

Agnes Vogt — sharing nature's wonders through her craft

by Shirley Whittington
A buttercup, a broken egg, driftwood, symmetrical fronds of a woodland fern, a patterned pebble - these are the raw materials that Agnes Vogt uses for her crafts. "There is beauty everywhere," she says.

and as soon as the snow goes, Agnes begins collecting her treasures. At home, she carefully presses and dries the flowers using newspapers, kleenex and heavy books. The driftwood, if it is has a weathered, silvery sheen, is left as is. Sometimes, she covers pieces with flat black paint, the better to back a brilliant spray of scarlet wildflowers.

Using pointed tweezers, Agnes arranges her everlasting bouquets. Some are made into tiny flower arrangements bedded in "pots" made from acorns, and based on a pebble. In larger bouquets she uses weed stalks, dried blooms and seed pods. These she sprays with lacquer to make them stronger, and to make dusting less hazardous. Containers for

the larger bouquets are simple - perhaps a tin can covered with string, a discarded restaurant ice cream container or a hand made pottery mug.

Agnes likes natural colours and textures, but sometimes she adds a spray of commercially coloured material in order to brighten an arrangement.

Other flower arrangements are airborne. A delicate mobile, made of dried "silver dollars" and weed stalks sways above her dining room table.

Some sprays of weeds and flowers are preserved under clear adhesive backed contact paper and mounted on hasty notes or in framed pictures. The flowers also show up on candles.

"I like to use found materials," says Agnes. "These take a lot of time," she says. "When I'm working with carpet every stitch must be pulled through with pliers. Because she likes to keep her crafts affordable, most of her items are small, and sell for little more than five dollars.

Is there big money in craft work? Agnes smiles. "Crafts never really do, not when you consider the hours spent in creating them. But the satisfaction of making

something that pleases the eye is beyond cost." A large wall hanging, done in creamy white and brown, sells for \$50.

She began to sell her work about ten years ago. "When I was a little girl in Germany," she says "we didn't have much money so I learned to use what was around me."

Now her work is for sale in Puslinch, Ontario, in Barrie and Toronto, and she's exhibited and sold at the Barrie Quilt and rug fair. "I have as much work as I can handle," she says. "Really, it's turned into a full time job."

At the moment Agnes is preparing to join the other exhibitors at the third annual Arts and Crafts show at St. Paul's United Church in Midland. Shows like this are more than just a place to sell her wares. "While I would never copy anybody else's work," she says, "I find when I come home I am always inspired to try something new."

For Agnes Vogt, crafts are a way of life. Her perpetually blooming flowers make the way more beautiful for her, and for those who share her delight at the small wonders of nature.

Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The benign influence of Venus should help to restore family harmony this week — with some assistance from you. Currently the way to your love's reluctant heart is through the stomach. Read any good cookbooks lately?

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): It's a time for re-tooling, bull baby. Re-do, re-design, re-decorate — tear down and rebuild to produce a superior product (possible yourself). Adding to the excitement, a gaffly flits into your pasture — a Gemini, who else! Good luck.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): It isn't that you really intend to keep changing partners, somehow it just happens. Right, Gem? This week the twins are off and running. You feel torn in two — or is it four? Some signs worry about triangles, yours is more inclined to circles. Currently it's a merry-go-round.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Moonchildren arise! Yours is the sign whose time has come! This week you cast off your shackles and are free, free, FREE! The creative juices are really flowing. You break with the past, allow leaners to fall where they may and advance to GO.

LEO (July 23 - August 22): Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and walk away smiling. A separate vacation is definitely in order. Currently you're your own best friend. You and your shadow had best get away from it all soon.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): The pedestal was your idea, not hers/his. Forgive. Forget. Try a fresh approach. Happiness from the past, plus exciting new dimensions could be yours through a renewed friendship.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22): The bratty kid in you emerges this week. You should curb all that "Look at me! Look at me!" stuff — but probably won't. A decision made now will have a strong effect — mostly bad. You even-tempered Libras rarely rattle cages, so enjoy the furor. Next week it's back to sunnyside up.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): Someone from out of the past could become an important — and romantic — part of the present. You're riding the crest of a wave and can easily afford to let bygones be bygones. The advantage is clearly yours.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21): What good is happiness if it won't buy money? You wonder about that one this week as the urge for far away places proves overwhelming. Beg, borrow and go. You'll be no good to anyone till you've had your fling.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19): Love is a big deal for you — so why not treat it with the same care you lavish on your home or office? Long-lasting problems can be solved now with a little TLC from you. If love ties have grown frayed, this is the week to mend them.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): You, the arch kook of the Zodiac, thought you had the corner on originality. This week someone younger opens up a whole new world of possibilities. Upcoming: A holistic approach to health problems.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20): Star light, star bright, lots of wishes come true tonight and every night this week as a broader range of contacts and concepts enter your consciousness. Romance and creativity are pleasantly affected.



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<p>69 DODGE MONACO Gold exterior with matching interior, 4 door hardtop, 8 cylinder, automatic, AM radio, rear window defroster, power steering and power brakes. White wall tires with deluxe wheel covers. Lic. No. FKM-085. \$1590.00</p>	<p>72 PLYMOUTH FURY III Brown in colour, 4 door hardtop with an 8 cylinder automatic engine including AM radio, rear window defroster, power steering, power brakes, remote mirror, white wall tires and deluxe wheel covers. Mileage 38,159. Lic. FJDB79. \$2460.00</p>	<p>74 PLYMOUTH BARRACUDA Colour is blue with bucket seats and is a 2 door hardtop, 8 cylinders with a floor shift standard, AM radio, white wall tires and deluxe wheel covers. Lic. HT7905. \$3775.00</p>	<p>74 CHRYSLER NEW YORKER This 4 door hardtop is brown in colour and is an 8 cylinder automatic. Included are an AM radio, rear window defroster, power steering, power brakes, white wall tires, radially tires, deluxe wheel covers, power windows and power seats. Lic. HT5834. \$4880.00</p>	<p>73 CHEVROLET IMPALA Brown in colour and is a 4 door hardtop with AM radio, rear window defroster, power steering, power brakes and is an 8 cylinder automatic. It also has white wall tires and deluxe wheel covers. Lic. BLW189. \$2670.00</p>	<p>74 TOYOTA CELICA LT. Yellow with gold bucket seats, this 4 door hardtop is a 4 cylinder, automatic, floor shift, also having AM radio rear window defroster, radially tires and deluxe wheel covers. Lic. HTU909. \$3120.00</p>	<p>68 PLYMOUTH SUBURBAN WAGON 4 door wagon with 8 cylinders, automatic, AM radio, white wall tires. Finished in blue. Mileage 42,414. Lic. FCV979. \$1025.00</p>
<p>73 CHEVROLET VAN White in colour, 8 cylinders, automatic and has white wall tires. Mileage 32,870. Lic. E57439. \$3095.00</p>	<p>70 DODGE DART This 4 door sedan is blue in colour and is an automatic, 6 cylinder, also having white wall tires and AM radio. Mileage 28,350. Lic. FFB611. \$1988.00</p>	<p>68 BUICK LE SABRE A 4 door sedan finished in maroon, 8 cylinders, automatic, power steering and power brakes, AM radio, white wall tires and deluxe wheel covers. Lic. FHC325. \$1188.00</p>	<p>73 VOLKSWAGON STATIONWAGON This yellow wagon has 4 cylinders and is a 4 speed floor shift with AM radio, rear window defroster, radially tires. This is a one owner mileage 45,323. Lic. FE2326. \$2450.00</p>	<p>68 CHEVROLET TON Blue in colour, 8 cylinders with 4 speed floor shift. Includes AM radio. Lic. T99216. AS IS SPECIAL Uncertified \$1475.00</p>	<p>75 DODGE DART 2 door gold coupe, 6 cylinder, automatic, with AM radio and deluxe wheel covers. One owner. Mileage 14,221. Lic. JSV013. \$3617.00</p>	

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