

Crafters create with castoffs

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Abstract: Ramey, owner of DIY Studio, has an upcycle idea for most any castoff item that can be made into something "trashy chic," and her free Creative Reuse Craft Night class on May 28 at the Salem Public Library was an example.

Full text: In the style of Jessica Ramey, stop pinning on Pinterest and start making.

Ramey, owner of DIY Studio, has an upcycle idea for most any castoff item that can be made into something "trashy chic," and her free Creative Reuse Craft Night class on May 28 at the Salem Public Library was an example.

"It's super easy to do," she said of the technique she introduced called block printing using pieces of discarded Styrofoam.

Ramey provided strong tempera paint colors -- orange, green, blue and black; small paint rollers; and pieces of recycled Styrofoam containers. On the trays, her students scratched designs across the bottom surfaces using pencils or styli. They dipped the resulting etched blocks into small puddles of paint and pressed them onto paper. Ramey said high-quality printing ink can be used, too.

"Kids are awesome," Marcus Cridge said, watching the concentrated work of several young people, including his daughter, Erin, 8.

Cridge and his wife, Annette, said Erin has been coming to the library since she could attend story time for toddlers.

With apparent enthusiasm, Ramey showed Erin how effective a smaller amount of paint was.

"Oh, you pressed really hard. Perfect," Ramey told her.

Husband and wife team Tim and Jo Hannan got creative with inspirations from nature while Rachel Smith designed a cutaway picture of a dollhouse. Smith said she designs patterns and sews clothes for Barbie dolls. Some participants used one design several times with different colors, but Jocelyn Hargin, 10, whipped out several printing blocks and art pieces. Her grandmother, Roni Hargin, said Jocelyn's artistic bent comes from her mother.

Cindy Ulshafer is a freelance writer covering events in South Salem. Contact her at c_ulshafer@yahoo.com to be considered for coverage.

About Cindy

Cindy Ulshafer and her husband, Eddie, live in South Salem. They have four adult children. Cindy is a volunteer tutor at Chemeketa Community College.

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