Letter from the Editor

It’s almost time for spring cleaning in your craft room! I’m diligently gearing up (translation: thinking hard about it) to clean and organize mine after having neglected it for awhile now. Speaking of craft rooms, we would love to show our readers where you spend your time creating! So if you have a studio or craft room where you spend time crafting, we want to see it! Send us your pictures and information and you could see your craft room featured in an upcoming issue. To send in a submission visit www.creativetimesmagazine.com/submissions and don’t forget to include your business name and URL as this is a great way to also promote your business.

Until next time, we hope you enjoy this issue!

Kelle Arvay

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Printing Tips:

You may print Creative Times as a whole or in part. To print specific pages check the box in your print menu that says “From” and enter the specific page numbers you wish to print. i.e.: If you wish to print page 5 select print, from page 5 to Page 5.
It’s the middle of winter and we are all stuck in our homes. There’s nothing worse than walking into a room and smelling something not so nice. The same thing goes for the office. You get to work and it smells stale. I have some great recipes for making your home or office smell wonderful.

**Simmering Fixins**

- 1 cup 1” cinnamon sticks
- 1 cup whole allspice
- 1 cup cloves
- 1 cup star anise
- 1 cup dried orange peel

Mix together and store in an airtight container. When you pull it out to use, add about ¼ - ½ cup of mix to 1 cup of water and simmer slowly in a pan on the stovetop or on your wood burner. It is important to check on it occasionally so it doesn’t cook dry. After a few seconds of simmering it will fill your home with a wonderful spicy scent! During the holidays add a bit of balsam pine to the mixture for a nice holiday twist!

**Home Spray**

This recipe is very quick and easy and needs to be used up rather quickly so it doesn’t go bad. Make enough to have a bottle in a couple of different rooms. It’s awesome in the bathroom! You will need some spray bottles. 4 ounce or 8 ounce are the best, although a 2 ounce bottle tucked in the car is good too.

Mix 2-3 cups of water with about ¼ - ½ ounce of your favorite scented fragrance oil or essential oil. Pour it into the bottles and shake before using. Spray it into the air and whaalaa, your home smells wonderful!

I do not recommend using this directly on furniture.

**Car Freshener**

You will need your favorite fragrance oil, ground corn cob, muslin sacks that tie closed.

Mix 1 cup of the ground corn cob with a few drops of oil (do not make the corn cob oily). Put the mixture in the sacks and tie closed tightly. I love to throw these on my dashboard and when my defrost hits it, wow it smells great!

These are just a few extra ways to scent your home other than regular potpourri and candles!

Happy Scenting!
Meet Rebecca Plotnick
Visit her online at http://rebeccaplotnick.etsy.com

Where were you born and raised?
Cincinnati, Ohio

Tell us about your family
My family is full of artists. My grandmother is a talented painter/drawer. She was an art collector/dealer when I was growing up so I was always surrounded by art. My favorite memory was when Sting stopped by the house. My mom did stained glass growing up and is extremely talented. She now does glass beads and jewelry. My sister is a very talented artists as well. She is an amazing artists. It was wonderful growing up in a family of artists.

Describe your business and web site
I am a photographer and sell on etsy at rebeccaplotnick.etsy.com  I love to travel and take photos. I have always wanted to do this and now with Etsy it makes it possible. It is amazing to know that people value your work and have your photography in their house or office. Most of my photography is from Chicago or Italy. The two places I have enjoyed living in. I am planning a trip to Paris in the Spring so look back for more pictures.

How did you get started in your business?
In high school I started doing photography. A friend of mine’s husband told me about Etsy. I was looking for a way to sell my photographs for years and this was a perfect opportunity. I have tons of photographs from my travels. All of the wonderful photographers on Etsy have inspired inspiration to me.

How did you decide on a business name?
The registered name of my business is RLPPhotography. My first name being Rebecca middle name Lynne and my last name is Plotnick. So the RLP are my initials. It just came to me one day. When I started my etsy shop I didn’t have this picked out so its RebeccaPlotnick.

Do you have future plans for your business?
I have so many ideas for my business lately. I have tons of projects in the work for etsy. Most exciting is my plans to visit Paris in the Spring. I have a new way to display my photographs. There are so many photographers on etsy that sell straight prints. I have come up with a new way to make my shop and photography unique. You will see this come Spring.

What craft mediums do you work with and which are your favorites?
Photography is my favorite. I have been doing a lot of through the view finder using a Kodak Duraflex camera.

What or who inspires you?
Architecture and Europe inspire me a lot. There is a whole different lifestyle in France and Italy. It gets my blood flowing. I also can thank my best friend for encouraging me to pick up the camera again. He is a talented photographer and when I met him his work inspired me. We critique each others work a lot and continue to motivate each other to become better photographers.

Do you have a work room or studio?
I am excited to say I just moved into a new apartment that is now my studio. There is more room and I have a beautiful view of the lakefront in Chicago. I just finished painting and now I plan to surround my studio with my work. This will continue to inspire me everyday.

Where do you sell your work or designs?
I mostly sell on Etsy at rebeccaplotnick.etsy.com. I also do a farmers market in Chicago in the summers that has been very successful for me. Its called Nettelhorst.

Do you participate in any shows or special events?
I do the Nettelhorst Farmers market in Chicago during the summers.

Thank you for your time, we know our readers will be pleased to meet you.
Thank you!
Scenting ‘Cents’ibly


It doesn’t take a lot of money to make your home smell delicious year round. This month’s column will give you some tips on scented your home “cents”ibly. A couple of quick tricks I use are:

**Furnace Scents**
Using an old paint brush or eye dropper and your choice of scented fragrance or essential oil, drop 5-8 drops of fragrance onto your furnace filter. As the furnace runs, the scent carries through your home from your vents. Refresh it weekly to keep it smelling good.

**Vacuum Freshener**
Vacuuming is a chore we can’t ignore. So make it more enjoyable. Like you would do for your furnace filter, do the same for your vacuum filter. As you vacuum, the scent permeates throughout the home.

**Potpourri Heaven**
Do you have pine trees that have dropped their pine cones? Gather some in a pretty basket, add a strand of white Christmas lights and scent as directed in the above ideas. The warmth from the lights will help the fragrance to carry for all to enjoy. You can also use this idea with plain potpourri or potpourri that no longer smells good.

**Simmering Stove Pot**
My mother still uses this method today. I use an electric simmering pot. Fill an old pot or electric simmering pot with a handful or whole cloves, allspice and broken cinnamon sticks. Add water and heat. Other options, orange peel, anise, ground cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. As the water evaporates, refill with more water. This also adds moisture to the home in these dry winter months. If using the stove method, simmer over a low heat. Keep a close eye on the water level. You don’t want the water to run out as the ingredients could burn.

**Sachets**
I gave these to the moms in our school this year. You’ll need (clean) crushed corn cob litter found in the pet aisle. Measure 4 cups of the corn cob and place in a glass jar that you will not be using for food. Add 2 ounces fragrance or essential oil. Place a lid on the jar and shake. This recipe will fill approximately 16 - 3”x4” muslin, burlap or sachet bags. Place in your lingerie or sock drawer; hang in a closet, shoe box, locker, under the seat of your car, in a sunny window or near a furnace vent. Do not place directly on wood or plastic as the oil may damage the surface it sits on.

**Fabric Ornaments**
Grab those clearance ornaments. Find a nice fabric one that can be used as a hanging air freshener for your car, closet or hanging on your window. Brush the fragrance or essential oil onto your ornament. You may need to rub on some ground cinnamon to hide the oil spots. This will only add another layer of scent! Now you can hang your scented ornament.

Enjoy these new ways to scent your home!
Planning a Tiered Flower Bed - Part I


When planning on making your flower bed there are many things to consider and do before you actually go out and purchase your seeds, bulbs or plants.

Where will it go? How large of an area do you want to cover? What climate zone do you live in? If you live in a rental make sure that you can remove what you plant without voiding your lease.

After getting the basic questions out of the way, decide on your budget for this project and draw out a rough sketch of what you want it to look like. Have your soil tested. Most areas have an Extension Office that will do this test for free or a small fee. They can also tell you what to add to your soil, if needed, for optimal growth.

Examine your options of annuals and perennials. Will you need to get plants that do better in the shade, partial sun or full sun? Where and when is the sun in your yard? If you live in an area that is prone to drought make sure that you check the watering guidelines of the plants and flowers that you are going to include and consider a sprinkler system. Will you be adding a fountain, statue or ornament into your plans and what will you use for the outer perimeter (i.e.: wood, rocks, pavers, bricks. etc)?

Colors, scents, heights, width, ground cover, bushing, when they bloom, poisonous to animals, attract insects, bees, snakes, moles, time to plant, and rooting systems are all questions that you must consider before your final decisions have been made.

There are many different types of flower beds as well as reasons for making them. Most, however, have some type of preventative for weeds such as the landscape fabric that you can purchase at most home improvement stores as well as mulch or wood chips for cover and decoration. This endeavor can be accomplished for a minimal cost if you decide to raise your plants from seeds and don’t mind weeding. On the other hand this project can also get very expensive if you don’t organize and plan out what you need. Flower beds, while beautiful if taken care of, can also add a tremendous curb appeal to your home as well as generate sweet fragrances and beautiful mix of colors that are appealing to the senses.

Keep bird feeders away from your flower beds due to the seeds dropping and the growth of different types of flowers and weeds that were not part of the plan.

In the next issue we will go into more detail about the designs as well as the different plants and flowers that go well together and bloom at different times throughout the year for a larger decoration impact. After getting your flower bed in place and ready for the coming years there is still more planning on the way.
How To Download These Patterns

To purchase instant download products from advertisers in this issue, simply click the purchase button and make your payment through Paypal using instant funds.

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YOU MUST CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD YOUR PRODUCT

You NEED to click that final button. Be Patient. A blank white page will come up. Wait a few seconds and a pop up box will come up and will start your download. Then all you have to do is to save the Instant Download E-Pattern PDF file to your computer.

Want YOUR pattern featured in our next issue?

Just visit our website and reserve your spot...

CreativeTimesMagazine.com
With the economy still on its downward spiral, many online business owners are struggling to stay afloat. Some, sadly, have had to close their websites all together. This is a real shame, especially for customers seeking unique, one-of-a-kind, handcrafted products, which get more difficult to find when their favorite online shoppes disappear.

So what can you do to keep selling your handcrafted products online, without the expense of web hosting that you just can’t afford in this economy? Sell from your blog! If you use a free blogging site, Blogger in particular, you can easily sell products directly from your blog. Blogger is easy to use, and it’s ideal for anyone who wants to offer products for sale.

You have three good options for selling from your Blogger blog.

**Email** – Add photos of your products, and ask customers to email you to request payment info to purchase your products. You can send them a Pay Pal invoice, or you can request payment via check or money order. This is easy enough to do on your end, but can be frustrating for customers who want to make a purchase right now.

**Pay Pal** – Using your Pay Pal account, you can create Buy it Now buttons specifically for each product that you sell. Then all you have to do is copy the code that is generated on Pay Pal, and paste it into your blog with a product photo (either in a post, or in a side column). Customers just click on the Buy it Now button and are taken to Pay Pal to make their payment. Using Buy it Now buttons, customers can only purchase one product at a time. However, Pay Pal can also generate Add to Cart buttons, so that customers can purchase multiple products. Customers can pay using a variety of payment methods with Pay Pal. The main disadvantage with Pay Pal is that a lot of people simply don’t know Pay Pal, don’t like it, and/or don’t trust it.

**Google Checkout** – Google Checkout is similar to Pay Pal, because it allows you to generate Buy it Now buttons. They also have a Store Gadget that utilizes Google Docs to create a store on your blog; and the gadget is totally compatible with Blogger. You can also use their Google Checkout Shopping Cart, but the Store Gadget seems to be the best choice for Blogger users. Google Checkout allows you to generate email invoices and coupons, and automatically notifies customers of orders and shipping once orders are processed. Customers can only pay via credit card with Google Checkout.

Fees for both Pay Pal and Google Checkout appear to be the same; approximately 2.9% plus .30 cents per transaction for sales under $3,000 per month. These fees are an expense to consider. However, these options allow you to continue to sell online affordably, when web hosting may not be an option for you right now.
You’ve Got Questions... We’ve Got Answers!

Question: What steps do I need to take to paint on a glazed surface or glass container?

There are definitely differences in painting on smooth surfaces such as glass compared to wood or paper mache. The real problem here is that these surfaces are not porous and you will find the paint sliding around rather than adhering to the object. This can be very frustrating and difficult to achieve your desired look.

To begin, make sure that the paint that you purchase is labeled for painting glass. These paints are usually not as easy to thin or clean as regular craft paint and I recommend purchasing paint thinner as well. Most of the glass paint has the appropriate thinner located next to it at the craft store.

Once you have the proper paint, select your brushes. Fine bristle, good quality brushes are a must for glass painting. In addition because the surface will not absorb your paint, smaller brushes work better as larger ones tend to leave too much paint on the glass creating blobs of paint. In addition to brushes there are other types of tools that can be used for applying the paint. Brush marks are easily visible when painting on glass, so using the tip of a nail or end of a knitting needle works well for applying small drops and preventing brush marks.

Make sure that your surface is clean and free of hand oils and any dust. You can use a fine sandpaper to lightly buff the surface but take care because abrasive sanding will leave scratch marks in the glass.

If you’re creating a small design, the use of a lead outline can help make your design sharp by preventing the paint from flowing into other areas. Lead comes in small tubes and can also be found at your local craft store.

Blending colors and creating depth in your design can also be more difficult when using glass. Colors should be blended before placing the paint on the surface. If you place a new color on a previously painted color you can create some interesting effects. I recommend practicing blending and thinning of your paint on a surface that can be used solely for practice. You will also find that if you let your previous color dry before applying a new color that it will be easily removed with a soft cloth if you make a mistake.

Like any other craft this takes practice and you may feel a bit discouraged if you’ve been successfully painting on other surfaces. Overall, glass painting can be very rewarding and just takes a bit of practice!
Meet Extreme Quilting Artist Cindi Huss

Written by Trish Wilson © 2010 All Rights Reserved. www.SewPractical.com

If there were one word I would use to describe Cindi, it would be an explosive, “Wow!” Her dynamic abilities are seemingly infinite and her talents go far beyond the realms of quilting that most of us can imagine. Follow me on a journey into her sculptured dimension of quilted art.

How does Cindi describe her stitched art? “For me, quilting is the thing. Everything up to that point is the cake that carries the frosting – yummy, but not really finished.”

Cindi’s ingredients include hand dyeing, wet felting, needle felting, piecing and appliqué. Her frosting is what she calls extreme quilting, which frequently involves several layers of various battings and stabilizers and stitching of various densities to “chisel” away at the surface of the quilt.

Besides creating, Cindi offers a variety of fiber art classes in her Kingsport, TN studio along with workshops and lectures for quilt guilds and other interested groups. She doesn’t currently offer online classes but is considering its future possibilities. For those who are fortunate enough to live nearby or who can travel to her studio, view her Class Schedule to find out how to register. She’s also happy to specially schedule classes for groups of two to six people in her studio. Her most recent traveling class was for the Friendship Star Quilters from Gaithersburg, MD in October, and she taught her Sculpting with the Quilting Stitch class for the Cork Textile Network at Fota Park in Ireland.

Cindi has exhibited her art in Lyon, France and around the U.S. Her work currently hangs in the Up Against the Wall Gallery in Kingsport. Her upcoming schedule of exhibits includes the Main Art Center (140 West Main St., Kingsport, TN) during November and December 2010. You can view her work, learn more about her classes, and view other career highlights by visiting her About Me page at: www.cindihuss.com.

As if that isn’t enough, using her experience as a journalist, copyrighter and freelancer Cindi has written articles and essays for magazines such as Quilter’s Newsletter and the SAQA Journal, a magazine for professional art quilters. Her most recent article, “Auditioning Your Quilt Design”, appeared in the September/October 2009 issue of American Quilter. She’s presently working on an article for Quilting Arts magazine.

When Cindi isn’t writing, creating, teaching, or spending time with her family, she’s the chair for the Kingsport Art Guild’s Model City Art Show. Additionally, she is a member of the Surface Design Association, the MidSouth Sculpture Alliance, and the Kingsport Art Guild and a professional artist member of Studio Art Quilt Associates. She previously served as a working member, vendor and instructor at the Fiber Art Center in Amherst, MA, for seven years.

Now for a little-known fact: Cindi’s first work-for-hire pieces was in collaboration with fellow fiber artist Pascale De Coninck. They partially pieced a quilt for a character on the Belgian soap opera Thuis to “work on” during the show.

Explore Cindi’s personal side along with business updates and ideas at http://cindihuss.blogspot.com.

All artwork is the copyright of Cindi Huss. Reproduction without written permission from the artist is prohibited.
St. Patrick’s Day Crafts

Written by Melanie McMahon Ives © 2010 All Rights Reserved. www.LittleEmsDivineHats.com

Top o’ the morning to you! This issue I’m going to focus on St. Patrick’s Day. I have Irish roots and my parents always made St. Patrick’s Day lots of fun growing up. Now that I have my daughter, I can’t help but revisit my childhood and determine which traditions I want to pass along to her. Even though she’s too little yet to enjoy such things, I’m hoping as time goes on she will come to love them as I did.

Although this “project” isn’t all that crafty, I promise it will be fun! And the focus is on spending time with your family and perhaps you can start some fun traditions in your family as well. You don’t have to be Irish to enjoy St. Patty’s!

Our St. Patrick’s Day celebrating started about a week before the holiday. The BEST was that I was visited nightly by a mysterious leprechaun. Now obviously the leprechaun was my parents, but they really worked it! They even knew his name (Patrick, of course!) and he did all kinds of things, mostly involving green food coloring!

An eclectic mix of materials can be used, all optional of course, but what I cover in this article.

- green food coloring
- gold chocolate coins
- vaseline
- fresh white carnations
- sugar cookie dough
- 7-up
- eggs
- pancake batter
- quarters, dimes, nickels

Leave leprechaun gifts, like gold chocolate coins in random places around the house. The kids will have fun searching for their treasure.

Use green food coloring to your greatest advantage:

- Make green scrambled eggs or green pancakes for breakfast
- Sprinkle a drop of color in the toilet bowl so your kids think the leprechaun did a green tinkle overnight.
- Mix a few drops of color with Vaseline to make a “lip gloss”. Kiss the cheeks of your kids as they sleep for leprechaun kisses. Get creative with GREEN!

The night before St. Patty’s make green sugar cookies and color some carnations green. This is SO fun and cool. Your kids will love this. Take a skinny vase, fill halfway with water. Put a few drops of color in the vase. The more color you use, the darker your flowers will be. Snip the carnation bottoms off so they’re fresh. Set them in the vase and watch them turn green. This can be done for any other holidays in any color.

On St. Patrick’s Day morning I woke up to find real coins instead of chocolate coins, which I loved! We had corned beef and cabbage for dinner on St. Patty’s. My mom put a drop of green in a glass of 7-up for me.

I hope these gave you some fun ideas for a fun holiday. It’s a great excuse to make lasting memories with your children.

If you have any other ideas I’d LOVE to hear from you. I’m looking to add fun St. Pat’s ideas into my repertoire for little Emma!

Irish blessings to you!
Trish’s Quick Tips!

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Easy Appliqué Patterns
Cookie cutters come in a variety of shapes and are easily traced onto preferred fabric to cut appliqués from. Also try inking the cutters with an ink pad or markers and stamp the shapes onto fabric.

Cut Down on Tracked-in Dirt
Use one door for entering and exiting during your outdoor activities this spring. The mess will be easier to clean if it’s all at one door.

Drinking Water
Run tap water into a pitcher and let sit overnight in the refrigerator to eliminate the chlorine taste. This is also helpful because:

• You aren’t running water for long periods each time you want a cold glass of water from the tap.
• You aren’t throwing plastic bottles or filters into the landfill.
• You’re getting the fluoride you need for healthy teeth.

Money Savings on Expensive Items
Split the cost of those expensive items like lawn mowers, carpet steamers, etc. with a neighbor. Both of you will have a nice product for only half the cost. Of course, you share service and maintenance costs as well. Why not go a step further and keep shared items in a shared outdoor storage barn?

Attract Songbirds
Fill bird feeders with not only seeds, but with fresh-cut fruit and berries as well.

Recycle Feather Pillows
Place feathers from an old feather pillow into a mesh produce bag. Hang nearby for birds to use as nest-building material.

Spring Cleaning
Make your cleaning last longer by cleaning each room from the top first and working down to the bottom.

Pretty in Pink Cards
Cost: $6.00

Try one of our eCraftClasses like this one...
Meet Janelle and Jason Ethridge

Visit them online at http://nomadcraftsetc.etsy.com

Where were you born and raised?
I was born and raised in Seattle Washington. Jason, my husband and business partner, was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Tell us about your family
We are a husband/wife team with two girls – Nevaeh and Brittney (ages 8 and 5). We also have 2 dogs-Rosie and Kisses- and 2 rats(yes rats)-Pizzaman and Remmy. We live in a rural town about 20 miles South East of Albuquerque New Mexico called Tijeras.

Describe your business and web site
Our business is in its second year of operation. We have been lampworkers for about 2-1/2 years. We sell our glass both online and offline. This year we plan to triple our business and take it to a whole new level.

How did you get started in your business?
We were both laid off from our jobs in 2008, 2 months apart right before Christmas. In our town it is VERY hard to find a job that provides the kind of life style we strive for-the opportunity to be there for our kids every day and still make a good living.

We decided to take our glass and sell it both online and offline. BEST move we ever made!

How did you decide on a business name?
We love to travel and we love to craft all things-not just glass. So NomadCraftsEtc seemed like a GREAT fit for us. We hope to some day take our creating on the road and sell at shows all across America.

Do you have future plans for your business?
Our future plans include adding vintage and supplies to the mix. We would also like to do large shows like the Tuscan Bead festival and The Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque. We would also like to be well known glass artists in our field.

What craft mediums do you work with and which are your favorites?
We mainly work with glass- both Boro and soft glass. Jason does mostly boro work and I do the soft glass work. We also like to dabble in metal work, silversmithing, candle making and sewing.

What or who inspires you?
Our biggest inspiration is our family. Our kids, dogs and rats and our surroundings. Nothing is more important to us than our family and they give us all the creative inspiration we need. Plus living in New Mexico it is hard NOT to be surrounded by inspiration.

Do you have a work room or studio?
We have a make shift studio in our outside work shop. In March we are buying a larger house with two floors. The first floor will be living area and the top floor will be our work area. We will have almost 2000 sq. ft. to do with what we want!!!! CAN’T WAIT!!

Where do you sell your work or designs?
We sell our work mostly at local shops, consignment stores and are planning to do MANY shows this year. OVER 20 shows from April to December.

We also sell online - 2 etsy shops www.nomadmadglass.etsy.com and www.nomadcraftsetc.etsy.com

As well as our website, which is still in the beginning stages but getting there: www.nomadcraftsetc.com

Do you participate in any shows or special events?
We have participated in 10 shows (all last year) and will be doubling that number this year. We would love to participate in the local Balloon Fiesta in 2011.

Thank you for your time, we know our readers will be pleased to meet you.
Thank you!