



Conveying the most important messages between the DIY, fashion and independent arts communities and yours

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## Part 2 of Our Interview With Brother and Sister Design Duo - Nicole & Philip DeLeon!

As promised, here is the second half of our interview with Nicole & Philip DeLeon of Alexander Henry Fabrics!

**Do you do a lot of sewing personally? Or do you just enjoy designing?**

**If yes...what kinds of things do you sew with your fabrics?**

**Phillip DeLeon:** I try! I love felt and I've sewn a few puppets in my day and some not-so-successful clothing. Now that I have twin daughters I plan on experimenting on them. Hopefully smaller is easier!

**Nicole DeLeon:** I love to sew and never have enough time to get to all of my projects. I have a dresser filled with vintage items to fix, and then I have new projects as well. A few years ago I enjoyed recreating Marni-styled blouses and skirts in our fabrics on my machine. Now I mostly sew for my daughter; I can make her a pair of pants in 35 minutes which is all the time I've got lately! I love french seams. Napkins are also one of my favorite ways to enjoy seeing the designs I like most on a daily basis.

**What inspired you to start designing fabrics?**

**Nicole:** Our father was the sole designer of the AH collection when we got started. We both did some fun surf-inspired designs in high school. One of Phillip's first designs was worn on a model in GQ in the 80's! We still have that issue. What a kick. Textiles have been a part of our lives forever. It is a tactile, lovely medium that we work with every day. What a joy!

**Phillip:** We've drawn and made art since I can remember. My father started this collection and he was a major inspiration. Nicole and I were excited to take our abilities and apply it to this medium. We came to love designing fabric more than we ever imagined we would.

**What does your day usually entail?**

**Nicole:** Up early! Shower. Tea! "Momma!" Diaper. Get dressed. Dress Baby. Make Baby lunch. Out the door. Music in the car. Hers and mine. Ahhhh. Work. Look. Paint. "Momma!" Paint. Talk. Listen to music. Talk. Paint. Home. Dinner. "Poppa!" Night-night for Baby. Night-night for Momma & Papa.

**Phillip:** Diapers. Snuggles. Then off to work. Convening with Nicole and checking on the progress of projects in the studio is one of my favorite times of the day. Then there's settling down to some painting, listening to music that inspires. There's reviewing new strike-offs from our printers with our dad, who continues to be the last word in terms of how each design is printed and colored. I wonder what's for lunch. Then when that's decided, I start wondering what's for dinner...

**What advice do you have for up and coming fabric designers?**

**Phillip:** Know the past. Be familiar with what's been done. It will inspire. Don't worry about end-use. LOVE WHAT YOU CREATE.

(continued on pg. 2)



Another amazing fabric designed by Nicole & Philip for Alexander Henry.

(continued from pg. 1)

**Nicole:** Stay in touch with the original process. Fabric is organic. A computer is not.

**Alexander Henry fabrics really has unique designs, what makes your designs different from all of the other textile designers?**

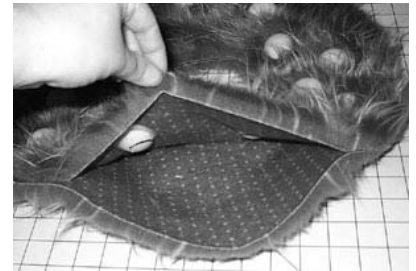
**Nicole:** We designed them!

**Phillip:** They're made by us. And we rock. (Laughs)

## CRAFTY HOW-TO: DRESS UP YOUR FRONT DOOR - & YOURSELF TOO - WITH A FURRY MONSTER WREATH & SPARKLY DEVIL HORNS!

### What You Need:

- 3/4 yd. fun fur
- Ping pong balls
- Paint pens
- 1 Bag polyester stuffing
- Glue gun (or sewing machine)



### How to Make It:

Begin by tracing two wreath shapes on the back of the fun fur and cut out. cut slits about 1 1/4 inches long where you want the eyes. Push a ping pong ball through the slit, then ring with glue. Glue the two layers of fur together and stuff with poly stuffing. Use glue to close the hole in the wreath. Sew a ribbon to the back for hanging. Use a black paint pen to draw eyes on the ping pong balls. You're done!

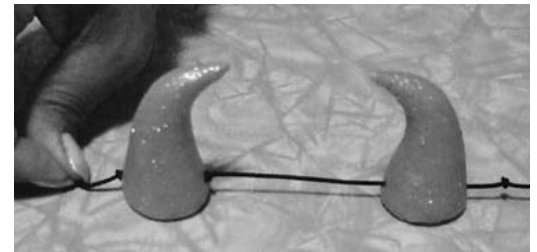


Completed wreath - ready to hang!

Project tutorial & photos courtesy of [Craftster.org](http://Craftster.org)

### What You Need:

- Air-dry craft clay
- White glue (or Modge Podge)
- Glitter
- Small plastic bowls or dishes
- Paintbrushes
- Toothpicks
- Elastic cord, large darning needle



### How to Make It:

Measure an equal amount of clay for each horn. By hand, roll clay into 2 balls, then form into cones. Make the ends pointy and bend them in, forming horns. Stand horns upon the flat ends, then insert a toothpick through each base, to allow for the elastic cord (this is what keeps them on your head!). Allow horns to dry for 2-3 days. After they're set (about 1 day), rotate the toothpicks daily. Pour glue into a dish. Holding the horn by the toothpick, paint the horn with glue, then dip it into glitter. Let dry, and then add another coat of glue and glitter to make sure the horn is extra sparkly. Once drying is complete, remove toothpicks. Thread a darning needle with enough elastic to go around your head. Insert threaded needle into horns, pull the elastic through, and tie off the ends. This project was created by **The Devil-Ettes** - "San Francisco's Go-Go Sweethearts"! **Check them out at: [devilettes.com](http://devilettes.com)**

**\*Variation** - Make these to wear as hair clips! Simply omit adding the holes and glue the completed horns to some metal clips.

Project tutorial & photos courtesy of [blog.craftzine.com](http://blog.craftzine.com)



Finished horns are ready to go-go!

MADAME CRAFTINA'S  
HOROSCOPE

## Creatures of the Night - Unite!

**For the month of October, Madame Craftina asks, "What creature of the night are you?" You might be spooked to find out!**

**Libra:** You Libras are the Black Cat in the night. You are loyal friends that do not criticize or nag and are pretty non-committal. You have a tendency to back away from arguments because it's a waste of time and energy.

**Scorpio:** Scorpios are represented by the Vampire that comes out at nightfall. You have unrestrained actions and excesses in food and drink. You are full of life and extremely competitive, both physically and mentally.

**Sagittarius:** "It's not what you know, it's who you know." You Sags are like a Werewolf, running with your pack! You are unpredictable and have swift changes of heart.

**Capricorn:** Caps are like the 'Lil Devils in

the night because let's face it, you're the goat with horns! You always put work before family because time=money and you have a patient persistence to get the job done.

**Aquarius:** You are the Witch/Warlock of the bunch because of your very keen brains, quick wits and excellent memory. You witches are tough and stubborn yet still loyal and generous of spirit.

**Pisces:** You are the accident prone Zombie! You zombies live fully without the thought of consequence, all you want is to eat brains!!! You learn by experience instead of instruction.

**Aries:** When it becomes night, Aries become the Mad Scientist, punctual and impulsive. You are born leaders who enjoy a challenge and take chances even blindly.

**Taurus:** You are the Spooky Bat Taurus! You love your home dwelling and showing

off! Destiny governs your life instead of personal choice.

**Gemini:** When the moon rises, so does the Mummy! All wrapped up, the twins are restless souls who have difficulty making up their minds. You are unpredictable and misunderstood.

**Cancer:** AAAAAHHHHHH, it's Frankenstein! You are very sensitive and care what others think of you. You love to help others but are easily hurt emotionally. Really Frank, you just want to be loved.

**Leo:** You lions become the Grim Reaper in the night. You are instinctively born to rule. You tend to be older mentally in your years but have tendencies to burn the candle at both ends.

**Virgo:** In the dark of the night, you Virgos become Goblins! You are hard-working and industrious, predictable, reliable, honest and adaptable.

## MA MANGIA

## HAUNTING RECIPES FOR YOUR HALLOWEEN BASH!

We love Halloween, and these recipes are sure to be a hit at your party! Be sure to check the website below for lots more spooky recipes! **Recipe Source:** [http:// www.britta.com/HW/HWr.html](http://www.britta.com/HW/HWr.html)

**Creepy Witch's Fingers:**

- 1 cup Butter, softened
- 1 cup Icing sugar (powdered sugar)
- 1 Egg
- 1 tsp Almond extract
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 2- 2/3 cups Flour
- 1 tsp Baking powder\*
- 1 tsp Salt
- 3/4 cup Almonds, whole blanched
- 1 Tube red decorator gel (optional, not pictured)

Gross everyone out with these creepy cookies. In bowl, beat together butter, sugar, egg, almond extract and vanilla. Beat in flour, baking soda\*, and salt. Cover and refrigerate 30 minutes. Working with one quarter of the dough at a time and keeping remainder refrigerated, roll heaping teaspoonful of dough into finger shape for each cookie. Press almond firmly into 1 end for nail. Squeeze in centre to create knuckle shape. (Accompanying picture showed long rolled shape with bulge at centre for knuckle; you puff it out rather than squeeze it in.) Using paring knife, make slashes in several places to form knuckle.

Place on lightly greased baking sheets; bake in 325F (160C) oven for 20-25 minutes or until pale golden. Let cool for 3 minutes. Lift up almond, squeeze red decorator gel onto nail bed and press almond back in place, so gel oozes out from underneath. You can also make slashes in the finger and fill them with "blood" - or leave plain (Remove from baking sheets and let cool on racks. Repeat with remaining dough.

**Spiderweb Brie En Croute:**

- 1 small Brie cheese round
- 1 packaged puff pastry sheet

Wrap the pastry sheet around a small round of Brie cheese, sealing the raw edges together underneath. Use the leftover pastry scraps to add your own design to the top of the Brie, gluing on the pastry with water, milk or egg wash. Cookie cutters might give you inspiration, or roll your scraps into thin ropes and make a spiderweb design. Brush with milk or egg wash for nice browning. Place on greased foil on a cookie sheet and bake in the oven at 400F for 15 minutes, or until crust is golden brown. Serve with a spreader and your preferred assortment of crackers.





## WHO IS KEEPING SAN DIEGO CRAFTY?

Teresa Salazar of *Velvet Klaw*  
[www.velvetklaw.com](http://www.velvetklaw.com)

Svea Komori-Ang of *Belle Pepper Couture*  
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Amy Smock of *Designs de Luna*  
[www.designsdeluna.com](http://www.designsdeluna.com)

Meagan Rae Longtin of *Meagan Rae Designs*  
[www.meaganraedesigns.com](http://www.meaganraedesigns.com)

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THE SAN DIEGO NORTH PARK CRAFT MAFIA WAS FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 2007 AND IS DEDICATED TO CRAFTING, FASHIONING, STYLING AND CREATING THEIR SAN DIEGO.

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[www.SanDiegoNorthParkCraftMafia.com](http://www.SanDiegoNorthParkCraftMafia.com)  
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THE SAN DIEGO NORTH PARK CRAFT MAFIA PRESENTS...  
**SUNDAY, CRAFTY SUNDAY**



Sunday, October 4th  
@Filter Coffee House  
4096 30th St. - 92104  
(in North Park)  
Noon - 5 p.m.

[WWW.SUNDAYCRAFTYSUNDAY.COM](http://WWW.SUNDAYCRAFTYSUNDAY.COM)

## Crafty Black Book: Upcoming Events for October



October is National Adopt a Shelter Dog Month!

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Get your furry friend blessed at a "Blessing of the Animals" on Oct. 3rd. Father Michael Mangoian will be at **Vintage Religion** from 10 am - 2 pm to do the blessings. Be sure to stop by the Belle Pepper Couture booth!

**Vintage Religion, 3821 32nd St. - 92104. 10 am - 2 pm.**

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH: SUNDAY, CRAFTY SUNDAY

Sunday Crafty Sunday is returning to Filter Coffee House on October 4th for its Fall Edition! Come and shop for crafty wares by local crafty vendors including yours truly, the North Park Craft Mafia. We'll have a craft table where you can decorate a Halloween pumpkin to take home!

**Filter Coffee House, 4096 30th St. - 92104. Noon - 5 pm.**

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 20TH:

2009 Infusion Project and Bar Basic present **Basic Tuesdays @ Bar Basic** downtown San Diego @10th st & J st. Gallery, live art, pizza & drinks. Mafia member Meagan Rae Designs will be a featured artist with lots of cool jewelry and clothing items for sale! Don't miss this!

**Bar Basic, 410 10th Ave. - 92101. 7 pm - 1 am.**

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 27TH: CRAFTY CONSPIRACY CRAFT NIGHT

Consider yourself crafty or want to learn to be? Join the NPCM at **Filter** on the fourth Tuesday of each month for a fun night of crafting! Our next get together is happening **Tuesday, October 27th**. Bring your own project to work on and craft with us! *(This is our time to relax and take a break from all Mafia business. Please direct all business inquiries to us via email.)*

**Filter Coffee House, 4096 30th St. - 92104. 7 pm - 9 pm.**

### LOOKING AHEAD!

Our next **Sunday, Crafty Sunday** show will be happening on **Nov. 1st** at the Ruby Room! This show will be a Dia de los Muertos theme with drink specials and a costume contest! **SundayCraftySunday.com!**

On **Nov. 10th** we'll be vendors at the Geranium Society's monthly meeting in Nov. Visit **SDGeranium.org** for info about their group!