

MAKE IT WOOD

Do your world some good

PLANET ARK

CASE STUDY



Kristen Montgomery – 'Sneaky Boarding'

Manly, NSW, 2095

Kristen Montgomery takes great joy in turning beautiful discarded objects into ethically produced and constructed pieces of furniture that can be enjoyed by all. Recycled wood is matched and joined to create the right look, sanded and finally polished by hand. She explains that the entire process can be quite challenging, but upon seeing the end result, extremely gratifying. Kristen runs her own business – 'Sneaky Boarding'.

BANKSY BUFFET

Where did you get your inspiration?

I draw my inspiration from everyday life. This particular piece was inspired by graffiti artist Banksy. After spending some time looking at his work, I felt inspired to create something new from something old. Banksy is the king at making old and dirty look cool.



How many pallets did you use and where did you source them?

I used five pallets and three skateboard decks. They came from a construction site in Bronte, that I had been project managing.

What species of wood is in the pallets that you have used?

There is a combination of woods in the pallets that I have used, including pine, Tasmanian oak and a variety of hardwoods.

THE ARM CHAIR

Where did you get your inspiration?

I wanted to create a piece that incorporated art within the furniture. I was inspired by a friend of mine, Caspian De Looze, who creates art pieces with Posca pens. He is a big crazy guy with crazy ideas.

This chair was featured in the Re-Knew show on September 22, with Caspian doing the art arm panels.

How many pallets did you use and where did you source them?

The chair incorporates 6 pallets, which came from a construction site in Bronte that I had been project managing.

What species of wood is in the pallets that you have used?

A combination of pine, Tasmanian oak and a variety of hardwoods.

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THREE SEATER LOUNGE WITH CUSTOM ART

Where did you get your inspiration?

The inspiration came from a friend of mine, Jaimee Paul, who creates beautiful art mainly of animals at the moment. I wanted to create a piece of furniture that she could use as a canvas.

How many pallets did you use and where did you source the wood pallets?

This piece is made from discarded timber found at Kimbriki tip.

What species of wood is in the pallets that you have used?

It all a mix of hardwood and rose wood.

Why do you enjoy using pallets in your work?

I like to use pallets because they are easy to find and they allow me to create a piece that is unique. Every piece of furniture is different – one piece can never be duplicated to an exact match. I make all my pieces from recycled timber. There is so much reclaimed timber around just going to waste, why not use it? The feeling you get from taking someone's rubbish and making something beautiful with it is like nothing else and it's good for the environment.

Tell us about your experience in working with pallets?

It has taken me some time to learn how to use the weathered timber of a pallet properly. It is very rarely straight, without cracks and knots. But I have learned to use these characteristics as features of the furniture, rather than negative elements. The timber that you get from pallets shapes the design of the furniture.

Why do you think it's important to reuse materials such as pallets?

To reduce waste. I don't know the stats on how many pallets go to the tip and get turned into mulch but I imagine the figures are very high. After working in construction for years, I've seen firsthand how many get thrown out on a weekly basis. They can be used for so many different things. I use them for furniture but people use them for all sorts of things: planters, staircases, feature walls, bed bases. The options are endless. For me it is the timber in the pallets that make my designs unique and gives them character. Without this my furniture would be very mainstream and boring.

FLAT PACK COFFEE TABLE

Where did you get your inspiration?

This coffee table was my very first commissioned piece for a client, so it is quite special to me. The inspiration came from the client, who lives in Queensland and wanted a table that was hard-wearing for outdoors and children. It was important to her to use reclaimed materials and it had to be able to flat pack for shipping.

How many pallets did you use and where did you source them?

This piece of furniture incorporates three pallets. The wood pallets for this project came from Kimbriki Tip, my local tip on Sydney's northern beaches.

What species of wood is in the pallets that you have used?

I always try to use a combination. There is pine, Tasmanian oak and a variety of hardwoods.