

*Crafts for Fun
and Profit*



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 The Danbury Press

WOMAN ALIVE

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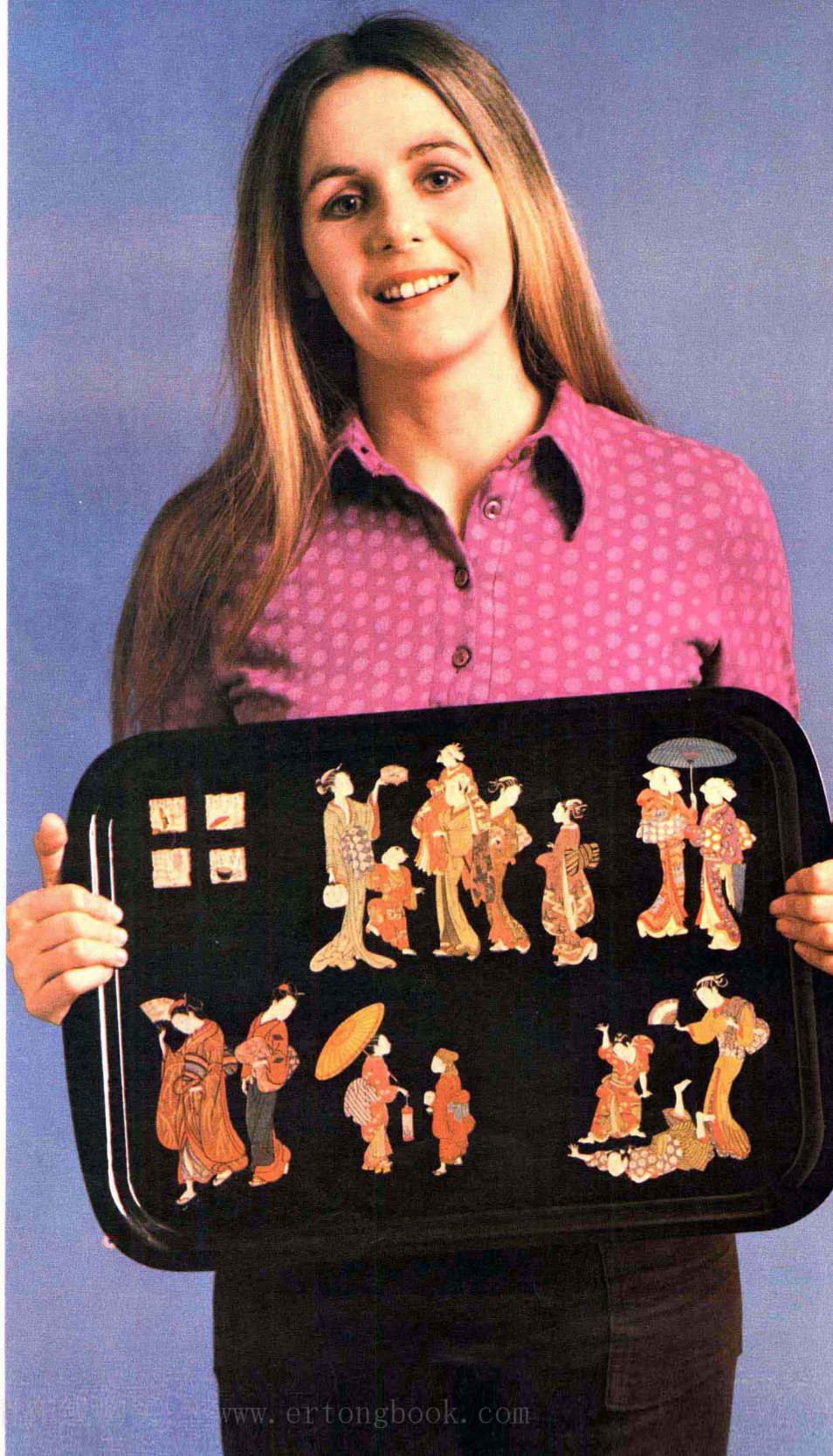
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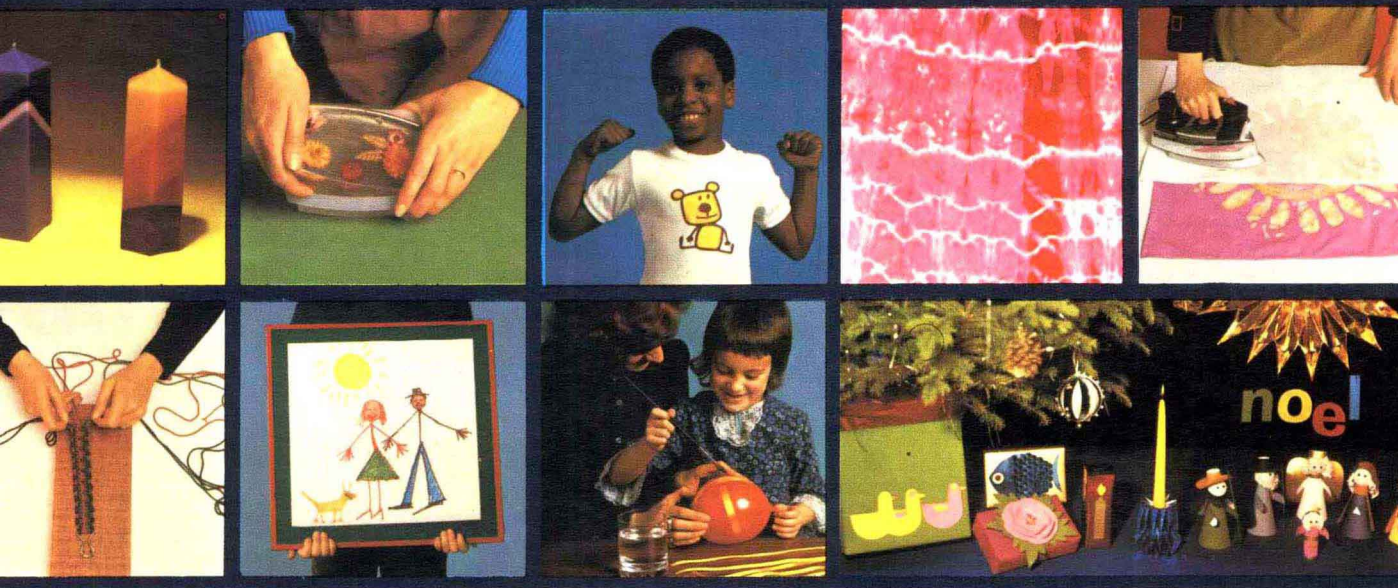
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About This Book

This is a crafts book with a difference. Here at last is a no-nonsense, easy-to-follow guide to a wide range of craft skills, especially prepared for the busy housewife with absolutely no previous experience and the minimum of special equipment. To make sure of this, we set a team of beginners to work, and they made most of the objects pictured in these pages. You can, too. The book starts from scratch with every project — there are 18 of them — and explains every technique with simple instructions and clear step-by-step color photographs. We have used diagrams only where photos simply don't show the technique clearly enough. The book is arranged so that you learn each technique by first making one attractive and useful object — a colorful rug for the living room floor, a splendid set of eye-catching party candles, a handsome mosaic coffee table. Other photographs show more ambitious items that you can go on to make, using variations of the same basic technique. A final section includes a whole range of Christmas projects for you and your family to make. A question-and-answer section on marketing your wares and a list of books for the reader who wants to perfect her skills complete the book.



<i>Contents</i>	Picture Essay: The Need to Create	8
1	A Mosaic Table	18
2	Bead Necklaces	27
3	Bottle Art	36
4	Rug Hooking	41
5	Candle Making	48
6	Setting in Clear Plastic	57
7	Design Your Own T-Shirt	64
8	A Tie-dyed Scarf	68
9	A Batik Wall Hanging	75
10	A Colorful Lampshade	80

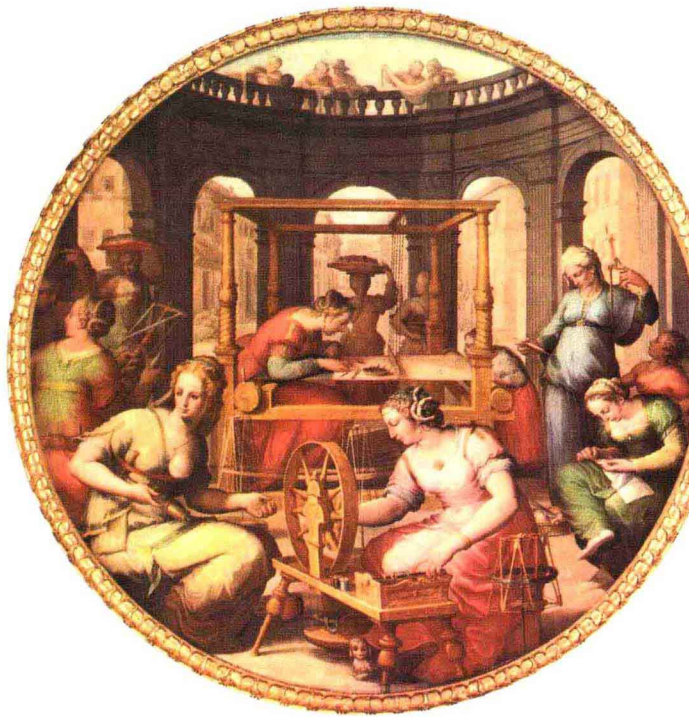


11	String Art	87
12	Flower Pressing	90
13	A Découpage Tray	97
14	The Art of Polished Stones	104
15	Macramé Belts	109
16	Easy Picture Framing	117
17	Mobiles for Children	120
	Ideas for Christmas	126
	Marketing Your Wares	137
	Suppliers	142
	For Your Bookshelf	143

The Need to Create

We all enjoy making something with our hands. Finding the right medium for one's own special talents is very satisfying—whether it's yarn and knitting needles, a lump of clay, or oil paint, brush, and canvas.

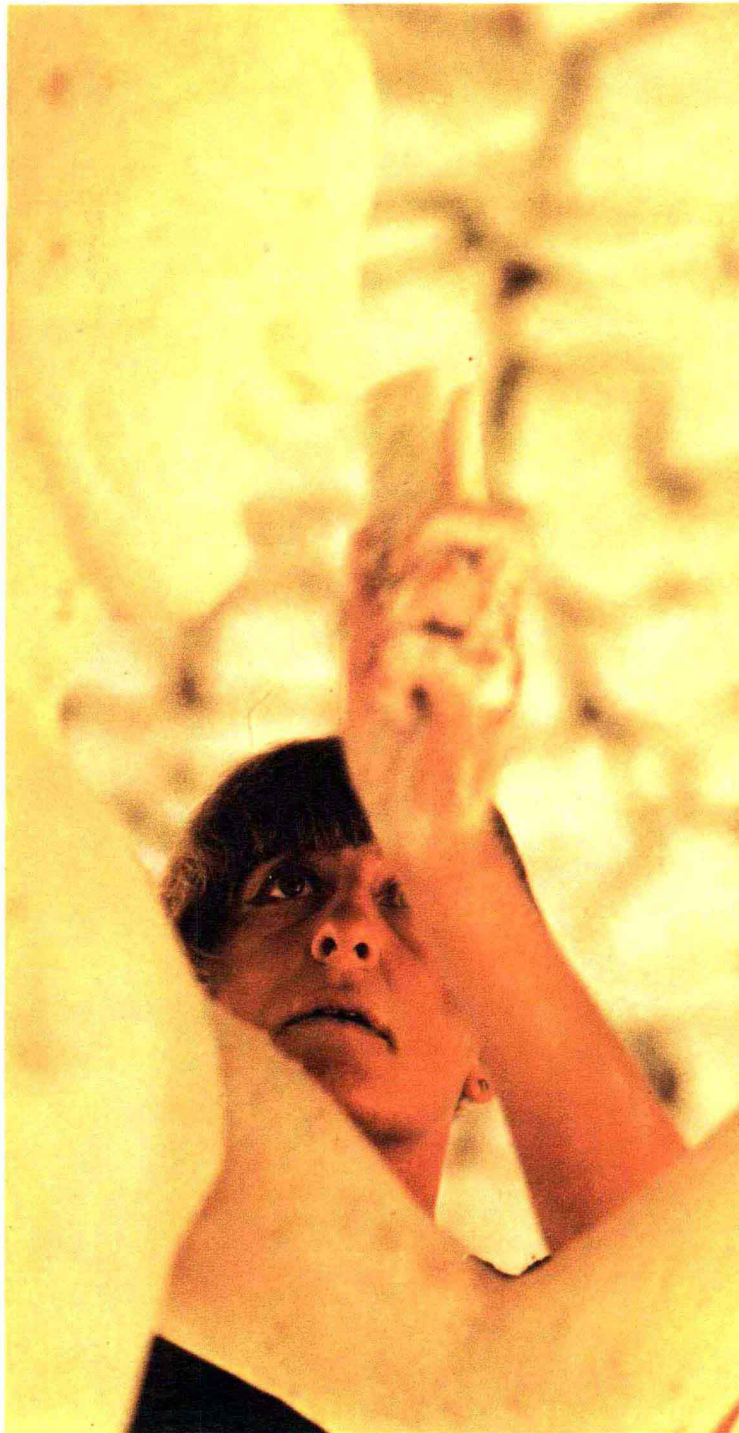
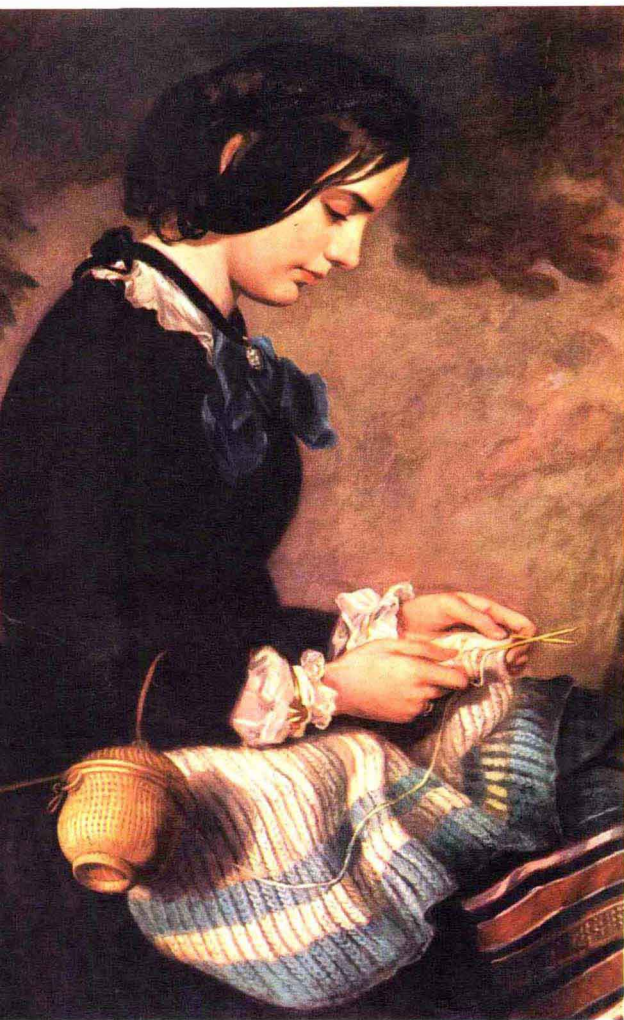
Below: the sheer joy of creating something—without worrying about standards of excellence—is a feeling most of us experience before we grow up and become self-conscious.



Above: spinning, weaving, and embroidery were the usual creative outlets for women—rich as well as poor—when this picture was painted 400 years ago by an Italian artist.

Right: although machine-knits are available today, many women—like this Victorian lady—enjoy knitting garments by hand.



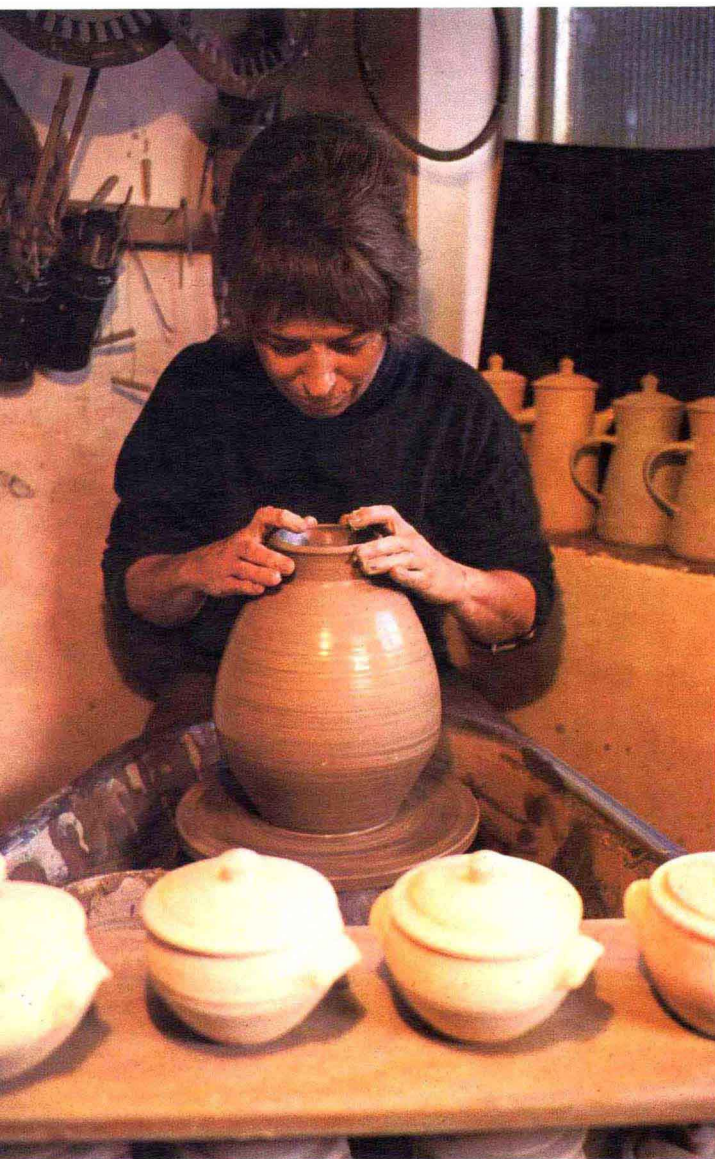


Left: the pleasure of handling the materials is a major element in the enjoyment of crafts.

Above: for some people, creative expression is not just a pastime, but a serious pursuit—as it is for the British sculptor Elizabeth Frink, seen here at work in her studio.

Crafts for Everyday

Originally, people learned crafts in order to provide necessities for their homes. The idea of making these objects beautiful, as well as useful, followed naturally.



Above: pottery is one of the oldest crafts. Vessels for eating, drinking, and cooking were needed early in man's development.

Right: the need for something warm under-foot stimulated the craft of rug-weaving.

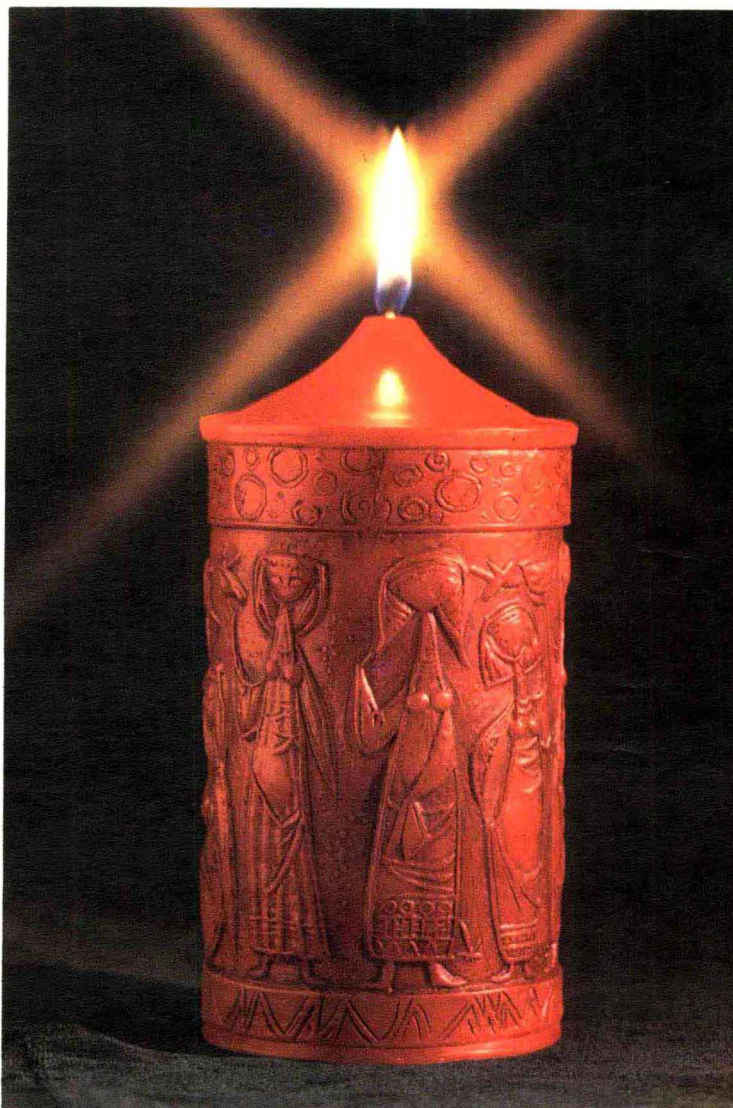




Above: in hot climates, the nicest thing underfoot is cool stone. The Romans used stones to make mosaic floors of great beauty.

Left: drafty castles could be made a little cozier with tapestries, which, by the 1400's, had become very elaborate. This French tapestry depicts a lady with her spinning.

Right: no longer needed as a source of light, candles are still valued for their distinctive shapes and colors and for their warm glow.



Crafts to Live By

Today, most of the articles we use are made by machine, with mass production methods. But in earlier times, making things by hand was not only a source of satisfaction but a source of income as well.



Above: this 17th-century Dutch painting evokes a time when lacemaking by hand was a major industry. Today, it is still practiced by a few nimble-fingered old ladies.





Left: having opted out of the “rat-race,” many hippies manage to gain a small income by making and selling objects such as bead necklaces or the soft toys shown here.

Below: this young woman at work on a modern pottery figure is fortunate in having a steady job, and a creative one, working for the Gustavsberg ceramic factory in Sweden.

Left: this Spanish girl brings a few extra pesetas to the family with her embroidery.

Below left: spinning and weaving of wool is still an at-home industry in parts of Scotland.

Below: tourism brings a demand for hand-made objects, such as Madeira wickerwork.



Crafts as Art

Today, many artists are turning to crafts as means of expression. In their hands materials take new and unusual forms, showing the great scope offered by the craft fields.

Right: the Persian rug woven by these women may someday hang in a museum, as many do today—regarded as works of art.

Below: a spectacular use of mosaic, by the Mexican artist Juan O’Gorman, adorns this university building in Mexico City.





Left: ancient Peruvian pottery may have partly inspired this boldly patterned jug by Picasso, but it bears the stamp of the artist's unique imagination.

Below left: "La Prima Donna" is an assemblage of found materials, including an old radio cabinet, and bicycle handlebars, put together by artist Jacqueline Fogel.

Below: actress Julie Christie wears a sweater designed by Elizabeth Frink, who sculpted the bronze "bird" as well. The sweater, one of a limited number, sells for about \$100. A special frame is available for displaying it.



The Crafts Revival

Today, people are discovering the pleasure of creating. Leisure hours become productive hours, and the making and owning of hand made objects brings special satisfaction in our mass-produced world.

Below: the quilting bee, which enlivened long winter evenings on the frontier, is once again a popular activity.



Above: encouraging children to develop their talents is another satisfying dimension in craft work. Here, a mother and son enjoy painting faces on eggshells.

