken tents and reducing (strip by strip) the amount of waste that unfortunately still ends up in landfill.

As well as funding my own creative initiative, I am also passionate about continuing to support all the charities doing incredible work redistributing festival site 'junk' to people who really need it.

That is why 10% of all profits from Little reCreations up- cycled decorations are donated to a selected charity each year.





LIODA FREITAG

Hello Everyone. My name is Lioda and I originally come from South Africa, but moved to France about two and a half years ago looking for new and exciting opportunities for my Chef Husband and my artist self.

Needless to say it was hard people! French bureaucracy is real. But it is also a society that values in the more rural areas, re-use of all kinds of things. Thus the “Brocantes” were formed... Antique roadshow eat your heart out. This is a country of heaven for antique dealers and seekers of second-hand treasures.



As a little girl, my Ouma was an avid sewer and she never went out of the house without a hand sewn dress and a coat to match. I still have one of her coats, and I think its between 50-100 years old now, and still in perfect condition. She also sewed all of my dancing costumes and often I sat with her not really seeing what she was doing, but something somehow took hold.

At 14 my mom and Aunt Clubbed together and bought me my first sewing machine and 2 patterns and 2 pieces of cloth. I even still have a picture of the first garment I made. Well, I've been sewing small things on and off since then.

But after coming to France, I got bitten by a up scale bug and the bite became quite itchy in a big dream to have my own little creative handmade or up scaled items store.



And its about to become a temporary reality as I now have an opportunity to create a pop-up store in Sille le Guillaume in Sarthe at a friend of mines store. She has graciously given me permission to utilize some space there and sit and do my thing! After all the paperwork etc, next week is D day and I'm terrified no one likes what Ives spent the last two and a half years doing! So anyway, I love going to grenier "empty attic" stores to search for interesting fabrics and sewing treasures. As I also make jewelry from dried flowers I hand pick and clay and resin works, those things too are searched for.

This brings us to the little bag showcased today. The cloth was a small round cloth found at a grenier shop and was antique and made from cotton and linen weave. I loved the cheerful yellow on it, but it was very quiet and contained as a design that pleased me to no end.



I first made a zero waste jacket with the brightest of yellow binding I could find, sewn on meticulously by hand so as not to show sewing thread lines and then seeing enough left over, I thought why not a bag to match!?

Not really having made many bags before, I had to watch quite a few bag making videos and books online to get the idea that I wanted. I had only crafted a few small back-packs before, so this was new.

The perfect structure pattern came up and I could see the final items in my minds eye. After careful cutting and sewing with my lovely vintage singer machine, I knew it needed something else to it. Straps were not the issue, but I want a wow factor to it. A French friend had given me a whole two bags of thrift items from a house he had bought that was full of unwanted sewing items.



So I dove straight into that and saw amongst all the very musty things vintage hand crafted macramé or structured lace tie ups, although a bit tattered and torn, but quite astoundingly beautiful.

I had to repair them by hand, finding the closest cotton, to create one that seemed perfect to go with the colour and the natural look of the bag. And it found it's WOW factor.

I then felt to set the bag off against the Jacket, a bit of embellished hand-embroidery would round it off perfectly. And around the centre of some of the flowers, I elected silky DMC treads in a matching brown and a matt yellow DCM Thread for the yellow. It took a while, but I think it will certainly make a treasured one of a kind gift for a special lady in someone's life.



You can contact me on Facebook: Lioda Freitag as I am currently only now starting to create a website for my items as I only now feel I am ready. The label QUIRKY Lioda was born from my own whirlwind of off-kilter creativity and as a professional artist, this work give me another opportunity to be creative without the need to be so serious and have more fun with what I do.

Thank you Melanie for the opportunity to talk about the things I love and to be seen by others who love this rock we all stand on and the smallest way help it survive and to have a support group to show off a little and receive ideas and feedback.

Up scale forever!





MICHELLE ANDERSON

My name is Michelle Anderson and I am 61 years old with 5 grown children. I've been widowed for 16 years. My husband was an American serviceman.

I live in a small town on the east coast of Australia with my dogs, Hunni, Phyllis and Louis.

I have an absolute passion for history, especially American history, this shows up in the clothes I create. All my clothes are made using upcycled fabrics and antique lace.



My style is created to look old and well worn, hence the crushed fabric. I only use natural fabrics, linen, cotton.

I currently work in a thrift store where I salvage clothing and fabric to give them a new life. Every day I see the amount of waste especially with clothing that is barely worn, then thrown away. This is why I love my creating!

It's my little bit to help the planet and to create individual clothes that last for a long time.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064218001420&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

<https://pinkdiamonds.etsy.com>



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

ETHICAL TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



NOVEMBER 2023

Down On The Bayou

Lismore



MPILONHLE GUMEDE

My name is Mpilehlehle Gumedde Manyisa from the heart of Kwazulu Natal in a place called Munzini. I am a 28 Year old Creative Artist and Fashion Designer, currently based in Johannesburg.

I am inspired by African Cultures and Heritage diversity. My designs reflect how I view the world around me, I normally mix different African prints which symbolizes unity amongst African Countries. I source and recycle African fabrics from South Africa and Across African Countries.





I make wearable garments and accessories as well as visual arts pieces. Currently I am trading my craft in different art galleries in Africa as well as craft shops in South Africa including the BAT Centre and Kwazulu Natal, Society of the Arts in Durban, as well as Big Tree Africa in the North Coast of Kwazulu Natal. I am still looking for more buyers and consignment stores for my work, because my work is my bread and butter.

Instagram

@mpilomanyisa

Twitter

@mpilomoffice

Facebook

Mpilo Manyisa

Email

mpilomoffice@gmail.com





PHILLIPA CROCKER SEAHORSE DRESS

My name is Phillipa Crocker. I'm 3/4 of a century in age. My home is in the Bay of Plenty Whakatane New Zealand. My husband Gordon and I are both retired and enjoying doing a house renovation and revamping the old garden.

Sewing is one of my passions. I learned skills from my mum and grandmother starting age 10. I love to repurpose clothes purchased at charity shops.

My Seahorse dress featured here was a wonderful mission.



The base dress ready-made was really a little small for me. With a gusset set in on both side seams and removing set in sleeves, I started creating my Seahorse on a piece of strong upholstery fabric. Starting at the tail first, up and just created as I went. Adding lace, silk threads under tulle, to hold the silk in. It totally evolved from tail to head. Stopping to hand stitch beads and pearls. All done by the sewing machine.





This costume was made for myself to wear, to a yearly event, a mixture of Cosplay and Steampunk enthusiasts. My hat had the Steampunk look!

After all, that's my 'hobby ' you could call it. I suffered permanent Vertigo, so walk with a walking stick to help keep me upright. This happened 6 years ago, a medical misadventure with the wrong medication.

So sewing is a sit-down blessing for me. In 1976 my kidneys were failing. Then in 2018 I received a new kidney, a live donation from my husband Gordon. After doing Chemo and Dialysis for 11 months this is certainly become our 'Miracle'. He has given me a few more years of life, in fact so far it's been 5 years. We were a 98% match enough for it to happen. I have worn the dress on 2 occasions so far. I may wear it again in the Christmas parade.





SINDHU HOLLA

Hello, fellow Upcyclers,

I'm Sindhu, the founder of Fifth Origins, a sustainable lifestyle brand based in the Netherlands. With a decade-long journey in the sustainable textiles and fashion industry, we make products that are a combination of style, sustainability and social impact.

We design everything in Europe and train and co-create with skilled rural artisans to make unique pieces.



Our current game?

"Rags to Riches" - our fabulous collection that's made from 100% recycled fabric magic. It comprises of 50% of our collection but we are shooting for the stars and want to increase our collection mix to 80% of the products made from recycled materials and 20% natural virgin materials.

Our products are designed for versatility to ensure you get to do more with less. Our Cape Infinity is handwoven using 100% wool and can be styled in 15+ ways. Our Rags to riches collection are collection of unique pieces that are reversible and can be styled in different ways.

I've been on a strict 'no new stuff' diet since November 2019 (broke the diet in April 2023), and boy, has it been a journey!

Can't wait to share more tales from the recycle bin soon.



For this amazing and inspiring community we want to offer you a 10% off on all our products on our website with code "Upcycle".

Keep upcycling! Sindhu

FIFTH ORIGINS



Kantha Vintage Jackets and Coats - made from 100% recycled sarees





TANIA KRISTENSON

Greetings from the Canadian Prairie! I am Tania Kristensen, fibre artist and the creative soul behind Studio TK. I bring into being art and home decor made with nature's bounty and man's unwanted textiles.

I have a deep-seated attraction to the past. Particularly how things were done before there were machines. When we relied upon our hands and simple tools to help produce the things that would provide us with comfort and survival.



Along with a strong belief in ‘Waste Not, Want Not’, I feel the skills and techniques developed by our ancestors to be invaluable and in such has become the basis of my work.

When I stumbled across contemporary twined rugs a few years ago, I instantly thought the craft to be the best of both worlds. A technique that predates written history and employs discarded cloth. It was a perfect fit. Exactly what I was looking for.

The only tools needed to make a twined rug, are a simple frame loom and your hands. The weaving technique consists of two alternating wefts being twisted around a single warp and repeated. With single and double weft twists different patterns can be created.

The design possibilities are endless.



I use nothing but discarded cloth in the construction of my rugs. Breathing life back into a once cherished tablecloth or a favourite t-shirt, brings me nothing less than pure joy.

Basketry is my other creative outlet. I've coiled up everything from cattails to pine needles and of course unwanted textiles. A current project I'm slowly working on, is creating thread from stinging nettle fibre to stitch a pine needle basket with. It's a time consuming project.

It began with harvesting the stinging nettles and pine needles, to extracting and processing the nettle fibres and cleaning and grading the pine needles. I have now finally started to twist up the miles of thread I will need to stitch the basket up with.



I'm finding the process to be extremely rewarding. Both artistically and on a deeper personal level. I feel an appreciation and a small connection to those who came before us. It truly and completely makes my heart sing.

I look forward to continuing to share my art and creative experiences with you all. I have a short series of basic twining tutorials on YouTube, for any of you that are interested. You can find me on the following socials.

<https://www.facebook.com/studiotk22/>

<https://www.instagram.com/studiotk22>

<https://www.youtube.com/@studiotk2553>







MEMBER

FEATURES





ALICE OLSEN

Here are two submissions for the denim issue. Both were posted on the site earlier in the year. First is a picture of a pair of cuffs I made from seams of jeans, inspired by some that were made by another member.



Next is my go to the hospital bag. I have had more than my share of ER visits over the past year. I plan to let others have a turn in the future (ha ha). At times our hospitals are so overflowing that they run out of blankets and pillows in the emergency department.

So now I take this bag, made from denim scraps, that holds my blanket, pillow, change of underwear, health directive, list of prescriptions, snack (they sometimes don't allow you to eat until after the kitchen has closed) and a list of what needs to be added at the last minute (phone, wallet, keys).

I used my bag last August and was really glad it was stocked up. Hope to never need it again.

Look out for my tutorial in the Learn With Us section of the magazine.





Look out for Alice's tutorial in the Learn With Us section of this magazine.





COLLEEN BROWN

I'm a self taught experimental upcycle textile artist living in central New York. I was a art major in high school and in the 60's when the new fad was bell bottom pants. I begged my Mother to make me a pair but she told me she would show me how and I could make them myself.

Oh yes, they were made from scrap fabric that was white with red sail boats and that is when my sewing journey began.



In the 70's I made "hippie clothes" to sell at music festivals, neck tie skirts, denim halter tops and back packs, Crochet record purses , I drilled holes in an album then melted it into a bowl shape and the crochet the top with yarn or rags. I also made 100''s of ponchos from fleece.

in the 80's I began doing crafts sales, you know, respectable shows at the local fire hall and the elementary school circuit. This was my discovery stage. My craft booth was a hodge podge of every craft I wanted to try to make, wood burning boxes, polymer clay on wine glasses, neck tie skirts, ponchos, my denim line and on and on.

Then a wise old vendor lady at a show told me I should find "my thing" to make and work on that thing. So I started to narrow it down.



In the 90's I went to college and got my degree in human services and worked in community mental health for over 20 years and shared my skills with people recovering from mental illness. I taught art skill and started a small business with clients making candles out of recycled wax we would buy from the candle factory in Syracuse.

I continued to do art and craft shows on the weekends. Then I sold my first upcycled sweater and was thrilled. Then to learn that every American throws out 85 lbs of clothing every year, yes they donate them to thrift shops but what happens after they don't want them any more? Some is sent over seas to 3 world countries and much of the clothing is ground up and buried.

This has motivated me to change the way I shopped and to become the full time upcycler I have become today.



I have won ribbons at art shows and have been published in Green craft and Altered Couture Magazines.

2000's I left the mental health field to I continued to do shows full time and developed many long lasting relationships with other artist and learned of better shows while developing my skills. For many years I would do over 20 shows a year mostly in NY state selling sweaters, denim, upcycled flannels and began experimenting with bleaching. I worked on bleaching the color from flannel and then dyeing , started with crumbing up T shirts and sparing with a 50/ 50 mix of bleach and water.

I made lots of mistakes along the way but that is how I learn what worked and what I liked. I began using letters and objects as stencils, doilies, curtains and the such.



Then I found Upcycled Cloth collective group on Facebook I posted a picture of a hoodie I bleached with a lace curtain as a stencil and much to my surprise it had gotten over 41,000 likes. Thanks so much for all the likes and great comments and questions.

This has motivated me to move forward to start a YouTube channel to share what I have learned .

Wish me Luck!

Thanks.

Colleen Brown

<https://www.facebook.com/colleenscreativeoutlet>





HILARY MC COOL

I was a terrible child at school, the one they didn't bother with and always the last pick for the hockey team. But I liked art and was quite good at it although it took nearly a year and a parent teacher meeting for anyone to actually notice that I was a bit different. And of course I wanted to be a fashion designer, I used to sit and draw in the back of Irish class, the Celtic tongue, it's not that it escapes me, it never actually landed in the first place.

And it was a bit unusual, in my family also, in rural farming Ireland and a challenging background, the one good thing I can say is that I grew up in an idyll. But naturally you enter the world of work and as I was told by my mother "imagine 25 yrs in the civil service and you can have a nice pension" nothing terrorized me more, besides I couldn't even pass the exam.



And don't be fooled, I am clever. I didn't think I was good enough for fashion design and I was never encouraged.

Anyways I left and struggled through my way in numerous jobs until eventually I stood one day in the middle of a kitchen and thought I am not going to do this for the rest of my life. So I packed my bags and went to Australia, seemed perfectly reasonable to me at the time.

After a years travel I came back and did the fashion BA and MA I should have done before and then did some theatre work. More towards where I belonged.

So long story short, this is where I am now, I am a designer regardless of what anybody thinks, I work to improve my skill set and I do a lot of experimental work with denim, although I have a fritillary mind.



As far as I am concerned you can do what you damn well like even if you are registered blind and totally colourblind, and boy was that fun in art college. I admit my family was stood behind the door when the body parts were given out but a little thing like that never got in our way.



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

UP-CYCLED TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



DECEMBER 2023

Denim Edition

Image Hilary Mc Cool



JANE CRE

My name is Jane Cre and I live in Yorkshire, England with my husband and youngest son.

I have two cats and three dogs, tropical fish and a few chickens and guinea fowl. My main hobbies are gardening, mixed media art and sewing which includes patchwork and cloth upcycling. I love baking and cooking, I bake our own bread and ventured into sourdough during COVID which has been an exciting journey for me.





My earliest sewing started at about 4 years old, and I still have the needle case me and my mum made. I was told not to touch the sewing machine... but it always drew my attention and of course, I messed with it and stabbed my hand with the needle. My grandma ever practical showed me how to use it safely and properly and we sewed doll clothes and pram sets together.

When I was about 9 I made a matching dress hat and bootees for our cat.. who didn't like being dressed up very much. She jumped out of my bedroom window onto the top of a lorry which was pulling out of the haulage yard next door. My poor dad jumped on his motorbike and chased the lorry out of the village and managed to stop it... retrieving a terrified, fully dressed cat from the top and pushing it onto his leather biking jacket to bring her home.



Since then I have always been interested in making little outfits, both for my sons and daughter and my animals - I love making dog clothes out of upcycled onesies and dressing gowns, I also make dog collars, bandanas and leads.

In addition to my family my love in life is charity shops, I buy all my clothing from them and haven't bought a new pair of jeans, trousers or sweater since the 80s.

Recently I have been making charity quilts for Project Linus UK and sewing denim bags from jeans and denim skirts. I make a reusable shopping bag as a gift bag for Christmas and birthdays nowadays, usually out of denim as it is much more useful than a paper or plastic gift bag that ends up in the bin. I'm in the middle of videoing the making of a bag so will hopefully get it up on YouTube in the near future.



At home my sewing room is a disorganized mess and I am a messy worker.. my stash overflows the cupboards and peeps out of the drawers but that's how I get inspiration.

My dogs sleep on their beds watching me and my cats usually try to wreck the place as I sew.

I used to sew with the dogs at my feet but one day the postman knocked on the door and the dog jumped up barking and stamped on the foot pedal... setting the machine off at high speed, pulling my hand under the needle with the quilt I was holding. It sewed about 5 stitches into the skin between my thumb and finger, luckily though the safety mechanism kicked in as the needle hit bone and locked it out - I must admit that was the strangest and most painful unpicking I have ever done.





In an attempt to keep the cats off my work table I recently covered a box to make a cat bed and both of them like to snuggle in it and watch me sew.

I have loved making upcycled hats recently as I love hats and taking fabric and giving it a new lease of life, they are mainly made out of recycled shirts, bedding and denim jeans. I started to sell a few hats and bags so made myself a label for my creations: Princess Putrid designs as I realize it's a great feeling to spread the joy of saving clothing from the landfill.

My new Etsy shop is Princessputrid

Instagram is sow_grow_cook and janecreateart for my mixed media

For a selection of mixed media videos my YouTube is Jane cre



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

UP-CYCLED TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



DECEMBER 2023

Denim Edition

Image Jane Cre

JENNY BEASLEY

Hello, my name is Jenny Beasley. I am the CEO founder of Artable Curiosities. We are a collaborative, creative reuse center in a little town in Texas called Seguin. We provide material yarn and all sorts of other audible materials through our nonprofit, our mission is to build a field instead of a landfill by providing free materials to teachers so that they can do the job they do without spending money out of their own pocketbook. Our shop is relatively new where about a year and a half old and are having a wonderful time growing creativity, building community and encouraging conservation.

www.artablecuriosities.com

1381c E College St.
Seguin Tx 78155





KATE WHITBY

Hi there I'm Kate Whitby from Mansfield Nottinghamshire UK.

I have 4 offspring (teenagers and adults), I'm married to craig who puts up with our house being full of half formed ideas, creations and supplies and we live with various animals who inspire my work.

I have been a youth worker for 21 years working with local teenagers and often incorporate my love of arts and craft into my work.





My jump into upcycling craft came when my children were small they all had sock bods - worry dolls I made from odd socks.

These days I'm an avid crocheter and sewer sourcing my supplies from local charity shops as much as I can.

My latest creations have seen me upcycling old jeans into denim creatures I posted my denim doggos on the Upcycled Cloth Collective Facebook Group and I was overwhelmed with people asking for the pattern.

From that post it's been a steep learning curve - learning to write patterns and diversify my original designs. In the first week I sold 135 of my denim doggo pattern and they have gone everywhere from Australia to Texas to Grimsby.



I love creating new ideas and sharing them and thinking that an idea I had is now in far flung places reducing landfill and encouraging creativity.

I try and create patterns that can be handsewn easily so as many people as possible can join in.

Commissions available
katewhitby@googlemail.com

My etsy shop can be found at
<https://teenystitchstudio.etsy.com>





Teeny
stitch
studio
Presents



Denim doggo

Make your own adorable
denim doggo with this
easy-to-follow sewing
pattern **Page 64**



KAT SEDORE

"Hi, I'm Kat! I've been teaching myself many things over the years starting with pencil and acrylic visual arts. I haven't settled on a style yet and am still growing my portfolio with abstract, impressionist, and graphic works.

Sewing started as a hobby to save my old items from the trash. I love to create no matter what the medium, and purses and bags are a big part of that recently. My home is my studio, I've been in Harrowsmith for almost 20 years now.



If you get a chance to visit our town you just may smell my home baked bread or treats, and pot of something warm wafting through the air outside. I also enjoy playing music, but I'm taking a break from learning guitar and drums, and practicing piano, to focus on my needlecraft.

It's my dream to one day open my own shop and include all of my creations, and maybe some antiques."

Katherine Sedore

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My website is www.worksbykat.com, this also links to Instagram, Pinterest, and Kijiji



ONE MORE TIME AROUND

UP-CYCLED TEXTILE GIFT GUIDE



DECEMBER 2023

Denim Edition

Image Kat Sedore



MARSHA MURPHY

I've been sewing and creating for decades but I'm now retired and have time to upcycle. I'm hoping to set up a shop or do markets, but I'm kind of just getting started.

I learned to sew at such a young age that I couldn't reach the foot pedal. I'm recently retired and have lived in southern Nevada for over 40 years, with rescued dogs and cats.

I'm Marsha Murphy and I've always had a creative drive.



With time to sew again, I now like to refashion clothes and linens into unique tote bags, aprons and clothing. It's a new journey and I'm hoping to market my upcycled creations in the future. "One of a kind" beats "off the rack" any day. It sets you apart from the crowd, helps save textiles from landfills, is affordable and satisfying, with the bonus of helping out planet."

My blue denim apron is upcycled from the front of a skirt, trimmed with cheetah print from a pair of jeans, and elephant accents from a knit dress. I cut the bottom from the skirt and unpicked the hem to create the two patch pockets.

Thank you, Melanie, for the opportunity to be a part of the magazine.

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MELISSA OSBORNE

Hi, I'm Melissa Osborne; I live in America, Texas to be exact.

I've always been someone that has to stay busy. Sitting still has never been an option for me, not even when it meant I was going to end up in trouble. When my husband was diagnosed with cancer and going through chemo, I knew he needed me to be beside him.

I also knew the only way I could do it was if my hands were occupied. I've always enjoyed crocheting, if I could do my own thing.

I was working on an afghan as a Graduation gift for a friend's daughter, I knew working on it would give me the distraction I needed.





One of the nurses started asking me questions about crocheting, how long did it take me to finish something and did I make things besides afgans?

She showed me kitchen towels she was making using wash rags and adding crocheted tops with buttons to hang them on doors. She talked about a group of nurses that got together every year to raise money for Cancer Research and were always looking for new ideas.

Making kitchen towels wasn't my thing but it did start my imagination rolling. I didn't want to do anything large that would take days to make, something small and fun. I'd seen an article about Amigurumi World, small crocheted stuffed animals between 3 and 5 inches. Perfect. All I needed was yarn and my imagination.



My mother had passed away earlier that year, when I cleaned up her home, I found a large bag filled with yarn. I have to admit I was a little puzzled because she didn't do anything that would require yarn. I didn't look to see what was in the bag, just took it home and dumped it in the tub I had with all my scraps I couldn't bare to part with.

Now all I had to do was see what was in the tub. I'm not sure why I decided to do pigs, I collected bears. Maybe it was all the pink yarn from my mother's bag, but pigs it was going to be.

Following someone else's directions is another thing I've never been good at. Trial and error have always been my motto. This was on Friday, by the time we went back to the clinic for my husband next chemo on Monday I had 5 pigs ready, each with its own personality.



The nurses loved them, they'd take as many as I could make. My first one was "Orville Pig" the airplane pilot. Ideas were never a problem, I got calls from the Nurses asking me if I could make this pig or that one. Someone had seen or heard about the others and was wanting to see if they could get a special one. By the time the Fund Raiser was over I had created over 40 pigs, each one with its own name and story.

I couldn't stop, making these tiny pigs. They helped me get through the long days of not knowing what the next would bring. I had to find another outlet for my pigs. My Granddaughter was part of a group that had events for Battered Women's Shelters and visited Children's Hospitals. They would dress in costumes from Super Hero's, Disney Princess, and Comic Book Characters; anything to brighten up everyone's day.



I started making Super Hero Pigs and Disney Princess Pigs for the group to give out; 3 of each character. A labor of love but it wasn't easy for someone like me that never likes to make the same thing twice.

As they say, "all good things must come to an end". My husband's cancer started spreading, he needed me and so the Pig Saga had to come to an end.

I'll never forget how good it made me feel to finish my little stuffed friends and share them with others. I also know the next idea will show up tomorrow and I'll meet it with the same enthusiasm as I did my pigs.





NANCY NTHAMBI

I am Nancy Nthambi, a journalist by profession and fashion designer by passion. I live in Mombasa, a beautiful ancient city in the coast of Kenya, East Africa.

I run a social enterprise known as Heights of Glamour where we upcycle waste from the fashion industry to create eco-friendly bags. We collect old/unwanted clothes from households and scrap fabric from tailoring shops before they are burnt or sent to the dumpsite. These are the main raw materials for our projects.





Heights of Glamour

When I'm not sewing, I do a little bit of acting (movie extra, commercial/TVC modeling etc). I like to attend cultural, fashion and arts events to network with like-minded individuals and find inspiration for my projects. When I'm outdoors everything seems to speak to me.

Oh, and I love chicken!

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Heights of Glamour





ROBERTA ETTER

I'm American, retired for many years and worked as a professional travel photographer and journalist. I traveled extensively in the Middle and far East and developed a huge love affair with textiles. I moved to Spain in 1999 with my now husband, Àlex. We've been here ever since. I would call myself a collector. My husband would say hoarder. I love antiques, fashion and cats. I design whimsical fashion and upcycle everything. I'm old in numbers but young at heart!!!

I wrote a book (with my ex) in 1986 for the return of Halley's Comet. 1910 Memories of Halley's Comet. Since then I have had a love for all things whimsical in space. Here is my denim interpretation.









WENDY BAILYE

I am an Australian feltmaker and I live in Queensland, Australia. I have created this special worldwide project called “The Heartfelt Community Project“ with input and collaboration from some wonderful students in my online feltmaking class “50 Shades of Grey- Felt!”

Quite a few of us in the class had experience in hospice and palliative care and we decided that it could be wonderful to make some felted hearts to bring comfort to the world and start a little group to share our stories and hearts.



I had been making special felt hearts for many years and have given them to friends and acquaintances who needed some TLC. They have brought a lot of comfort. Wool is a fibre that holds comfort like no other fibre.

In our facebook group, feltmakers from all over the world come together virtually to felt hearts. Our idea is that “feltmakers unite worldwide to bring comfort to those in hospice or palliative care or to anyone else who is in need of comfort.”

I provide a video and written tutorial for felting these comfort hearts. They are wet felted hearts filled with 100% wool and come in three sizes.



So, what do you do with your comfort heart?

You make them and share them with your local community.

Do you know someone in need?

Gift a heart, maybe with a message. People in need might find a tiny bit of comfort in these hearts.

In the Facebook group people share their stories. There are some beautiful stories being shared with images of the hearts. The files section in the group has all the patterns.

Let's fill the page with beauty and wonderful heartfelt stories.





The filling must be wool stuffing, not fiber fill or polyester. The purity of materials is important. Soft, smooth, warm, and cuddly brings the most comfort. The design can be all your own but the recommended size is 15 to 20 cm finished size.

As this is a worldwide group, it would be wonderful if you can share where you are from when you post.

Here is the link to the “How to make a comfort heart” video.

[@wendybailye](#)

<https://youtu.be/2LWiK4KleLU>

[#heartfeltcommunityproject](#)

Facebook link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/837533101303852>



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Wendy Bailye
THE FELT STUDIO

The Heartfelt Community Project





MEET YOUR TEACHER

VERONIKA OLIVIER

SWANEPEOL

From an early age, my heart yearned to be an artist. Whether engrossed in books, wielding a pencil, singing a melody, or conjuring fantasy characters in my mind, creativity was an innate instinct.

Yet, the full-time pursuit of art eluded me due to life's demands. A brief marriage, concluded with the expectancy of my daughter, steered me toward a professional career, placing my children at the forefront.



Life's trials, however, were stepping stones to a remarkable creative journey that now defines my existence in the small country town of Heidelberg, just South of Johannesburg in South Africa.

Eight years ago, I founded my art business, realizing dreams I once only envisioned. With a global community of friends and followers, my artistic endeavours garnered international recognition. Four years ago, a surreal moment unfolded when I was sponsored to exhibit my recycled textile sculptures in Melbourne, Australia—a dream realized.

Inspiration strikes not only in the light of day but also in the vivid tapestry of my dreams. Each morning, before dawn, I savour a cup of coffee—a ritual, a self-reward for my dedicated efforts.





My sanctuary, my creative spaces, is nestled within our century-old farmhouse. This haven, comprising my two studios and the welcoming porch, resonates with the essence of my being.

The porch, a vibrant tableau, is where I unwind, connect with nature, and recharge. Surrounded by our dogs and visited by wild birds, it sets a positive tone for the day.

The painting studio, bathed in natural light, is where my artistic alchemy unfolds. Organized chaos reigns in drawers and crates, housing recycled treasures—old tie-backs, beads, and donated haberdashery. The converted walk-in closet serves as a repository for recycled clothes destined for my sculptures.

Painting, a dance of mediums and movements, transpires in a designated space within my studio. Order amidst diversity is my mantra, as drawers house an array of tools for my mixed media creations.



My studio's walls bear witness to sentimental artefacts—a Mona Lisa print, children's books, and artwork from cherished granddaughters.

Even administrative tasks find a place in this creative realm, a testament to the nurturing power of a dedicated space. From a humble corner in my dining room, my studios have evolved into expansive sanctuaries—a testament to the transformative power of artistic dedication. Today, my focus on textile sculpting has garnered international acclaim, with over 300 creatures finding homes worldwide.

Though the allure of America beckons, my heart remains tethered to my home. As long as I can create art, joy resides within me.



Each stroke of my brush, each stitch in my textile sculptures, echoes the fulfilment of a lifelong dream—a dream realized in the comforting embrace of my creative haven at home.

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