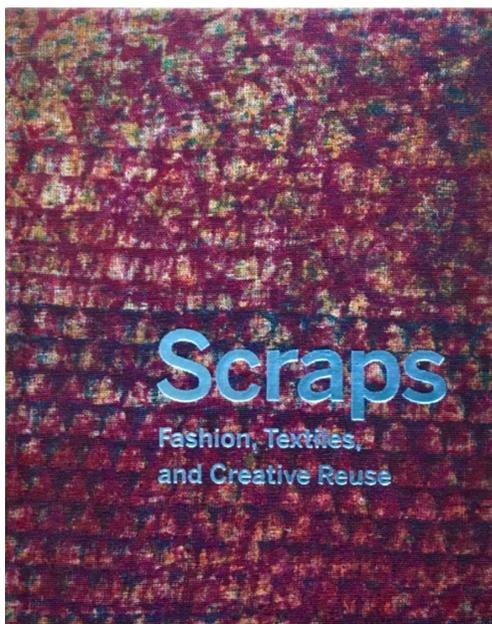


Elaine's Textile Book Wish List, Christmas 2016 for Clothroads.com

Source: <https://www.clothroads.com/clothroads-wish-list-new-textile-books-of-2016/>

Scraps: Fashion, Textiles, and Creative Reuse by Susan Brown and Matilda McQuaid



Textile artists and collectors know well that the humblest bits of fabric can yield the most beautiful things in the hands of the right maker. It's the essence of patchwork, boro, and other textile traditions born of both scarcity and reverence for cloth. This exquisite book explores new and inventive ways that industrial and pre-consumer textile waste and scraps are being used to transform this forgotten consequence of modern industrial textile production. Along with clear, sobering information about the volume of waste created in textile production by authors Brown and McQuaid, the book includes essays by three designers who think and imagine deeply about textile waste and bring a respectful, nuanced, and beautiful aesthetic to their work. *Scraps* is published in conjunction with a namesake exhibition currently on view at the [Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum](#).

Reiko Sudo, managing director of Japan's legendary NUNO Corporation, repurposes *kibiso* and *ogarami choshi*, byproducts of silk production, and combines them with raw silk in innovative weave structures that help to employ traditional weavers and create fine textiles with great textural subtlety.

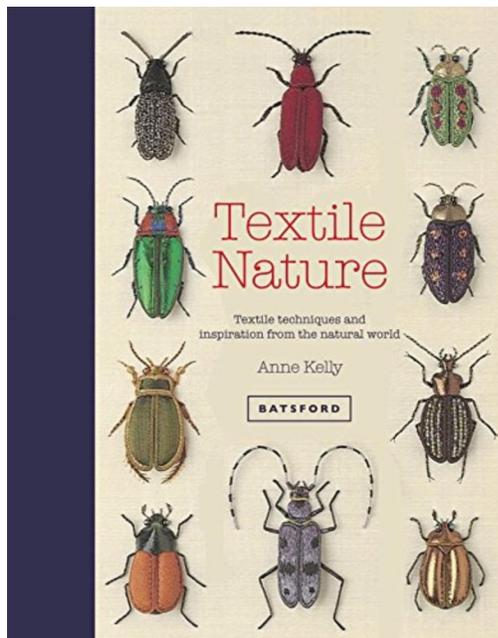
Luisa Cevese of Riedizioni works with discarded selvages from production yardage of silk fabric and linen artists' canvas, among other materials, to build textiles that become functional (and beautiful) bags and other products.

Christina Kim of dosa develops systems for textile production designed to both use cloth thoughtfully and employ traditional weavers and artisans in India making jamdani sari cloth. From zero-waste strategies, Kim now allows scrap to be generated for further creative and design use in limited-edition garments and art textiles of intricate grace.

Scraps, printed in the United States, is hardbound with a cover made from waste cloth called *achada* from a Delhi design studio. This level of detail is echoed throughout the book, filled with beautiful images, inspiring and authentic text, and plenty of inspiration for textile artists (those interested in

textile process and global textiles, and those excited by the evolution of truly sustainable textile ethics and aesthetics). As Luisa Cevese says in her essay, “In the end, choosing to work with waste, closing the production loop and giving new life and a new use to something that is considered useless is an expression of my belief in the moral responsibility of the designer, whose contribution is to build a better world for everyone.” *Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, 2016. \$24.95*

***Textile Nature: Textile techniques and inspiration from the natural world* by Anne Kelly**



This lovely book bridges the advice often given to artists to use nature as inspiration and the specific practices of textile artmaking. Filled with examples of work and creative statements by the author and other textile artists and designers, the book aims to provide “ideas and starting points” for making printed, stitched, patterned, dimensional, assembled, naturally dyed, and collaged textiles and art books with natural and botanical themes. While there are some instructions for techniques, they’re brief, and assume some familiarity with stitching methods and a willingness to experiment.

*If you’re an artist in search of thematic ideas or processes, and are drawn to nature as a resource, *Textile Nature* will inspire you and push you to work through ideas in depth. Kelly acknowledges that some artists and designers want to make statements about environmental issues and others simply want to explore the abundance of design,*

pattern, and life in the natural world through textiles. This book celebrates the rewards of either path. It’s likely to introduce you to artists whose work you may not know and inspire you to look at flowers, leaves, trees, insects, birds, stones, landscapes, and organic shapes in new ways.

*In a botanical illustration class at the Denver Botanic Gardens, my teacher told me that historically there’s been a revival of art with nature themes at the turn of every century, possibly in response to rapidly evolving technologies and a sense of time moving too fast. In this century, that interest in botanical art shows no sign of diminishing as our digital world explodes. If finding a way to connect your textile work to nature makes sense as a response to contemporary life, this book will guide and delight you. I wish that Kelly had included dimensions for the many beautiful works that she includes; instead, we have to guess at scale, but that’s a minor issue that won’t prevent you from thoroughly enjoying *Textile Nature*. Batsford, 2016. \$29.95*
