



# Craft Activism: People, Ideas, and Projects from the New Community of Handmade and How You Can Join in

*Joan Tapper , Gale Zucker , Faythe Levine (Foreword)*

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## **Craft Activism: People, Ideas, and Projects from the New Community of Handmade and How You Can Join in** Joan Tapper , Gale Zucker , Faythe Levine (Foreword)

Join the Handmade Movement!

We make to give. We make to share. We make to connect with others. Crafters all over the world are using their hands and hearts to make a statement, change the world, and build community.

*Craft Activism* is an inspiring celebration of this growing movement. Inside, dozens of superstars of this grassroots phenomenon share their experiences, tips, and advice on living, teaching, and promoting a more meaningful DIY lifestyle. Learn to craft for your cause, connect with other crafters, think green, organize a fair, host an online exchange, create yarn graffiti, and more. The book also includes 17 creative projects from designers who challenge you to reimagine how your craft skills can be used to make a difference. Whether you knit, sew, crochet, or collage--and even if you're not sure where to begin--this book is your guide to the incredible power of handmade.

## **Craft Activism: People, Ideas, and Projects from the New Community of Handmade and How You Can Join in Details**

Date : Published September 27th 2011 by Potter Craft (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780307586629

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Format : Paperback 160 pages

Genre : Art, Crafts, Nonfiction, Knitting

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## **From Reader Review Craft Activism: People, Ideas, and Projects from the New Community of Handmade and How You Can Join in for online ebook**

### **Sara says**

I had heard a ton of praise for this innovative book, but it kind of fell short for me. I do think it's great that craft has gained stature in recent years. But I'm not sure it warrants a book. Maybe I'm not the target market. The knitting patterns did not inspire me, and most of what was written, I had read in blogs on-line. If you're not aware of yarn bombing or yarn storming, then read away!

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### **Jordan says**

this is my first review. so i really liked this book. it has a great message, and great projects. it's not really for beginners so i can't do some of them. but it's got lots of info and side bars about the crafters so it's still a good read.

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### **Tara says**

Interesting perspective on crafting. There are a couple of things I learned that I will research more, but the high point was the Ravelry article. Always a treat to be surprised.

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### **Annie says**

I liked this book for its general overview of ways to connect craft to "activism." (Activism is defined and illustrated in broad terms, and as a gentle way to make inclusive community). A very cool aspect of the book is the information about real people and groups who are taking specific actions of craftivism.

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### **Arielle Walker says**

As is the case with many craft books, the actual given patterns were almost universally ugly. However the crafters and ideas in the book are pretty cool, and there's a lot of inspiring works with no pattern given that beg to be recreated.

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### **Gale says**

Yes of course I am 100% biased. I am thrilled with how it came out. I hope you will be, too.

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## Michelle says

*Craft Activism: Ideas and Projects Powered by the New Community of Handmade and How You Can Do It Yourself* is a beautiful book full of really interesting people doing really great things. Part pattern book and part biographical sketches of activists, it helps to highlight some of the ways that crafters can use their skills to help contribute to causes about which they are passionate. The pictures are just lovely, and the patterns (and why they were created) provide inspiration for independent artistic expression as well as simple pattern templates. I think it is an excellent starting point for the crafter new to using their talent for change.

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## WifeMomKnitter says

My picture appears in the book. Sweet!

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## Shannon says

I loved *Craft Activism*. For starters, the focus of this book is not necessarily on the crafts themselves but truly about the Community of crafting. There are sections on crafting to send a message, honor the past, supporting causes, recycling/repurposing and build communities. In each section there are stories of artists on what they do, how they came to do it and why. Then there are projects that the reader can do. There is also a nice resource section.

I found the artists' stories to be very interesting and many of them were inspiring. I haven't done any of the craft projects myself... yet. I borrowed this from the library and will be purchasing a copy to own, and then I will be trying out some of the knitting projects. (I love the bicycle lane statement cardigan.)

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## Angela says

I love crafting. There aren't many things out there that I have not tried. So when I got the opportunity to review this book, I found myself seriously excited. While there are patterns in each section, the strength of this book is in the stories of those who have open doors for new crafters. Ravelry designers, Jenny Hart, and Vicki Howell are just a few of the crafters highlighted. Each section focuses on a different type of involvement and gives tips on how to get involved. I very much enjoyed this book.

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## Emily says

This book didn't turn out to be what I thought it would, really, and it actually feels almost like it wasn't sure what it wanted to do. Profile crafters? Showcase the craft/DIY movement? Inspire charity-based crafting?

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Give patterns/instructions for projects? It does a little bit of all of that. Feels a bit random, but there are great pictures and neat projects here. The only one I was tempted to make was the Bella Brooklyn Housedress on page 68.

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### **Megan says**

A wonderful book of portraits of various makers and crafters who work in knitting, quilting, multi-media collage, embroidery, sewing, crochet, and using recycled materials (plastic bags, tin cans, old clothing) to create new things that make a statement, revive something from the past or contribute to a cause. The book contains many pictures, suggestions, patterns, websites and resources for anyone looking to create.

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### **Joanne Wiggins says**

Best book ever on different types of crafts and the groups supporting them. Very much a must read for those interested in crafting "outside the box".

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### **Kate says**

This book was an attempt to explore activism using crafting. Not sure how successful it was. First of all, is there a difference between "knitting for charity" and activism? I kinda think there is. Is there a difference between doing your part to keep products out of the waste stream and ecological activism? I kinda think there is. How "craft activist" is it to yarn bomb trees, park benches, etc., with yarn that I can only assume is acrylic (basically, oil-based plastic yarn)? I don't get the impression that Ms. Tapper has thought through what it means to be an activist. That said, there are some interesting folks that she puts the spotlight on in her book. One woman is literally making public statements with provocative sayings machine knit into sweaters. Another woman creating knit versions of the pelts of various endangered animals.

If she wants to talk craft activism, she should take a look at Fibershed in Northern California, which is a movement to source the actual fibers we wear on our bodies closer to home.

She could look at the Church of Craft, which is reclaiming the spirituality of crafting and creating intentional communities of crafting around the country.

Stuff like that. That's real activism. Most of what is in this book doesn't qualify.

Still, there are some nice craft directions in here. It is beautifully illustrated. I like the pattern for mittens, and some good ideas for charity work.

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### **Beverly says**

I'm biased. I love Gale's photography. I mean, love. Can't get enough of her pictures.

I'll put that aside for a minute to evaluate this book as objectively as possible.

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Joan's writing is vibrant; the projects are enticing; the pictures are stories unto themselves.

And Mr. Jefferies, the cutest dog in knitting blogosphere makes an appearance.

Crafters, get this book. Buy it, don't just borrow it. You're going to want to make these projects and enjoy the stories about our fantastic community.

Objective, right?

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