

Woodland Warmth

A wooded trail in western Massachusetts inspires our fall accessories story

By Zoe Helene

Ethically sourced and handmade by artisans preserving valuable traditions, these romantic works of art celebrate the colors, textures and shapes of wild woodland spaces. The inspiration here is a wooded conservation trail in western Massachusetts called Rattlesnake Gutter (rattlesnakeguttertrust.org), a spectacular ledge-rock chasm filled with giant boulders carved by glaciers, and buzzing with animal and plant life.

An Undulating Scarf

Wrap yourself in the earthy embrace of this one-of-a-kind kinetic “artwear” piece by textile artist Amy Nguyen, which seems to embody the spirit of a healthy tree or a forest-dwelling nymph. It takes more than 30 hours to make using heat-set shibori, hand stitching, water and pressure on metallic polyester organza from Nguyen’s vast collection of salvaged fabrics. 3D Wrap, \$950; amynguyentextiles.com



Our natural inspiration

The Texture of Turkey Tail Mushrooms

Turkey Tail are medicinal mushrooms found all over the world in color combinations that look like a turkey’s tail feathers. The mushrooms have been used medicinally for hundreds of years in Europe, Asia and North America, and records dating to China’s Ming Dynasty describe how to brew Turkey Tail into a medicinal tea.



TURKEY TAIL POLYPORE: ROBERT BERDAN



Wearable Wood Clutch

With the launch of “wearable wood” limited-production clutch purses, constructed with the finest quality salvaged ebony, Tesler Mendelovitch has transformed wood into a surprisingly lightweight new textile. The goal is “to produce timeless pieces that we hope will be relevant for a long time,” says textile designer Orli Tesler. “Designing something with a very long shelf life is what sustainability means to us.” Great Ebony Clutch, \$700; tesler-mendelovitch.com



The Marshland Ring

Katie Johansson is working to “keep the rapidly disappearing lapidary arts alive” by creating collector jewelry for people who value unique handmade pieces. She works with independent miners who hand-cut and polish each stone.

This collector agate ring celebrates the last days of summer with heavenly swirls of leaf, moss, lichen greens and whispery ivory. Hand bezel set in sterling and bubbly in its cut, this Brazilian agate is one-of-a-kind. \$185; dollybirddesign.com



Our natural inspiration

A Tawny Fox's Fur Coat

Photographer Deb Little captured this image of a two-month-old red fox—the smallest of the wild canine family—that dens in her pasture. “Watching them grow up is always such a treat,” she says. Curious Red Fox Kit 5”x7” print, \$18; deblittle.com

HOW TO HELP: Humane Society (humaneociety.org) creates awareness campaigns and permanent wildlife sanctuaries to mitigate loss of habitat, a major threat for foxes and other animals. Foxes are hunted and trapped because they're regarded as nuisances, and the fashion fox fur trade still thrives.

Flowing Flora and Fauna Pleated Scarf

This Min Chiu silk Arashi Shibori scarf flows with the flora and fauna of a forest. Each of Chiu's unique pieces is hand dyed, then pleated and painted using ancient Japanese resist-dyeing techniques. Cathayana Shibori Scarf, \$325; boticca.com



Friendly Forest Cuff Bracelets

Let these two dreamy, handcrafted bracelets wrap around your wrist like friendly forest vines. Through the Ethical Fashion Initiative (intracen.org), Chan Luu is empowering marginalized women in areas where economic opportunities are scarce. Although the Chan Luu's signature collection is not technically under its “EFI” line, Chan Luu, who is originally from Vietnam, is proud to employ people from her home country. Chan Luu's EFI line is crafted by people in both Kenya and Haiti. Amazonite Wrap, \$295; and Gold Mix Wrap, \$210.00; chanluu.com



Fine Felted Fiber Art

Using top quality, locally sourced, found and donated natural materials and remnants, contemporary fiber artist Heather Hall takes her time with each fine felted piece. Felting is one of the earliest textile techniques, dating back 8,000 years. Merino wool felted into cotton/silk voile with merino wool yarn crochet edging, can also be worn as a shawl. Late Summer Woodland Plaid Blanket, \$750; heatherhall.net

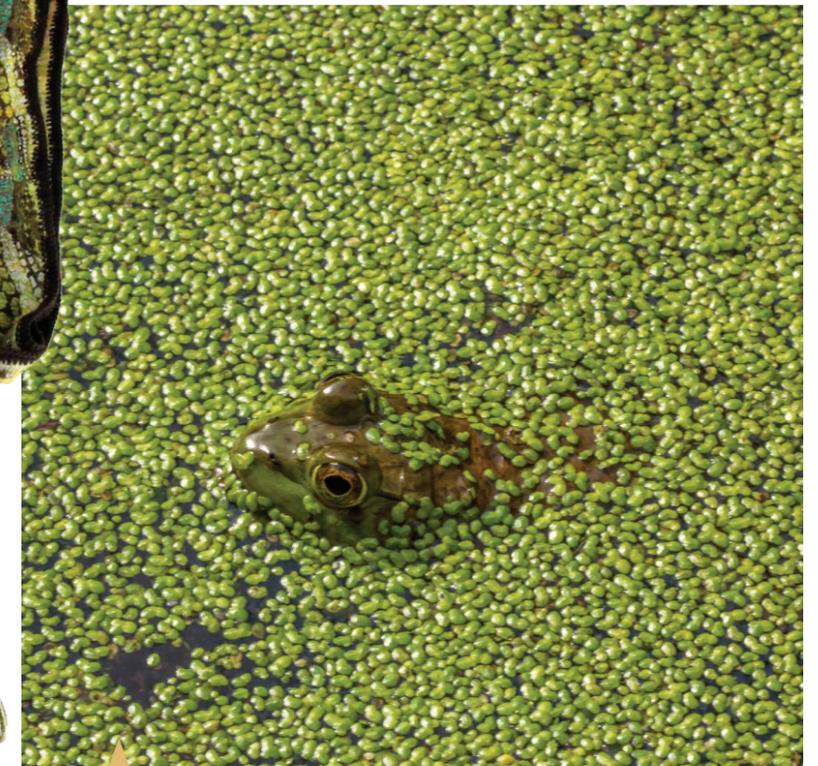


Mosaic Ikat Clutch

Anne Marie Saguil and Anna Ayuyao of Anne & Anna help preserve the native cultural arts of the Philippines through their line of ethical accessories. Local artisans handcraft this rich moss-green hard shell clutch using indigenous materials such as Abaca ikat fabric, Kamagong wood and mother of pearl. Trapezoid Ikat Clutch, \$68.60; shoplatitude.com

Flowering Jade Pendant

Luke Gardiner of the Mountain Jade group carved this romantic pendant in a traditional design of the Maori, indigenous people of New Zealand. This design symbolizes the eternal bonding of two souls “through friendship and love.” Flowering jade, a rare stone found only in New Zealand, is prized for its spectacular, flora-like textures and colors. NZ Flower Jade Maori Infinity Twist; \$498; mountainjade.co.nz



Our natural inspiration

A Great Green Frog

“Through the camera's lens, subjects reveal themselves,” says photographer Anita Miller. This chilled-out frog immersed in a luxurious bath of vivid, confetti-like water plants “held my attention for hours,” she says. Frog Prince, \$35 for 8”x8” print; naturesimagesbydesign.com

HOW TO HELP: Save the Frogs! protects frogs and other wildlife by constructing wetland sanctuaries. Almost one-third of the world's amphibian species are on the brink of extinction, and the leading cause is habitat destruction. Most wetlands in the United States have either been destroyed or modified. (savethefrogs.com)