

Natural and Organic Crafts

Natural and organic crafts range from bath products to baskets, from gourd art to handmade paper with embedded flowers. Craftspeople who work with natural and organic materials often harvest their own materials from gardens or forests on their own land. They find inspiration as well as materials in nature. They enjoy working with natural materials, often using traditional methods.

In today's world, most of the items we use on a daily basis are mass-produced in factories. We may know the brand name of the items, but we know little about where the materials come from or how the products are made. This is very different from the way life was in pre-industrial society. Before machines were developed to mechanize production, everything was made by hand. Craftsmen learned skills that had been passed down from generation to generation. They worked with materials provided from natural sources, and they usually knew exactly where their materials came from.

Mass produced items are often made from synthetic materials like plastic. The use of synthetic materials and mass production result in items that are less expensive to purchase than handmade items made from natural materials. Still, many consumers are willing to



Bark Basket and
Corn Shuck Flowers
by Mary & Robin Reed



White Oak Basket by
Leona Waddell

pay the higher price for handmade crafts. They appreciate the time and skill invested in creating handmade items. They realize that factories and the widespread use of synthetic materials cause problems for the environment. They prefer to use products made by hand from natural materials. They would rather have a well-made basket of white oak splits than a plastic container made in a factory. They prefer handmade corn shuck flowers to mass-produced artificial flowers.

