

Thrifty By Design | CV

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Denise Corcoran ([Thrifty By Design](#)) is a community catalyst, crafter extraordinaire and upcycler of things based in North Vancouver, BC. Her passion is to turn 'junk' into new and funky pieces. From refinishing furniture found at the dump to repurposing discarded items like wine corks into jewelry, there is no limit to what a bit of time and know-how can create. And save from the landfill.

Sharing her enthusiasm for crafting and upcycling, Denise facilitates 'Crafternoons' throughout Vancouver where participants of all ages and skill levels learn how to make things from unorthodox materials. She has also taught a series of classes called Crafting with 'Crap' at a local university and at conferences. Denise was a featured panelist at the [Craft Council of BC](#) talk called 'Craft, The Environment & Our Community' and was the inaugural BC Champion for the fourth annual [Culture Days](#), a national, nonprofit 3-day event promoting culture throughout Canada. In addition Denise is the Vancouver Curator for [The Makers Nation's](#) weekly digest featuring local events and happenings.

Recently Denise authored a crafty book called [Raw Crafts: 40 Projects from Hemp, Jute, Burlap and Cork](#) published through [Lark Crafts](#).

ARTICLES ABOUT THRIFTY BY DESIGN

2017

- **January 9th:** [TBD and crafty book feature](#), Ming Pao Newspaper (Canada) Ltd.

2016

- **August 1st:** [Home decor feature](#), Ming Pao Newspaper (Canada) Ltd.
- **May 27th:** [Artist Interview: Denise Corcoran](#), Papergirl YVR
- **March 16th:** [North Vancouver woman pens book about making crafts from 'raw' materials](#), North by Northwest, CBC News

2015

- **November 11th:** [HOME IDEAS: North Vancouver author thrifty by design](#), North Shore News.
- **April 2nd:** [Championing Arts and Culture in BC](#), Culture Days blog.
- **January 22nd:** [Crafting New Uses From Discarded Items](#), Squamish Chief.
- **January 21st:** [Hello Wonderful](#), Tara Galuska.

2013

- **December 18th:** [Upcycling updates ornaments](#), North Shore News.
- **October 18th:** [North Shore Culture Days Kick Off](#), North Shore News.
- **September 25th:** [Culture Days opens doors to the arts](#), North Shore News.
- **September 25th:** [Culture Day events come to the North Shore](#), North Shore Outlook.
- **August 19th:** Feature interview, Made in Magazine.

2012

- **December 17th:** [Monthly Maker 2012 Holiday Wrap-Up](#), Canada Arts Connect Magazine.
- **January 30th:** [Monthly Maker feature](#), Canada Arts Connect Magazine.

RADIO & TV SEGMENTS

2016

- **March 12th:** [Crafting with 'Crap', Crafternoons and my Crafty Book](#), CBC Radio's North by Northwest.

2014

- **December 23rd:** [Last Minute Xmas Crafts](#), CBC Radio's The Morning Edition.
- **December 11th:** [DIY Ornaments for the Holidays](#), Shaw TV's go! West Coast.

RADIO & TV SEGMENTS (CON'T)

2013

- **September 25th**: [Culture Days segment](#), CTV Morning Live.

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THRIFTY BY DESIGN

2016

- **May 18th**: [Upcycled Burlap Hanging Planter DIY](#), Homestead Junction

2015

- **December 5th**: [DIY: Adding Bling to Thrift Store Finds](#), LowerLonsdale.ca
- **October 17th**: [DIY: Wine Cork Jewelry](#), LowerLonsdale.ca
- **August 31st**: [DIY: Upcycled Wall Art](#), LowerLonsdale.ca
- **July 19th**: [DIY: Burlap Milk Carton Planter](#), LowerLonsdale.ca
- **June 7th**: [DIY Burlap Hanging Planter](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.
- **April 14th**: [DIY Reloving a Thrift Store Vase](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.
- **February 20th**: [DIY Repurposing T-Shirts into Pillow Cases](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.
- **February 11th**: [DIY Lavender Sachets](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.
- **February 6th**: [DIY Mittens Using Repurposed Sweaters and Scarves](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.
- **January 15th**: [DIY Recycled Wood Organizer](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.

2014

- **December 14th**: [DIY Reusable Christmas Packaging](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.
- **November 29th**: [DIY Xmas Decor Using Upcycled Materials](#), LowerLonsdale.ca.
- **May 21st**: [How to Upcycle Salvaged Wood and Old Drawer Pulls into a Swanky Organizer](#), Made in Magazine.
- **February 18th**: [How to Make Felted Upcycled Wool Flower Brooches Tutorial](#), Made in Magazine.

2013

- **November 18th**: [How to Make Upcycled Wine Cork Earrings Tutorial](#), Made in Magazine.
- **September 18th**: [Culture Days 2013 is coming](#), Made in Magazine blog.
- **August 16th**: [Upcycling with Thrifty By Design](#), Culture Days blog.

UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS

2017

- **December 9th**: Xmas Crafternoon, New Westminster Public Library. Details to come!
- **August 3rd**: Live & Local Series, Parkgate Plaza. Details to come!
- **July 5th**: Live & Local Series, Lynn Valley Village. Details to come!
- **June 24th**: TBD Upcycling Workshop, Delbrook Community Recreation Centre. Details to come!
- **June 18th**: Dad & Me: Tin Can Robots, North Vancouver Community Arts Council. Details to come!
- **May 6th**: Mother's Day Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. Details to come!
- **April 23rd**: Pop Goes the Weasel!, North Vancouver Community Arts Council. Details to come!
- **April 15th**: Easter Crafternoon with NVRC, Lynn Valley Village. Details to come!
- **April 1st**: Adult Springtime Crafternoon, New Westminster Public Library. We upcycled Mason jars into vases, reusable gift packaging and home decor.
- **February 13th**: Family Day Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled wine corks into characters and creatures.
- **February 4th**: Valentine's Day Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled cereal boxes, tin cans, paper samples and wooden spools into DIY stationary and reusable packaging.

2016

- **December 18th**: Christmas Series, Lynn Valley Village. We upcycled small paper cups into bells and popsicle sticks into ornaments.

UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS (CON'T)

2016 (CON'T)

- **December 17th**: Carol Ships in Panorama Park, North Vancouver Community Arts Council. We crafted felt hearts as Xmas decorations.
- **December 17th**: Christmas Crafternoon, New Westminster Public Library. We upcycled wire hangers and burlap sacs into festive wreaths.
- **December 11th**: Christmas Series, Lynn Valley Village. We upcycled paper plates into Xmas trees.
- **December 10th**: Christmas Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled tin cans, cereal boxes and donated items into Xmas decor.
- **December 3rd**: Xmas Crafts Using Recycled Materials, Guildford Library. We upcycled tin cans, Mason jars and cereal boxes into reusable Xmas packaging.
- **October 30th**: Paper That Grows Flowers and Veggies, City of Richmond. We made unique and functional cards embedded with flower and vegetable seeds that simply needed to be potted or planted to grow.
- **October 23rd**: Cork Creations, North Vancouver Community Arts Council. We upcycled wine corks into earring, pendants and decorative buttons.
- **October 22nd**: Halloween Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We repurposed thrift store t-shirts into trick or treat bags.
- **October 21st**: Two upcycling workshops, Thesa Conference 2016. We upcycled thrift store sweaters and t-shirts into funky accessories and jewelry.
- **September 11th**: Repurpose Old T-Shirts or Skirts, City of Richmond. We created t-shirt yarn for hanging planters, headbands and rugs. We also upcycled t-shirts into reusable bags.
- **September 10th**: Back-2-School Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled scrap wood into pendants and key chains with guest host Adea from Billy Would Designs.
- **August 3rd**: Live & Local Culture Series, Lynn Valley Village. We upcycled tin cans into musical shakers.
- **July 30th**: DIY Friendship Postcard Workshop - Session 2, North Vancouver City Library. We made postcards and new friends.
- **July 16th**: DIY Friendship Postcard Workshop - Session 1, North Vancouver City Library. We made postcards and new friends.
- **July 6th**: Live & Local Summer Culture Kick Off, Lynn Valley Village. We upcycled paper plates into fans and masks.
- **June 29th**: Earth Charter Day Celebration, Dudoc Canada. We made name tags out of 'junk' like cereal box cardboard, laminate samples and cardboard rounds.
- **June 19th**: Summer Solstice Block Party, Lynn Valley Village. We upcycled cereal boxes and wallpaper samples into awesome bunting for Dad.
- **June 5th**: Repurpose Old T-Shirts or Skirts, City of Richmond. We upcycled t-shirts into jewelry, bags and more.
- **April 30th**: Mother's Day Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled cereal boxes and wallpaper samples into cards, books and photo frames for Mom.
- **April 9th**: Repurpose Old T-Shirts or Skirts, City of Richmond. We upcycled t-shirts into jewelry, bags and more.
- **March 29th**: 'Raw Crafts' Author Presentation, North Vancouver City Library. I shared my crafting with 'crap' story and what led up to the crafty book.
- **March 26th**: Easter in the Village, Lynn Valley Village.
- **March 22nd**: 'Raw Crafts' Book Launch, Book Warehouse. I gave a mini talk about TBD, crafting with 'crap', Crafternoons and the crafty book. Plus we crafted, mingled and I signed books.
- **March 19th**: Easter Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled cereal boxes and wall
- **January 22nd**: Modern Macrame, Casual Friday Art Class series, North Vancouver Community Arts Council. We upcycled thrift store finds, old buttons, junk jewelry and jute into macrame planters.

2015

- **December 20th**: Community Carols and Christmas Singalong, Lynn Valley Village. We made Xmas reindeer out of upcycled wine corks.
- **December 19th**: Carol Ships Kids Activity, Deep Cove. We upcycled cereal boxes into Xmas ornaments.
- **December 13th**: Xmas Crafts Using Recycled Materials, Guildford Library. We made Xmas ornaments out of upcycled wool sweaters.
- **December 6th**: Tree Lighting and Santa, Lynn Valley Village. We upcycled cereal boxes and egg cartons into ornaments.
- **December 5th**: Xmas Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled laminate samples, cereal boxes and thrift store ornaments into new and improved Xmas ornaments.

UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS (CON'T)

2015 (CON'T)

- **November 28th**: Repurpose Old Clothing - Christmas Theme, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. We made ornaments, gifts and decor out of upcycled wool sweaters.
- **November 21st**: Upcycled Xmas Crafts Workshop, Bird on a Wire Creations. We upcycled wool sweaters into gift bags, wine bags and ornaments.
- **November 12th**: Xmas Crafternoon, Mamquam Elementary School. We made Xmas ornaments out of upcycled wool sweaters for an upcoming school fundraiser.
- **October 24th**: Halloween Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We made masks and hats out of upcycled egg cartons and toilet paper rolls.
- **October 23rd**: Crafting with 'Crap' Upcycling Workshop, 2015 THESA Conference. We upcycled wine corks into funky jewelry.
- **September 13th**: Back to School Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. Participants created items out of upcycled wallpaper samples and adhesive vinyl.
- **September 12th**: DIY Thanksgiving Gift Basket, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. We upcycled milk cartons, cereal boxes & toilet paper rolls into gift baskets.
- **August 21st**: Upcycling Summer Program, North Vancouver City Library. Participants created mobiles out of upcycled cereal boxes.
- **August 6th**: Village Arty Party, Civic Plaza. We upcycled wine corks into creatures.
- **July 26th**: Crafternoon: Mini Garden Planters, Homesteader's Emporium. We upcycled milk containers and burlap into planters.
- **July 17th**: Upcycling Summer Program, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled glass containers and cereal boxes into aquariums.
- **July 8th**: Village Family Fun Fest, Lynn Valley Village. We upcycled wine corks and cereal boxes into boats.
- **June 20th**: Summer Solstice Block Party, Lynn Valley Village. I partnered North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission for a summer solstice craft station where we upcycled materials into fun summer masks, decor and more.
- **June 13th**: Father's Day Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled wine corks into gifts plus made DIY stationery with repurposed cereal boxes.
- **May 21st**: Garden Upcycling: Make a Burlap Hanging Planter Workshop, GardenSmart. We upcycled burlap sacs and metal hangers into hanging planters.
- **April 18th**: Mother's Day Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We made DIY stationery and gifts out of repurposed materials.
- **March 28th**: Easter Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. We upcycled burlap, glass containers, tin cans & cereal boxes into Easter baskets, decor & vases.
- **March 8th**: DIY Easter Gift Basket, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. Creating DIY Easter baskets and decor by upcycling cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls & more.
- **February 19th to March 26th**: Crafting with 'Crap', Quest University Canada. A 6 evening continuing education class making things out of repurposed materials.
- **February 7th**: Valentine's Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. DIY stationery, packaging, garlands & decorations out of upcycled cereal boxes, burlap, wool sweaters, old magazines & buttons.
- **January 25th**: Upcycling Demo at 'Re-Purposeful', Our Social Fabric's live fashion show of recycled and repurposed clothing.
- **January 24th**: Repurpose Old Clothing - Valentine Theme, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. Making decor, gifts & packaging out of repurposed old clothes.

2014

- **December 5th & 12th**: Christmas Crafting with Enviro Club, Ross Road Elementary. Creating Xmas crafts & ornaments out of 'junk'.
- **December 9th**: Xmas Crafts Using Recycled Materials, Guildford Library. Creating holiday gifts such as jewelry and picture frames using recycled materials.
- **November 29th**: Xmas Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. Upcycling discarded items to create holiday gifts and home décor pieces.
- **November 22nd**: DIY Cards for Christmas, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. Using repurposed discarded items including old magazines and cereal boxes to make unique and personal holiday cards.
- **November 22nd**: Repurpose Old Clothing - Christmas Theme, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. Upcycling unwanted clothing into Christmas ornaments, jewelry or a gift bag.

UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS (CON'T)

2014 (CON'T)

- **November 20th**: Make Jewelry & Accessories Out of Repurposed Materials, Trade School Vancouver Workshop. Making funky jewelry using repurposed materials - pendants out of metal washers, earrings out of wine corks or brooches out of wool sweaters.
- **October 25th**: Halloween Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. Creating Halloween costumes using repurposed materials.
- **October 8th**: Upcycling Project, Creative Expressions Art Nights. Upcycling cereal boxes into desk organizers and gift boxes.
- **September 27th**: 'Play with Words' Culture Days Upcycling Workshop. Creating words, banners and garlands using repurposed materials like burlap, scrap fabric, cardboard and paint.
- **September 14th**: DIY Stationery for Thanksgiving. Making unique holiday stationery and envelopes using repurposed discarded items including old magazines and cereal boxes.
- **September 14th**: DIY Thanksgiving Gift Basket. Making a holiday basket out of repurposed materials including cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls or egg cartons.
- **July 19th**: Upcycling Workshop with Our Social Fabric. Transforming old or damaged t-shirts into new items.
- **June 8th**: DIY Wood Pallet Organizer, Vancouver Mini Maker Faire Workshop. Upcycling salvaged wood and miscellaneous drawer pulls into a jewelry organizer.
- **June 8th**: Jewelry Out of 'Junk', Vancouver Mini Maker Faire Workshop. Repurposing wine corks and old wool sweaters into jewelry and accessories.
- **April 5th**: Easter Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. Upcycling cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls, wine corks and egg cartons into fun Easter projects.
- **January 25th**: Chinese New Year Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. Making lanterns, fortune cookies and envelopes out of repurposed 'junk'.
- **January 18th**: DIY Stationery, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. Using supplied discarded items such as old magazines and cereal boxes to make stationery, envelopes and gift tags.
- **January 18th**: Repurpose Old Clothing, City of Richmond's Environmental Sustainability Workshop Series. Upcycling old t-shirts and sweaters into new purses, pillow covers and even jewelry and other accessories.

2013

- **December 8th**: Holiday Upcycle Workshop, Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Upcycling glass balls found in the ReStore into Xmas tree ornaments with the addition of buttons, junk jewelry, foliage and more.
- **December 7th**: Winter Crafternoon, Guildford Library. Updating old ornaments plus repurposed junk like old wool sweaters, egg cartons and cereal boxes into new ornaments.
- **December 1st**: Xmas Crafternoon, North Vancouver City Library. Updating old ornaments and repurposing discarded items into ornament and display pieces.
- **November 30th**: Xmas Crafternoon, North Vancouver District Library. Updating old ornaments and repurposing discarded items into ornament and display pieces.
- **October 20th**: Make Your Own Superhero Outfit Workshop, Trade School Vancouver. Making superhero outfits out of 'junk'.
- **August 25th**: Turning Garbage into Funky Jewelry Workshop, North Vancouver City Library. Creating jewelry from repurposed materials such as pieces of wood, wine corks, scrap paper & thrift store finds.
- **July 28th**: Upcycling Items from Your Recycle Bin Workshop, North Vancouver City Library. Upcycling items found in your household recycling bin such as cereal boxes, tissue boxes & toilet roll tubes.
- **June 15th**: Get Crafty Upcycling Workshop, North Vancouver District Library. Creating various items like funky creatures, purses and brooches out of old wool sweaters.

2012

- **December 16th**: Xmas Upcycling Workshop, North Vancouver City Library. Updating old ornaments and repurposing discarded items into ornaments and display pieces.
- **September 29th**: Culture Days Upcycling Workshop, North Vancouver City Library. Upcycling old maps into fridge magnets, envelopes, gift tags and cards.

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PARTNERSHIPS

Bird on a Wire, City of Richmond, Culture Days, DIY or DIE, GardenSmart, Habitat for Humanity, New Westminster Public Library, North Vancouver City Library, North Vancouver Community Arts Council, North Vancouver District Library, North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission, Our Social Fabric, Quest University Canada, Surrey Library and Trade School Vancouver.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Panelist, Neighbourhood Small Grants Summit, Vancouver, BC (2016), www.neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca
Grant Recipient, Neighbourhood Small Grants, North Vancouver, BC (2013-2016), www.neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca
BC Ambassador, Culture Days, Canada (2013), www.culturedays.ca
Panelist, Craft, the Environment & Community, Craft Council of BC, Vancouver, BC (2013), www.craftcouncilbc.ca
Featured Photographer, The Instagram-O-Rama Fundraiser, Vancouver, BC (2013)

VOLUNTEERSHIP

Upcycling Project Leader with Capilano University Sustainability Department, North Vancouver, BC (2016-2017)
Adult Advisory Committee, North Vancouver City Library, North Vancouver, BC (2015-2017)
Resident Advisory Committee, Neighbourhood Small Grants, North Vancouver, BC (2014, 2016 & 2017)
Upcycling Crafternoon, Keys: Housing and Health Solutions, Surrey, BC (2014)
Lunchtime Crafternoon with Environment Club, École Ross Road Elementary, North Vancouver, BC (2013 & 2014)
Photography Donation, The Instagram-O-Rama Fundraiser, Vancouver, BC (2013)
Art Donation, Langara College Art Auction 'Art-fully Yours', Vancouver, BC (2011 & 2012)

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Workshop Facilitator, Upcycling Crafternoons, Vancouver, BC (2012 to present), www.thriftybydesign.ca
Instructor, Introduction to Dreamweaver MX, Langara College, Vancouver, BC (sessional, 2003 to 2004), www.langara.bc.ca
Instructor, New Media Mentor, Vancouver Film School, Vancouver, BC (sessional, 2002), www.vfs.com
Teacher's Assistant, Introduction to 3-D Animation, Vancouver Film School, Vancouver, BC (sessional, 1998), www.vfs.com

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Community Capacity Building Citation, Capilano University, North Vancouver, BC (2016), www.capilanou.ca
Certificate of Recommendation in New Media, Vancouver Film School, Vancouver, BC (1998), www.vfs.com
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Major: Painting, Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, AB (1995), www.acad.ca
Studio Art Diploma, Capilano College, North Vancouver, BC (1991), www.capilanou.ca