



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

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Meet the Design Team From Alexander Henry Fabrics! Brother and Sister Duo - Nicole & Philip DeLeon!

We were fortunate enough to get an interview with the awesome design team behind our favorite collections from Alexander Henry Fabrics - Nicole and Philip DeLeon! If you're not yet a fan of AH fabrics, you will be. We love to use them in our craft and fashion projects!

Phillip and Nicole, I would like to thank you for doing this interview with the San Diego North Park Craft Mafia!

Nicole: Thank you! We are happy to participate. How can you say no to the Craft Mafia? :)

What is your favorite drink?

Nicole: The first cup of a.m. tea: Assam superb, a spot of milk & sugar.

Phillip: Right now, watermelon juice mixed with lemonade. And I never say no to a cold Stella Artois.

What music do you like?

Phillip: Vocal jazz is a major love and influence. I also try in vain to keep up with some of the new bands coming out of everywhere...

Nicole: Past: Frank Sinatra & Steely Dan. Present: Little Joy. Always: the Beatles.

Where do you find inspiration for your various collections?

Nicole: Inspiration comes from all places. We keep our eyes open. Design is a 24 hour job of looking. (o.k. minus of few hours for sleeping). Museum shows, couture fashion, music, old movies, travel, literature. We love artistic movements from the past as inspiration for quilt groups, whether that be Andy Warhol's Factory, or Isadora Duncan and the Bloomsbury movement. They are fun to explore.

Alexander Henry has many Dia de los Muertos and Native American inspired designs. How did those collections come about?

Nicole: We started designing our Santa Fe group in the early 1990's. Western and Native American culture was very popular, and we were enjoying trips to Santa Fe and Taos while they still resembled the old way. Dia de los Muertos was a natural progression, and we feel very close to both of these themes as we have strong roots in the Southwest.

Which design or collection is your favorite?

Phillip: Tough question. Next question.

Nicole: Our collections are kind of like children: hard to pick a favorite. I fell in love while painting one collection, so maybe I would say that one.



Nicole & Philip in Tupelo, Mississippi.

What makes you decide to start a new collection?

Phillip: Money. (Laughter) No, kidding. My sister usually makes me start the next one. (continued on pg. 2)

(continued from pg. 1)

Or...how does a new collection come about?

Phillip: We sit down and pull things out -- visuals, scraps, scribbles, photos that we've been hoarding. Then we just start talking and laying things out. We ask ourselves why we love what we're looking at. What's great about it? We love this process. All sorts of things surface. Sometimes what we decide to embark on has nothing to do with what's on the floor. But what's layed out there GOT US THERE.

Do you get requests from consumers about what they would like to see?

Phillip: All the time. And thank goodness. Input from our customers is so important. We're not mind readers and what we personally love or want isn't always what sells the most.

Do you create your original designs using paints, pencils, or computer? What is your medium of choice?

Nicole: We use water based media (watercolor, dyes and gouache), but the designs are usually started in pencil. There are no computers in our studio!

How long does it take to get the fabric to production from the time the original design is created?

Nicole: It takes anywhere from 3 to 6 months.

What's the most interesting project you have seen your fabrics used in?

Phillip: Fabric sushi the size of a Scottie terrier.

Nicole: Someone made a gigantic stuffed deer out of our heavy weight. Neato.

What new types of fabric can we look forward to seeing?

Phillip: Well we love the new heavy-weight cotton oxford collection (Fashion for Home) we've introduced in the last couple of seasons. It's a new fabric quality that we love. The prints are fierce. But in terms of new prints? We're working on what we call a globally-inspired collection called **ZANZABELLE** that is rocking our world right now. Brilliant saturated color, large scale, floral with hints of the east, you just wanna get your hands on it. .

Nicole: Our line is like the contents of a refrigerator: there will always be milk and eggs (Nicole's Prints & Santa Fe), and then sometimes we have cherries and avocado and imported cheese andyou know what we mean. So that would be (this coming season) a great new group called **Good Earth, Lorenza** and.....I LOVE our new **In the Kitchen** group.

Read the rest of our interview with Nicole and Philip in next month's newsletter!

Visit Alexander Henry Fabrics on the web at: www.ahfabrics.com



**A design from the new collection
"ZANZABELLE".**

CRAFTY BOOK REVIEW: ALTERATION BY ALEXANDRA UNDERHILL & SHANNON OKEY

Do you need an awesome new look for Back-to-School? Or maybe it is just time to spice up your wardrobe? Do you despair because the economy has your wallet feeling down? Well the authors of AlterNation are here to help. This book shows you lots of ways to re-vamp your wardrobe without having to go buy all new clothes! So what's the trick? They show you how to alter what you already have, or stuff that you can buy cheaply at thrift stores and sales! There are projects that range from beginning sewer to advanced. I would recommend having a sewing machine to get the most out of this book, there are some projects you could hand-sew or even glue, but really you will be missing out (unless you go crazy nuts with the hand-sewing which I just don't have patience for!). Some of the projects you can just embellish existing clothing without changing around the basic shape or fit, while other projects get crazy with the scissors and do a total reconstruction! In one of my favorite projects they take a button-up shirt and turn it into a really neat interpretation of a corset! They also take 4 pairs of old jeans and turn them into a really neat flared skirt! The other great thing about this book is the stunning photography! They also have photos for many of the step-by-step instructions which is always helpful. Overall this is a fun read for anyone wanting to boost their wardrobe and not look like every other drone walking out of the mall.



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**MADAME CRAFTINA'S
HOROSCOPE**

Your Planet Totally Rules!

For the month of September, Madame Craftina encourages you to understand the influences of your ruling planet.

Happy Earthday Virgos:(Aug 23 - Sept 22) With Mercury as your ruling planet, you show signs of intelligence, logic, activity and interaction.

Libra: (Sep 23 -Oct 22) Venus' influences include sentiment, sexuality, physical attraction as well as love and art.

Scorpio: (Oct 23 -Nov 21) Mars encourages action and energy, self-esteem and impulsion.

Sagittarius: (Nov 22 -Dec 21) You Sags have Jupiter as a ruling planet which compels you toward development, health, wealth and happiness.

Capricorn: (Dec 22 -Jan 19) The Goat is ruled by Saturn, a planet that guides caution and maturity as well as inhibition.

Aquarius: (Jan 20 -Feb 18) Also ruled by Saturn, inhibition, caution, maturity and loss comes from this ruling planet.

Pisces: (Feb 19 -March 20) The ruling planet of Jupiter persuades you toward health, wealth, happiness and development.

Aries: (March 21 -April 19) You are filled with self-esteem, impulsion, energy and thus action due to your ruling planet of Mars.

Taurus: (April 20 -May 20) Bulls are ruled by Venus, which explains their tendencies of love, art, sexuality and sentiment.

Gemini: (May 21 -June 20) The planet Mercury influences activity and interaction, logic and intelligence.

Cancer: (June 21 -July 22) Father Moon is the ruler of the Crabs. He represents the spirit, imagination, flexibility and change.

Leo: (July 23 -Aug 22) You Lions are ruled by one of the most powerful planets, the Sun. The Sun creates life, represents growth and encourages energy and creation.

MA MANGIA

THESE SNACK RECIPES WON'T MAKE YOU LATE FOR CLASS!

It's that time of year again. Time to get back to school! If you have a full day scheduled, you might want to take some snacks to enjoy in between classes. We've found some recipes that are fast to make and taste great too!

Recipe Source: Cooks.com, racheleeatsfood.blogspot.com

Great Granola Mix:

- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup apple juice
- 10 cups oatmeal (uncooked)
- 1 cup whole wheat flakes & flaxseed cereal
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds (unsalted)
- 1/2 cup almonds, sliced
- 1/2 cup sesame seeds
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4 Tsp. cinnamon

DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix dry ingredients, then add liquid and mix well. Spread on cookie sheets and toast for 25-50 minutes at 375°F, stirring often.
2. Add dry fruit.
3. Store in an airtight container. Enjoy.

Variation: Add dried cranberries and dried bananas - delicious!

Energy Balls:

- 1 cup raisins (can substitute with cranberries)
- 1/2 cup oatmeal
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 Tbs. flax seed (optional)
- 1 Tbs. wheat germ (optional)
- 1Tbs. honey
- 1/2 cup finely chopped peanuts, mini-chocolate chips, or shredded coconut for coating

DIRECTIONS:

Mix all ingredients in a bowl and make into small round balls. Roll in wheat germ. Let set in refrigerator 30 minutes.

Variation: For a peanut-free version, substitute sunflower-seed or soy-nut butter for the peanut butter.



Photo: racheleeatsfood.blogspot.com



WHO IS KEEPING SAN DIEGO CRAFTY?

Teresa Salazar of *Velvet Klaw*
www.velvetklaw.com

Svea Komori-Ang of *Belle Pepper Couture*
www.bellepeppercouture.com

Amy Smock of *Designs de Luna*
www.designsdeluna.com

Meagan Rae Longtin of *Meagan Rae Designs*
www.meaganraedesigns.com

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

www.SanDiegoNorthParkCraftMafia.com
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P.O.Box 711464
San Diego, CA 92171



Sunday, Crafty Sunday craft show returns to Filter on **October 4th!**
SundayCraftySunday.com!

Crafty Black Book: Upcoming Events for September

September is National Fall Hat Month!



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH:

THURSDAYS ON THE ROOFTOP OF THE HARD ROCK HOTEL

TK productions and Scissors & Guns present this event which includes body painting, give-aways, hairstyling, DJs, & designers - featuring Meagan Rae Designs!
Hard Rock Hotel, 207 5th Ave, 92101 - 9pm

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH:

2ND ANNUAL BATTERED WOMEN BENEFIT ART SHOW

Presented by Tokyo Gold at the **Che Café on the UCSD campus at 3 pm.** The show will feature over a dozen artists and designers - including Meagan Rae Designs! This is an all ages event! For directions to the Che Café, please visit: checafe.ucsd.edu

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH:

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ARTS OPEN & TASTE OF UNIV. HEIGHTS

The **4th annual University Heights Arts Open** is a collaborative effort this year with the 2nd annual, University HeightsCDC Taste of University. First, stroll through the quaint neighborhood enjoying sample delicacies from some of University Heights diverse restaurants. Then, enjoy a free self guided tour of the UHAO showcases the works of over 100 artists, playwrights, performers and musicians from the San Diego region enlivening the historic University Heights community.
Noon - 5 pm. Be sure to stop by the Craft Mafia booth! www.uharts.org

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND:

CRAFTY CONSPIRACY CRAFT NIGHT

Consider yourself crafty or want to learn to be? Join the NPCM at **Filter Coffee House** on the fourth Tuesday of each month for a fun night of crafting! Our next get together is happening **Tuesday, September 22nd from 7 to 9 PM.** 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.)*

LOOKING AHEAD!

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!

Our next **Sunday, Crafty Sunday** show will be happening on **Oct. 4th** at Filter Coffee House! The downloadable vendor application is posted at **Sunday-CraftySunday.com!** Apply now!