

# Crafty NEWS

FROM



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# NEW TITLES

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## The Art of Angela Gaughan

- International award-winning author
- Distinctive, photo-realistic style
- Varied, inspirational artwork.

9781782217985 • Angela Gaughan  
Hardback • 280 x 216mm • 144 pages • Search Press

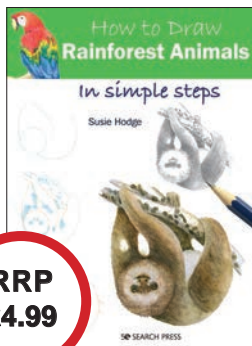
## How to Draw: Mountain Animals

- Perfect for absolute beginners or anyone wanting to improve their drawing skills
- The easy-to-follow step-by-step drawing method takes you from simple shapes to realistic drawings in a few easy stages
- Create all your favourite mountain animals, including antelopes, llamas, beavers, eagles, mountain horses and snow leopards.

9781782218883 • Susie Hodge  
Paperback • 292 x 216mm • 32 pages • Search Press



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## How to Draw: Rainforest Animals

- Ideal for absolute beginners or anyone wanting to improve their drawing skills
- Easy-to-follow step-by-step drawing method
- Depict stunning rainforest animals, many of whom are endangered.

9781782218876 • Susie Hodge  
Paperback • 292 x 216mm • 32 pages • Search Press

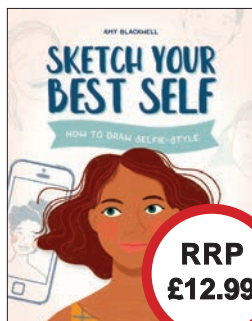
## Stitched Textiles: Animals

- Part of the highly successful *Stitched Textiles* series
- Includes four original step-by-step projects
- Huge variety of inspirational finished pieces in Mrs Bertimus' distinctive and quirky style.

9781782218227 • Mrs Bertimus  
Paperback • 280 x 216mm • 128 pages • Search Press



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### Sketch Your Best Self

- This is a fully inclusive book for all races, faces and bodies
- Amy Blackwell's colorful portraits and pattern designs are recognizable the world over
- This book teaches readers to add style to their selfies by using some of their favourite social media filters.

9781782219972 • Amy Blackwell  
Paperback • 230 x 170mm • 144 pages • Search Press

### Modern Mending

- Step-by-step instructions for a range of mending techniques
- Includes 22 case studies of mended garments and interviews with eight inspirational modern menders from around the world
- Erin Lewis-Fitzgerald is the world's leading repair artist and mending teacher, and regularly teaches mending workshops online and across Australia.

9781782219606 • Erin Lewis-Fitzgerald  
Paperback • 226 x 174mm • 272 pages • Search Press



**RRP  
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### Big Stitch Quilting

- Techniques are explained step by step
- Contains 20 contemporary, desirable projects, all made with popular 'big stitches'
- All templates are included and the book is fully illustrated throughout.

9781782218210 • Carolyn Forster  
Paperback • 280 x 216mm • 144 pages • Search Press

### 100 Plants that Heal

- Discover 100 common medicinal plants and how to use them for healing and self-care
- A sumptuously illustrated guide
- Find tips for collecting and preserving plants while being an environmentally responsible picker.

9781446308776 • François Couplan & Gérard Debuigne  
Hardback • 280 x 216mm • 224 pages • David & Charles



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### Creative Polymer Clay

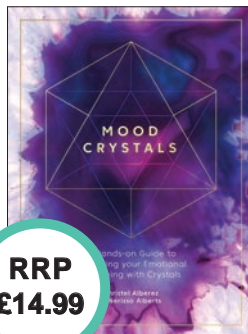
- Learn 10 easy yet exciting techniques
- Create 20 unique jewellery pieces
- Includes step-by-step photos and instructions.

9781446308417 • Heidi Helyard  
Paperback • 229 x 216mm • 144 pages • David & Charles

### Mood Crystals!

- Develop awareness of your current mood
- Discover which crystal(s) will be beneficial to you at any given moment.

9781446308530 • Christel Alberez & Nerissa Alberts  
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### Sustainable Knitting for Beginners and Beyond

- 20 patterns for environmentally friendly knits
- Advice on yarn sourcing
- Projects for beginners as well as more experienced knitters.

9781446308813 • epipa Strohhammer  
Paperback • 273 x 210mm • 128 pages • David & Charles

### Zero Waste: Kitchen

- Turn your kitchen into a waste-free zone with these crafty solutions
- Something for everyone no matter what your skill level
- Projects and tutorials include sewing, crochet, upcycling and reuse.

9781446308714 • Emma Friedlander-Collins & Christine Leech  
Paperback • 203 x 203mm • 96 pages • David & Charles



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### Hello Hexie!

- 10 crochet hexagon patterns
- 20 step-by-step projects
- A refreshing twist on the classic granny square!

9781446308387 • Sarah Shrimpton  
Paperback • 229 x 216mm • 128 pages • David & Charles



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# MENDING MAGIC

with Erin Lewis-Fitzgerald



The magic of  
before and  
after photos



Mending is magical. Really. I've been mending for over three decades, and I'm still convinced there's an element of magic involved.

I love how mending merges problem-solving with creativity and style. Visible mending scratches my artistic itch but with two extra benefits: it helps save money and the planet. Win-win! But without a 'before' photo for comparison, there's no magic trick – no proof of problem solved.

'Before' photos and progress photos are the key to showing others that mending is possible, and differentiating your mending handiwork from all other textile-based crafts.

And in the case of invisible or blended mends, a 'before' photo is the only proof you have to show for your hard work.

Here's tip number 3 from the Helpful Tips section of my book *Modern Mending*:

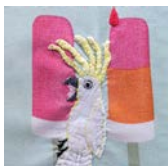
"Take 'before' photos. This is a tip from my mom, who lives an ocean away and loves to see 'before' photos of items I've mended. A good before-and-after reveal is always fun and once you start mending, the opportunity for a 'before' photo is lost. Even if you don't show the pictures to anyone, they're good to have for your own learning so you can see how much you've improved."

My mom is right (mothers usually are). We used to love watching makeover shows on TV together when I was younger, and it's fun to gasp when you see what's changed (so fun that TV shows can string you along for half an hour or more just to see the big reveal!). Who doesn't love a happy ending or a clever solution to a problem?

Leta's dress is one of 25 case studies featured in my book. Her cat ripped this dress, and I mended it with an imaginary apology flower from the cat, with the stem covering the rip (the flower is the icing on the cake, so to speak). Without the 'before' photo for context, the flower could easily be mistaken for pure decoration.



Here's another case study from my book: Emma's tea towel. It had ice lollies all over it and one big hole when I mended it the first time. I chose to make the hole into a feature.



Many people have raggedy tea towels that they are convinced are too far gone and not worth mending, or that they can't imagine could be mended. But when they see this tea towel's 'before' photo, it makes them wonder whether their holey tea towel is worth mending, too. (Another tip from my book: tea towels make the best test subjects when you're learning to mend!)

Large Marge is an extreme example. My most famous mend to date, this shirt (which I named Large Marge after a movie character) was nearly more holes than shirt. I posted the 'before' photos on Instagram before I began mending, and many, many people tried to talk me out of it, saying this commission was too big a job – that Marge should be made into rags instead.



Now Marge has four pages in my book (with lessons learned) and inspires people from all over the world. She's the poster girl for possibility and has changed even my views on what is mendable. A challenge? Yes. But worth it? Also yes. And the 'before' photos of Marge are everything – otherwise you might think the owner bought the shirt this way.

Sometimes I get grumpy about having to take 'before' photos, because I often get my mending mojo after dinner when it's dark and the lighting in my home is rather horrible, and if I haven't yet taken a 'before' photo I know I shouldn't start mending. I'm a professional mender so the rules are different for me; I know my work won't make as much of an impact and inspire you if I don't take 'before' photos, so I make a point to do it.

You are not me, though, and don't have to get out all your camera gear or wait for daylight to get started. Before I knew I'd be making a book, I took

'before' photos and progress shots on my phone. You can get quite a good result using a smartphone camera with decent lighting; these photos were taken on my bedroom window seat (white painted wood) using only daylight coming through the window.



The most helpful 'before' photos:

- are in focus
- are well-lit (find your brightest light source)
- have a plain, distraction-free background so the garment is the star
- have some context so you can tell what the item is (e.g. a shirt) and where the damage is (on a seam or near a pocket)

If I haven't convinced you already, there are two more big benefits to taking 'before' photos:

- If you lack mending motivation or inspiration, a 'before' photo is a good starting point. It's often harder to begin a project than it is to continue once you've started.
- If you're not sure how to mend something, a clear 'before' photo can help other menders help you diagnose the problem. If you can't find what you need to know within *Modern Mending's* 272 pages, my Facebook group Modern Mending Club is a great place to post photos and ask for help.



*Modern Mending* is available from Search Press, RRP £14.99

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