



barbouring dreams

THE NATURAL WORLD OFFERS MANY BEAUTIES TO SET SAIL UPON THE WATERS THIS SUMMER.

WORDS AND STYLING PIA JANE BIJKERK PHOTOGRAPHY CRAIG WALL

THERE IS NO GREATER pleasure for me than creating something from seemingly nothing. It feels like some kind of magic. Over the past few years it's become an obsession and, as each day passes, I find myself looking ever more keenly at the plants that line the paths I walk, scanning my surroundings for treasures left on the ground by Mother Nature.

When I find something curious, I look for more of the same as I think anything en masse has greater appeal when decorating, and also has more potential to become a substantial work of art. However, solitary fragments of found (not pilfered!) flora like palm husks, unusual twigs and paper bark are also fine to work with. Combined with a scrap of brown package paper and a piece of string, a bit of whimsy is born, just like these 'little drifters' pictured.

A few years ago while scouring the ever-expanding web, I discovered the idea of making these gorgeous little nature boats from a mysterious blogger/maker called Lenny at www.rolandbutter.blogspot.com, located somewhere in North America. Lenny made and photographed little floating vessels that he'd created from pieces of driftwood, leaves and twigs, then cast them off into a nearby lake. Since setting eyes on Lenny's fantastic creations, I've been making my own little drifters. His creations reminded me of times long past in Canada, paddling in a canoe in some of the quiet

bays near Vancouver. It was a wonderful experience that a small part of me relives each time I assemble one of these sweet floating creations. It's a wonderful project to make with children, especially in the summer holidays.

To make your own little drifters, grab a basket and start gathering interesting branches, leaves, bark, moss, feathers, pods and pine cones. The idea is that you can collect anything natural, so no metal, plastic or paper. Then find a quiet spot under the shade of a tree and craft your little boats. There's nothing too complicated about the process, but it's important to get the balance right, so your vessel will float.

Once you've made your little boats, all you need to do is find a body of water to float them in — but if there is none to be found, a bath or wide-rimmed bowl will do just fine. Don't forget to take a photograph of your little creation before it drifts out of sight. * If you're on Instagram, tag your image with #littledrifters and include us, so we can see your creation @countrystylemag @piajanebijkkerk

INSPIRING SUMMERTIME LINKS

- 1 www.airstreamfamily.com.au
- 2 www.floretflowers.com/blog
- 3 www.mrandmrscharlie.com
- 4 www.remoteandraw.com

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY OLGA BENNETT CRAFT ASSISTANCE JULIA GORDON BALL OF TWINE FROM GARDEN LIFE. FOR STOCKIST DETAILS, SEE PAGE 126. ALL OTHER PROPS, STYLIST SOWN.