

UPPERCASE



Through keen observation, attention to detail and an appreciation for beauty, artists and craftspeople can elevate everyday objects and experiences into something special. How do you make the mundane marvellous? How do you take the ordinary and make it extraordinary?



*Susanne
Manheimer*

SANTA MONICA,
CALIFORNIA, USA

I describe my work as "ad hoc," combining the totally familiar with the totally familiar to make something new. I began working with everyday materials because they were cheap and mass-produced.

I work best when I am not searching for outcomes but simply allow them to happen. This invokes spaciousness in my mind, a kind of Buddhist emptiness full of potential. I try not to fill that spaciousness, just let it fill on its own and try to stay away from the "how" of my experiences.

I set aside my intentions and just react directly to whatever is in front of me. My experience of creativity can be lucid, but it's impossible to talk about, because it functions beyond concepts, and is only made visible through doing.

Marvellously

MUNDANE



Laurie Richardson

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, USA

As an artist, I am always on the lookout for beautiful colours and interesting compositions in my everyday life. It might be a cool shadow from a doorknob, plain white rocking chairs on the porch, old skiffs at the dock or the familiar hill on the trail where I walk my dog. I like to crop images to make them more extraordinary or put fun colours together to clothe the ordinary in something a bit more fancy. With unusual compositions and original colour combinations the mundane can be marvellous.

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Megan Price

BELLINGEN, NEW SOUTH WALES,
AUSTRALIA

Learning to photograph my craft has taught me that there is beauty even in the most ordinary environments. The wrong side of a project, or a mess of threads or scraps from the overlocker become items of interest through the lens of a camera. It's all about perspective—you can change how someone thinks of it simply by altering the viewpoint. Everything I make or do, however mundane, has a bit of romance about it. There is a story, working away in my mind. Sometimes a reference to history or a movie I saw or simply the way the light falls through the window onto my work table. Suddenly there is so much more to the fraying edge of a piece of linen, or a slightly crooked stitch. In appreciating simple things, you find the magic.

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