
ArtSpoken & Reviews

From Drab To Fab by Almie Louis

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Beverley Millar: For anyone with an interest in crafting or saving our planet, this book is a good place to start.

The desire to be creative is inherent in most people. Unfortunately, only a few are blessed with the ability entertain on stage, or make beautiful music, or paint masterpieces.

For the rest of us, who have to restrict our acting to playing charades with the family, restrict our singing to the shower only, and should avoid paintbrushes at all costs, there is the sanctuary of the world of crafting.

This is where Almie Louis' splendid book From Drab To Fab comes into its own. Chock-full of information on techniques and offering 90-odd craft projects, the book offers something for everyone to get their creative juices flowing.

Working from the premise that nearly everything is recyclable and can be crafted into something beautiful and useful, and also how we all should be thinking of our planet and re-using or upcycling our unwanted clutter - and living a more 'green' lifestyle - this book is the perfect starting place.

Former South Africa now living in the UK, Almie Louis has some wonderful ideas using items found in most of our homes. Using techniques such as crackle glazing, ageing, papier-mâché, decoupage and gilding, which are all explained in the beginning of the book, she shows how to turn old tyres, an old throw or blanket and a piece of wood, into a tyre ottoman, or make a tea light holder using gilded dessert spoons, an elastic band and some ribbon. There are also ideas for lamp shades, coasters, bowls and wall hangings. In fact, the book has ideas for every room in the home plus the garden, with clear step by step instructions and beautiful coloured photographs.

For anyone with an interest in crafting or saving our planet, this book is a good place to start.

From Drab To Fab by Almie Louis is published by STRUIK Lifestyle ISBN: 978-1-43230-202-3, recommended retail price R220. The book is also available in Afrikaans as Van Saai Tot Fraai ISBN: 978-1-43230-203-0.

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