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Mixed Mania ***Recipes for Delicious Mixed-Media Creations***

Debbi Crane & Cheryl Prater

A witty combination of projects, recipes, and humor, ***Mixed Mania: Recipes for Delicious Mixed-Media Creations*** (Interweave, \$22.95) leads readers on a mixed-media exploration through both the craft room and kitchen. From artist books to assemblage, art quilts to art dolls, it's all here, plus how-to instruction on a variety of mixed-media collage and surface-design techniques.

"You don't need a degree in art to create beautiful, meaningful pieces," says coauthor Debbi Crane. "Play with our instructions and processes by adding your own signature elements, and you'll achieve a result that is uniquely your own. The only mistake you can make is not to make anything at all."

Mixed Mania offers 20+ projects divided like a cookbook into three sections:

- **Artistic Appetizers:** Quick and easy instant-gratification projects, including colorful, textural paper dolls; Cheryl's **Doodles**—simple drawings transformed into artwork through the use of watercolor paints or crayons; Debbi's **Crazy Papers**, white papers altered into art paper with the addition of paints; Cheryl's **Scrumptious Squares**, mini-collages made from chipboard; Cheryl's **Background Wonderland**, colorful backgrounds made from stretched canvases or watercolor paper, and more.
- **Main Courses:** More complex projects that build on techniques and ideas from the previous section, including Debbi's **Reliquary Girls**, assemblage dolls made from odds and ends; Debbi's **Quilted Clutch** made from creative fabrics and embellished with ribbon and beads; Cheryl's **Mixed-Media Doll**, assembled from materials in your craft area; Cheryl's **Dimensional Collage** created from fabric and canvas.
- **Sweet Treats & Special Occasions:** Ideas for one-of-a-kind gifts, such as Cheryl's **Artsy Board Game**, a mixed-media adventure where your imagination is the only limitation; Cheryl's **Mini-Collage Feast**, which can be framed, sampled as singles or strung as charms; or Debbi's **Cottage Cards**, three-dimensional greeting cards suitable for a number of occasions.

Fun sidebars include “Two Cooks in the Kitchen,” essays from the authors that expand on themes within the book; “Mood music,” a sampling of music from the artists’ iPods; and “studio snacks,” actual recipes to curb the crafter’s appetite.

A mixed-media apron gallery from eight noted artists rounds out the book, representing a celebration of women’s art. “The apron potluck is a celebration of women’s art as well as the fact that women are no longer tethered by society’s apron strings,” Prater says. “Plus, it goes really well with this whole cookbooky vibe we’ve got going,” Crane says.

MIXED MANIA: RECIPES FOR DELICIOUS MIXED-MEDIA CREATIONS

Debbi Crane & Cheryl Prater

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About the authors: As an elementary teacher and artist, **Debbi Crane** has been an avid book artist for many years and has studied book arts at Penland and Arrowmont. The current focus of her studio practice is making one-of-a-kind books, fully realized compositions that include a narrative text, imagery, and a binding structure that complements the content. In 2004, she began her first yearlong daily art project, which was making a miniature book every day. She has continued making daily art ever since, giving herself a different assignment every year. Since 1998, she has been teaching art workshops for adults in various fabric arts, including at the International Quilt Festival at Make-It-U, sponsored by *Quilting Arts Magazine*. Her work has been published in several magazines, including *Cloth Paper Scissors* and *Somerset Studio* and featured in books such as *1,000 ATC's* (Rockport) and *Beaded Cards* (Lark).

While she was always gluing, sewing, writing, or painting something, **Cheryl Prater** started scrapbooking in 1996. This was a great creative release affording her a break from her stressful professional career, as well as a way to catalog all those adorable baby pictures. She began experimenting with collage and altered books in 2005, after discovering and being greatly inspired by *Cloth Paper Scissors* magazine. Her work has been published in *Cloth Paper Scissors*, *Creating Keepsakes*, and the forthcoming *500 Handmade Dolls* (Lark). She creates, blogs, teaches workshops, and takes on other artful endeavors in Atlanta, Georgia, where she lives with her husband, Mark, twin boys, Connor and Reese, and show dog, Trumpet the Wonder Dachshund.

About Interweave

Interweave, a unit of Aspire Media, is one of the nation’s largest and most respected arts and craft media companies, with businesses in magazine and book publishing, online media, television and video programming, directories, and events. The Interweave Publishing Group features 18 subscription magazines and many more special interest newsstand publications sold nationwide. Interweave has more than 250 books in print and annually publishes about 40 how-to books on the same subjects as the company’s magazines. Additionally, Interweave produces several major events for fiber and bead, gem, and jewelry-making enthusiasts and has an extensive Internet network of more than 30 websites and daily e-mail newsletters. Interweave is the proud sponsor of three craft television series airing on PBS: *Quilting Arts TV*, a fresh, contemporary quilting program; *Beads, Baubles, & Jewels*, public television’s only how-to program for beading and jewelry-making enthusiasts; and public television’s newest show for knitting and crochet enthusiasts, *Knitting Daily TV*.

Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colorado, and other offices in New York, New York; Malvern, Pennsylvania; Santa Fe, New Mexico; San Diego, California; and Stow, Massachusetts. For more information on Interweave, visit interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.