

OLD-FASHIONED FUN WITH A TWINKLE OF WONDER

FleaMarket

décor

*Sparkle
& Shine!*

Peek Inside Homes
Brimming with Vintage
Holiday Charm

Tiny Trees,
*Big
Cheer!*

Jolly & Bright:
Our 6th Annual Santa
Stoppers Gallery is Here!

Holiday 2025 | Display until 12/30/2025
EG Media Entertainment Plus
\$11.99 US • \$13.99 CAN



EG Media investments LLC



➤ contents

HOLIDAY 2025

FEATURES

12 THE 6TH ANNUAL SANTA STOPPERS GALLERY

We're proud and delighted to present our 6th annual gallery of scroll stopping Instagram enthusiasts who know how to create the magic of a vintage holiday.

By Kelly McMaster

24 GET THE LOOK: SERENE SCENE

Arrange a display of artful pieces for you and your guests to admire.

By Meryl Schoenbaum

28 THE MORE THE MERRIER

Creating comfort and joy by decorating with abandon.

By Meryl Schoenbaum

46 MERRY AND MISMATCHED

Creating magical holiday tables with a mix of new and old treasures.

By Kelly McMaster

52 A SEASON OF SWEETNESS

Holiday magic at Cottage on Wynn.

By Emma Dorsey

28



46



102

64 AN EXUBERANT ENTRY

With nostalgic details and flea market flair, this entry-way proves that even the smallest spaces can pack big holiday spirit.

By Kelly McMaster

76 DECKED TO DELIGHT

A homeowner turns her 1940s home into a holiday haven filled with memories, meaning, and a little glitter too.

By Kelly McMaster

86 A FESTIVE WONDERLAND OF COLOR AND CHARACTER

Warm, whimsical, and full of holiday cheer, this collector's vibrant home sparks joy for all who enter.

By Emma Dorsey

98 A VINTAGE WONDERLAND AT HOME

This cozy Florida cottage comes alive with heirloom charm, flea market treasures, and a nostalgic holiday spirit that kicks off before November.

By Kelly McMaster

102 VISIONS OF CHRISTMAS

For fans of cozy style, vintage charm, and heartfelt holiday decorating.

By Kelly McMaster

110 ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Collect vintage ornaments to fill out your tree and enliven your home.

By Robert Heckert



DEPARTMENTS

- 6** EDITOR'S LETTER
- 8** DIY A MERRY LITTLE FOREST
- 28** DIY SWEET TREAT GIFT BASKETS
- 114** P.S.



98

76

ON THE COVER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDA McMANUS

DESIGN BY GABBY OH

INSIDE FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMANDA UPTON

BACK COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLY McMASTER



Flea Market Décor (ISSN 2331-9011) is published four times a year, Spring, Summer, Fall and Holiday by EG Media Investments LLC, 3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707.

Editor's Letter

Sparkle and Shine!

The magic of the holidays is here—and we are celebrating with our coziest, most creative issue of the year!

This season, we're unwrapping a festive lineup full of inspiration, beginning with charming home tours that highlight vintage cheer in every nook and cranny. Whether it's twinkling lights draped over chippy shutters or heirloom ornaments nestled in flocked trees, these homes bring whimsical holiday spirit with plenty of color, kitsch and personality.

And speaking of whimsy—don't miss our festive table settings that are as playful as they are pretty. Whether you're hosting coffee and cookies or a dinnertime feast, we've gathered cheerful ideas to make every seat at the table feel special.

If you've got a glue gun handy, you'll be set to take on two easy DIY projects included in this issue—embellished brush bottle trees and the cutest gift boxes using old children's books!

Finally, back by immensely popular demand is our 6th Annual Santa Stoppers gallery—a reader favorite! This special section is packed with clever, nostalgic, and downright magical holiday vignettes created by you, our wonderfully creative community. It's always a joy to see how you deck the halls with vintage flair.

So, pour a cup of cocoa, light a candle, and settle in with this issue—we hope it brings you joy, inspiration, and plenty of flea market sparkle.

Thank you for your continued loyalty to Flea Market Décor, and here's to a season full of peace and love.

Kelly McMaster

Kelly McMaster
Editor

PS—Did you hear? We are expanding in 2026 with 4 fantastic issues, available as a subscription and on newsstands too! Turn to page 7 for all the subscription details.

FleaMarket décor

HOLIDAY 2025

EG Media Investments LLC
Rima Dorsey: Managing Director/Publisher

EDITORIAL
Brand Leader: Kelly McMaster
Managing Editor: Emma Dorsey

DESIGN
Design Director: Gabby Oh

CONTRIBUTORS
Emma Dorsey, Larissa Jenkins, Meryl Schoenbaum, Michelle Jackson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Amber Canchola, Jennifer Rippinger, Julie Prairie Photography, Linda McManus, Mark Lohman, Melissa Maquilon, Stacie Stowers

ADVERTISING
Elizabeth Galletta: Account Representative
Emma Dorsey: Account Representative
Jenny Van Wieren Page: Account Representative
Madison Wintrich: Account Representative
Sebastian Turkey: Advertising Traffic Coordinator
Vipin Marwaha: Advertising Traffic Manager
For advertising inquiries: Rima Dorsey
rdorsey@egmediamags.com

OPERATIONS
Shailesh Khandelwal: Vice President – Operations
Mohammad Danish: Subscription Manager
Surajpal Singh Bisht: Prepress Manager
Manzoor Ahmed & Deepak Kumar: Production, Newsstand & Circulation Executives

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE
3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707
(844) 330-6373, Fax (972) 920-3737
www.fleamarketdecor.com

Flea Market Décor (ISSN 2331-9011) is published four times a year, Spring, Summer, Fall and Holiday by EG Media Investments LLC, 3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Flea Market Décor c/o EG Media Investments LLC, 3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003, Durham, NC 27707.
Canadian Post: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: PITNEY BOWES, INC., P.O. Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2, Canada.
GST #R55050365RT001.
© 2025 by EG Media Investments LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any material from this issue in whole or in part is strictly prohibited.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
EG Media Investments LLC
3622 Lyckan Parkway, Suite 3003
Durham, NC 27707

Subscriptions, Address Changes, Renewals, Missing or Damaged Copies and Foreign Inquiries
Books, Merchandise and Reprints
(844) 330-6373
subs@egmediamags.com
customerservice@egmediamags.com

BACK ISSUES
<https://americanfarmhousestyle.com/fmd-single-issue/>

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$34.95/1 year, \$59.95/2 years. Foreign \$59.95/year, \$109.95 per two years payable in US funds.
Single copy price is \$11.99.
Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for new subscriptions to begin.

Letters to the Editor, New Products or to Contribute a Story or Photo
KMcMaster@egmediamags.com

SixSails Group
Prashant Upadhyaya: Portfolio Manager
Wanda Negron: Human Resources



This magazine is purchased by the buyer with the understanding that information presented is from various sources from which there can be no warranty or responsibility by EG Media Investments LLC, as to the legality, completeness or technical accuracy.

DIY





A Merry Little Forest

Easily transform bottle brush trees into a magical collection.

WRITTEN, STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED
BY KELLY McMASTER

EVERY YEAR, I look forward to pulling out my collection of bottle brush trees—but this time, I decided to give each one a little extra love. What started as a few plain trees quickly turned into a full-blown holiday forest, each tree decked out with tiny ornaments, pom-poms, glittery garlands and toppers.

I stuck to soft pastels and vintage brights—blush pinks, seafoam greens, icy silvers, and cherry reds—to keep the mood playful and nostalgic. Some trees wear mini mercury-style balls, others are dusted with faux snow, and a few even got crowned with star toppers or vintage beads. They all sit happily together and this year, I will add a bed of faux snow to complete my vignette.

None of them are perfect—and that's exactly the charm. Each little detail is a reminder that handmade heartfelt touches bring the most joy. Especially during the holidays.





Embellished BOTTLE BRUSH TREES

With just a few basic supplies, you can transform plain bottle brush trees into charming holiday keepsakes.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Mini bottle brush trees (available at Michaels, Hobby Lobby, Dollar Tree, flea markets, or online)
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Tweezers
- Optional: liquid craft glue or spray adhesive

EMBELLISHMENT IDEAS

Let your creativity lead the way—there's no wrong approach here! I sourced most of my materials from Michaels, but any local craft store or your own stash at home will do. Consider using:

- Colorful beads in assorted sizes
- Fuzzy pom-poms
- Mini jingle bells
- Tiny stars
- Glitter
- Small ornaments
- Buttons
- Mini bows

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

To begin, I poured all my embellishments onto a rimmed plate for easy access. After experimenting with a few types of adhesives, I found that a hot glue gun provided the strongest hold. Using tweezers, I picked up each embellishment, added a small dab of hot glue, and placed it on the tree. In some cases, I applied the glue directly to the tree before positioning the item—you'll find what works best for you as you go along.

Once finished, allow your trees to dry completely. Gently shake each one to check for loose embellishments, and re-glue any that need extra security.

STORAGE TIP

Wrap each tree in tissue paper and store in a large plastic container away from heat and direct sunlight.

These whimsical little trees were such a joy to make—and no two turned out alike. With endless embellishment combinations, the fun is truly in the process. Happy crafting!





PRODUCED BY
KELLY McMASTER

FMD Presents: Our 6th Annual *Santa* Stopper Gallery

We are so delighted to present our 6th annual gallery of scroll-stopping Instagram enthusiasts who know how to create the magic of a vintage holiday. Even Santa stops to look!



**1 • Alexis Sapp of
@littlehouseonfinch:**

"In the middle of our Northeast heat wave, I needed a little Christmas magic, so I put this vignetter together. I pictured the North Pole buzzing with letters to Santa, each one landing in the perfect mailbox so the elves knew just what to make. The vintage tree skirts felt like Santa was watching over it all."





2 • **Amanda Upton of @forestknollsvintage:** "The cute red jolly guys are vintage papier mâché Santas—my favorite holiday collectibles! These candy containers are rare since many were opened or didn't survive over the years. It's always a thrill to find them in the wild!"

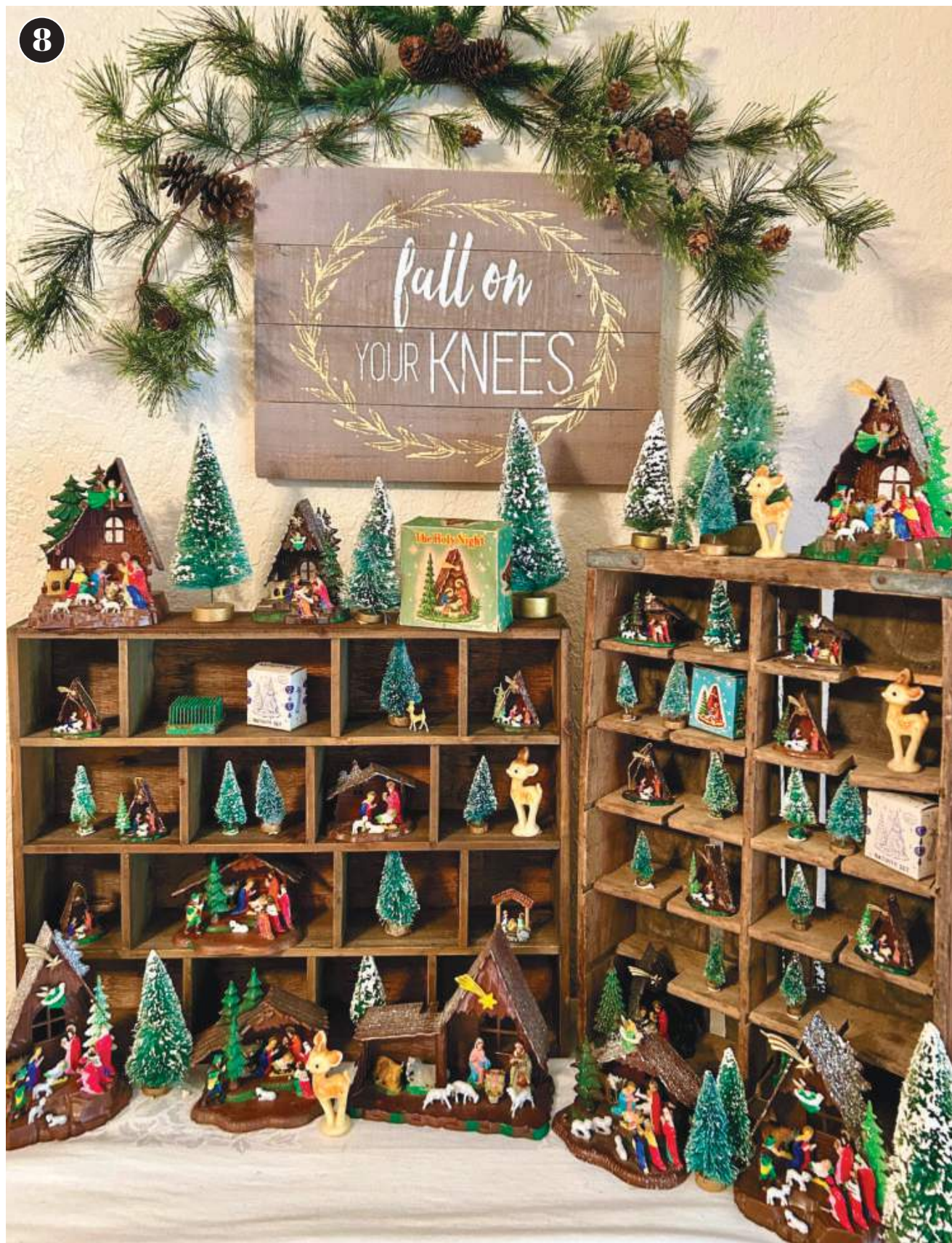
3 • **Debb Breon of @delic8flwr:** "The Santa was found in Howell, MI at an antique mall and has a celluloid front and a cardboard back that lights up! We found the dump truck in Pigeon Forge, TN, and table that the items are sitting on is made from a discarded manhole cover from Asheville, NC! My husband and I travel often and love to find unusual items on our adventures."

4 • **Amber Canchola of @rainy.daycore:** "This is hands-down my favorite Facebook Marketplace find—my vintage chippy white hutch! I drove over 4 hours (at midnight) to pick her up, and now she's the perfect spot to fill with all my vintage Santa treasures for the holidays. I added a whimsical twist with mushrooms, scales, bottle brush trees, and old books. A hand-painted sign that reads 'Janie's Xmas Lot' is a tribute to the one who sparked my love for the holidays: my mom."





- 5 •• **Tesa Taylor of @marketon18:** A seasoned reseller of vintage wares in the great state of South Dakota, Tesa loves creating vignettes that tell a story. This one features a vintage Spaghetti Santa surrounded by his deer, old tins, a charming bottle brush wreath and trees.
- 6 •• **JoAnn Luttrell of @queeniev8:** "A perfect statement piece for the holidays is this early 1900's "Red Sleigh Antiques" sign with its unusual, raised lettering. Sitting below is an old green chippy watchmaker's cabinet that makes the perfect riser for a vintage birdhouse with its cheerful Christmas colors of red, green and white."
- 7 •• **Holly Gums of @hollygums1:** Holly lives in Eau Claire, WI where she is an avid vintage collector and has fun as a reseller under the name of Vintage Junkies on Etsy. Here she shows off her darling vintage snack bar stand sign along with her collection of quirky Santa figures.



•• **Renee Tielkemeier of @lucybettyjune:** "These are vintage Shiny Brite nativity sets from the 1950s and '60s, made from hard plastic resin. Most have fir trees, though some feature palms. The tiniest ones are ornaments, while the rest are for tabletops or shelves. Finding one in its original box is a real thrill—they're my absolute favorite thing to collect and bring me so much joy!"



9



10



11

- 9 •• **Jennifer Choate of @dirt_rd_revival:** Jenns's chippy hutch filled to the brim with vintage thermoses and red trucks makes the perfect holiday porch welcome! Even with cold and some moisture the pieces she's selected make it through the season.
- 10 •• **Rachell Penton of @the_penton_farmhouse:** Rachell's take on a holiday mudroom is far too pretty for mud! Between the family silhouettes, amazing vintage sled, stack of chippy stools and every thoughtful element, it's a remarkable sight!
- 11 •• **Tracy Nix of @justtracytalk:** Tracy artfully uses vintage ornament containers as risers in her holiday vignette. "The Shiny Brite boxes and tree toppers belonged to my husband's grandmother! So, they are very special to us", says Tracy.



12 •• Melanie Brunk of @brunkjunk: "I decorated this shelf with a collection of my favorite small vintage finds. Retro toy cars dressed up with bottlebrush trees, tiny holiday figurines, and colorful tins all mix to create a nostalgic Christmas display full of festive personality."



13 • Laurie Romanaggi of @magpieethel: "You know it is Christmas when you see the Santas front and center at my house. I enjoy the Santa magic and so does the neighborhood.... they call me the Santa House!"



14

14 • Jennifer Parker of @vintageroots.cowboyboots:

"This amazing green cabinet was originally bought to sell in my small vintage shop, but it was in the store for less than 8 hours when I knew it had to come home. The amazing gingerbread detail on the top is unlike anything I've come across before and the green was the perfect color to house my favorite vintage Christmas items. The Santa mugs hanging from the Santa mug rack are one of my absolute favorite vintage Christmas items, the mugs and holder came in their original box and were a gift from my mom."

15 • Stacey Hall of @theearlybirdstore: Stacey repurposed a discarded broken down piano into a unique shelf, and it's become one of her favorite places to decorate for the holidays. "I fill it with vintage Christmas treasures and family heirlooms, and my favorites include my dad's violin from when he was a kid, the rusty old toy truck, the vintage glass tree ornaments, and the raggedy Putz sheep from Germany."

16 • Jackie Cessna of @jackieland_vintage: Jackie dubbed this darling collection of holiday treasures her "Candy Canes, Christmas Cheer, and Timeless Noel" corner. We love her clever use of the fireplace mantel and ingenious, nail-less strategy of placing her elements.



15



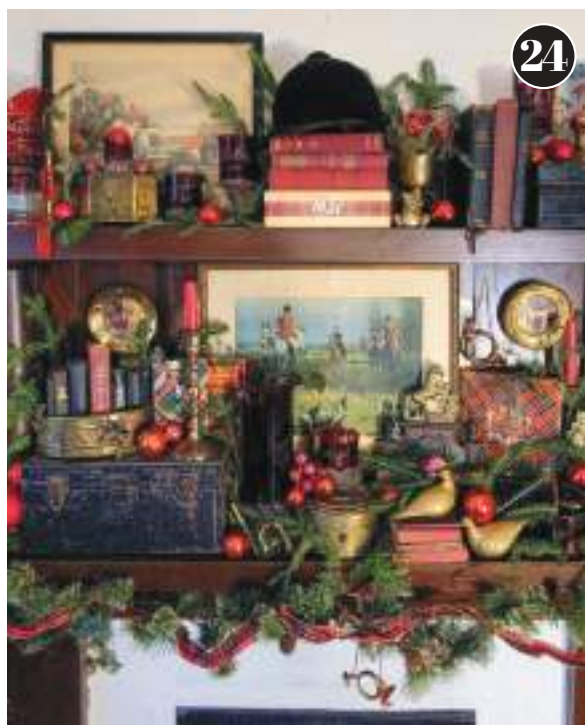
16



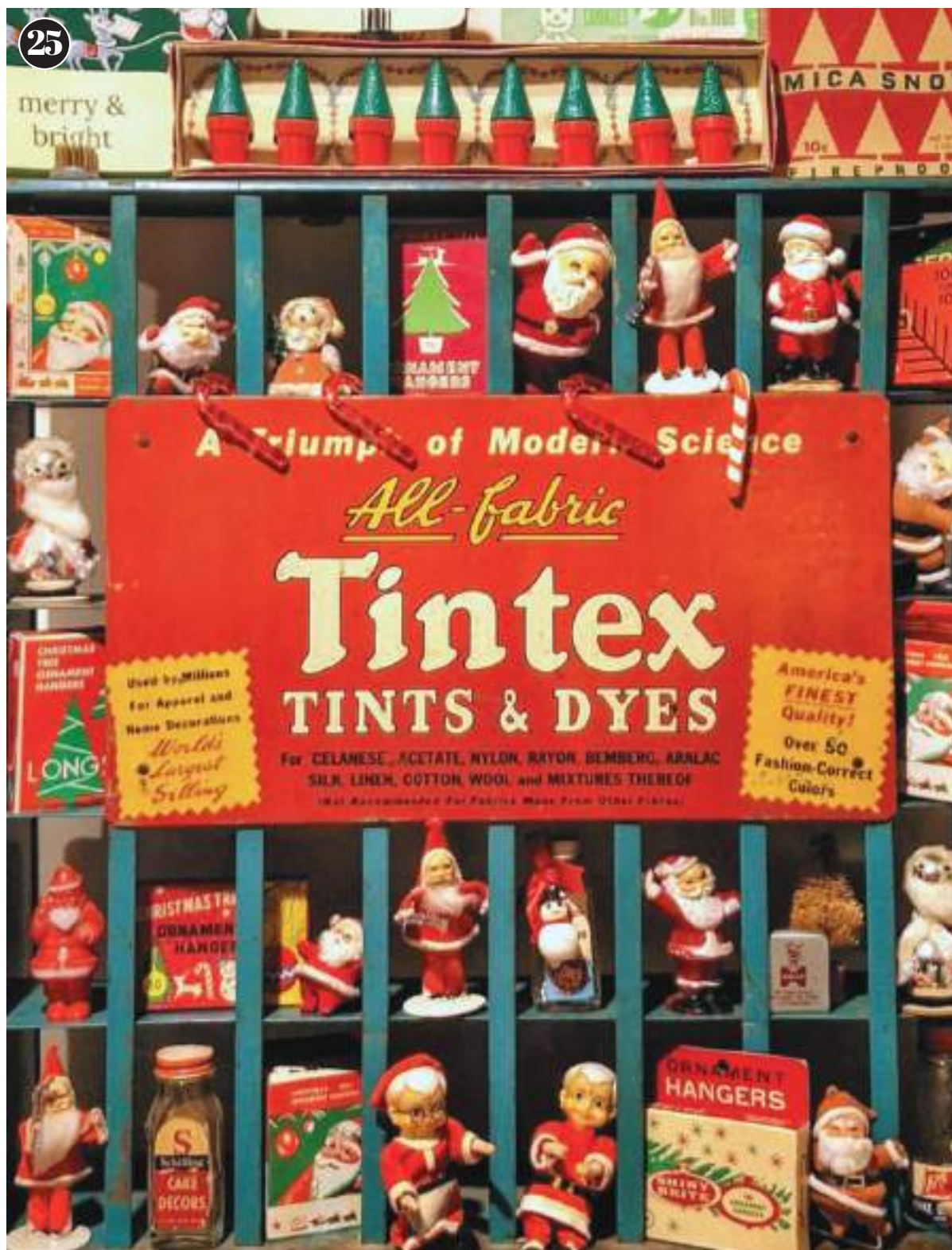
- 17 •• **Lache Powell of @our_home_sweet_farmhouseof6:** "My bedroom is my favorite room to decorate for each season. My vision was of a cozy cottage sanctuary; a safe place where you go to relax and feel at peace. I added in pops of red, whites and beige for warmth and wood tones for a rustic feel."



- 18 • Gay Moss of @ben.ally.mom:** Inspired by a childhood of aluminum trees, Shiny Brites, and knee huggers, Gay enjoys sharing her vintage Christmas with family, friends, and neighbors. She clusters her Christmas collections throughout her home, with Santa blowing molds spilling into the front yard.
- 19 • Janine Schnieders of @janinesandlottie:** "As a collector of Shiny Brites for 25 years, I've always loved how family treasures mingle with my other vintage finds. After stacking some boxed ornaments and tree toppers, this became the perfect setting for Shiny Brite Town with glittery Putz houses lining the streets. The little white church, a few of the houses, and tall bottlebrush trees once stood under my childhood Christmas tree, carrying all the warm memories with them".
- 20 • Sarah @mathewsfarm:** Isn't Sarah's snowman collection and card holder "snow" cute? Collecting vintage treasures is a year 'round joy for Sarah and snowman display is just one of many throughout her Arizona home where she loves spending time with her family.



- 21 • Mari Rennacker of @mariathecottagedoor:** "Decking out my primitive hutch for the holidays is my favorite tradition—a special nook of Christmas past, where Shiny Brite boxes, Santa mugs, and timeworn treasures fill my heart with vintage holiday joy."
- 22 • Emily Baker of @myweatheredhome:** Emily shares her reproduction Belsnickel Santas in various colors, new bottle brush trees and her vintage ornaments with us, proving that you can combine old with new treasures to create holiday magic.
- 23 • Katie Van Liew of @cottoncandypinkhome:** Katie's love of pink and flare for maximalist decor exudes joy throughout her home. As she says about her darling sheep display: "fleece dreams are made of these."
- 24 • Louise Tomkinson of @bostonroadjunk:** "I am a huge fan of using plaids during the holidays. I paired some equestrian items, old books and Bibles, brass, worn document boxes, antique red glass and fresh greenery with some of my favorite old plaids."



- 25 • Carolyn Engstrom of @loungeagogo: "During the 2020 pandemic, we were certainly missing our yard sales and vintage shopping. My husband would scour our local Facebook marketplace and one day called out to me 'Hey—what do you think of this? It's \$40, here in town and we could do a porch pick up!' Tintex gets dressed up for all kinds of occasions—perfect for tiny treasures."



Please follow each of our featured creatives

ON INSTAGRAM FOR YEAR
'ROUND INSPIRATION AND FUN!

If you'd like us to consider your home, DIY or recipe for an upcoming issue of Flea Market Décor, please email our editor, Kelly at kmcmaster@egmediamags.com with a note and a few photos.



Serene SCENE

Arrange a display of artful pieces for you and your guests to admire.

BY MERYL SCHOENBAUM

PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY LARISSA JENKINS

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DÉCOR is bright and colorful: red and green, silver and gold, shiny ribbons and wrapping paper. But amid all the hustle and bustle of the season, it's nice to have a sedate spot to recharge and reflect.

Larissa Jenkins, a crafter, blogger and stylist, has set aside a space in her Shenandoah, Iowa, home that is serene and soulful. At its core is an Old World romance-style vignette. We think you will be inspired to create a soothing space like this in your holiday home. Here, Larissa shares her design ideas, inspirations and creative process:

"To achieve a classical vignette, start with a meaningful focal piece. In this case, I chose my Madonna and Child bust," Larissa says. She centered the sculpture on a large white dresser atop three books for height and prominence.

"I then like to add fresh flowers; they really enhance and bring a lot of beauty to a vignette," Larissa says. "I chose pink poinsettias instead of using roses like I usually do. The poinsettias were a nice change for Christmas, and I was excited to find pink!" The soft color is a welcome respite from the bold colors typically found in Christmas

"Candlelight turns an ordinary space into someplace magical."

décor. To give the romantic ambience a festive holiday look, Larissa displayed faux presents wrapped in rosy pink as well as pink and gold ornaments placed at varying heights to draw the eye throughout the vignette.

Larissa carried the muted colors throughout the space with a deep-rose tufted Victorian-style chair layered with a blush-colored fabric for added texture.

"The third thing I always add to a display is candlelight," she says. "Sometimes I use my large candelabras and other times I just use small votive candles. Either way, candlelight turns an ordinary space into someplace magical."



To follow Larissa's journey

IN DECORATING HER HISTORIC HOME, VISIT
HER BLOG AT WELCHHOUSE1900.COM.



DIY

Sweet TREAT

Turn children's classics into one-of-a-kind baskets for gifts.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY MICHELLE TSCHOPP JACKSON



Tip: Flea markets and garage sales and online shops are great places to find books with missing or damaged pages.

Holiday BOOK TREAT BASKETS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Children's books
- Scissors
- Craft brush
- Acrylic paint in a complementary color
- Hot glue gun
- Glue sticks
- Thin cardboard
- Fine antique silver glitter
- Ribbon
- Christmas embellishments
- White glue or Mod Podge

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

1. Break the binding of the book and remove the cover. Trim out the cover image with strong scissors. Measure out three 1 1/2-inch strips from the back cover. Cut one of these strips in half.
2. Paint the back of the main image with the acrylic paint, as this will be visible when the basket is assembled. Lightly paint the strips to mute the colors, if they're too colorful. Set them aside to dry.
3. Adhere the main image to one of the longer strips using hot glue. If desired, cut out the title and adhere it to the other long strip.
4. Assemble the basket with hot glue. Measure and cut out the base of the basket from thin cardboard and adhere it to the basket frame.
5. Apply glitter and embellishments with the glue or Mod Podge.
6. Fill the finished basket with treats.

TO SEE MORE OF MICHELLE'S CREATIVITY VISIT
@VINTAGESTREETMARKET ON INSTAGRAM.





THE MORE, *the Merrier*

Creating comfort and joy by decorating with abandon.

WRITTEN BY MERYL SCHOENBAUM | PHOTOGRAPHED BY LINDA McMANUS





SOME PEOPLE DECORATE their homes for Christmas by simply trimming the tree, hanging a wreath on the door, draping garland on a mantel—and then calling it a day. Erika Kikola is not one of them. She unapologetically calls herself a “maximalist” when it comes to adorning her home for Christmas.

“I love to express myself, and maximalism gives me freedom to do that in the most ways,” Erika says. “Christmas is by far my favorite season. I love the décor and the overall nostalgic feeling of the season. I started helping my mom fluff the tree and decorate at a very young age. Honestly, I love everything about Christmas.”

Thrifting for vintage holiday decorations and ornaments adds to the joy of the season for Erika. “I love the thrill of the hunt and finding one-of-a-kind items,” she says. “Everything is so generic nowadays and I love to go against the grain.”

Holiday-decorating ideas ruminate in Erika’s mind all year long. “I plan my year-round décor, furniture arrangements, etc., around my Christmas décor plans,” she says. “I’m not afraid to rearrange things. Oftentimes, I must pack up my ‘normal’ knick-knacks to make room for my Christmas ones.”

top: The Christmas tree in the living room has over 2,000 ornaments: 98 percent were thrifted and the others were handmade, Erika says. She thrifted the Santa blow mold on Facebook Marketplace. The wreaths were handmade by Erika who added vintage ornaments.
left: Erika puts the finishing touches on a tabletop tree.



“I like to look at books, movies and more for inspiration to create the ultimate magic. **I want my kids to have the best holiday memories.**”

top: On top of the blue dresser in the living room is a ceramic Santa house Erika found at a flea market for \$5. It's the same as the one her grandmother had that she used to love playing with.

bottom, left: The Santa doing a split on the cabinet next to the fireplace is made of papier-mâché. Erika found it for \$5 at a flea market during the summer off-season.

bottom, right: The primary-bedroom decorations include a vintage aluminum tree Erika found at an antiques store. The little Putz houses were from a thrifting friend.









opposite: Erika's Christmas décor breaks from the traditional reds and greens with a rainbow of bright colors.

top, left: The dining room décor includes paper chains in the doorway made by Erika and her kids. In the foreground at right, Erika commissioned an artist to hand paint the wallpaper based on Erika's childhood memories.

top, right: Adorning the stairwell wall in the living room is a large holly berries decoration Erika found on Facebook Marketplace. It was previously a department store display from the 1950s.

bottom, left: The double-sided quilt on the living room chair was a flea market find from the 1930s.

Erika lives in a charming 108-year-old home with built-in character that is well-suited to displaying her vast collections of ornaments, decorations and keepsakes. Located in York, Pennsylvania, the American Foursquare with three bedrooms and two baths was built in 1917. "It is nestled in the Olde East York, one of the oldest neighborhoods around," Erika says. "It's a lovely place—every house looks different and has character." She enjoys living there with her husband, Dane, and their three children, Ava, Florian and Ruby.

A MERRY MAXIMALIST CHRISTMAS

Erika is always up for reimagining her room designs for Christmas every year. "I wanted to decorate more wall space this year. I did so by draping garland high on the walls up against the ceiling," she says. "My son always loved seeing a similar garland placement in an old Mickey Mouse movie, so I decided to replicate it. I'm always looking for new-to-me Christmas stuff to add to my collection each year. We all love to see our favorite ornaments, houses, trinkets come back out for the season."







Craft A CANDY TREE

Erika shares the steps to creating one of her favorite Christmas DIY projects.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Hot-glue gun
- Tinsel garland
- Foam tree base
- Candy (get several different types!)

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

1. Carefully glue the tinsel garland to the foam base.
2. Layer the candies. I like to do each layer with the different types of candy, creating a stripe-like effect. You can also arrange the candy into patterns.
3. Repeat the process.

top: Erika decorates her candy tree. She thrifted the two angels at Goodwill because they reminded her of her two daughters.

left: The vintage curtains in the dining room were thrifted from Facebook Marketplace. The tablecloth is new from H&M Home online. The flooring is the original pine floor from the 1917 home that Erika restored.





Thrifting for **CHRISTMAS DÉCOR**

Erika reveals her favorite places to find hidden gems to deck the halls and more.

- Facebook Marketplace is my go-to. Search early and often.
- This year, I found giant holly leaves/berries from the 1950s that were previously used as department store displays.
- I love to scour eBay for unique finds.
- At a flea market this year, I found a papier mâché Santa that is doing the splits for \$5.

above: The kitchen wall is dressed for the holiday with another section of the large holly berries ornament from the 1950s department store display. Erika replaced the butcher block countertops with soapstone. The vintage ceramic tree in the foreground was gifted to her from her grandmother.

opposite: This is a view of the dining room and part of the kitchen countertop. Erika likes to place baked goods on a vintage tin on the kitchen counter. She hung vintage ornaments on the chandelier found on eBay. Erika made the candy tree on the table, and her neighbor Rachel made the mandarin tree.

And there are a few sentimental keepsakes that hold a special place in Erika's home and heart. "I have a music box that I hang on the wall. I bought it from an elderly couple years ago and they cherished it deeply. It has a pull string and plays music with Santa and other characters circle around in the house. My kids love it and are always eager to unwrap it every season. I don't have a ton of heirlooms, but I have a few crocheted placemats that my great-grandma made. I use them under bowls of ornaments or to line bookshelves with."

While she loves to experiment with new decorating ideas, there are several tried-and-true Christmas goodies that Erika pulls out every year. "Wreaths hanging on exterior windows—I've done this every year and will continue to do so. I also love to use cookies/baked goods in my styling," she says. "I have lots of homemade decorations. We make them as a family and I love buying vintage handmade décor. I think it makes the home feel so much more approachable and lived in."



DECORATING *Details*

Erika's advice on adorning your home for the holidays.

- Don't be afraid of color. Mix metals and styles.
- Make your own décor. Think paper snowflakes, paper chains and DIY ornaments.
- Hang garland over your doorways—it adds so much cozy charm.
- Layer blankets and pillows for the coziest movie nights.





left: Erika made the vintage Putz-style houses on shelves in the dining room. The colorful placemat on the countertop was made by her great-grandmother.

opposite: The large kitchen Christmas tree on the countertop at right was purchased at Target. The painting of a woman in the mid-century was thrifted from a yard sale. Erika found the vintage cookbook at a Salvation Army sale of cookbooks for \$1 each.

Of course, if you're going to take a maximalist approach to decorating for Christmas you'll need to find storage spaces for all those magical memories. Erika shares this bit of advice: "Have a big basement!" she says with a laugh. "Also, don't store vintage ornaments in the attic—extreme temperatures aren't good for them."

MAKING ROOM FOR CHRISTMAS

In the living room, Erika moved some furniture around to fit the Christmas tree and packed up most of her everyday décor. "The room is small, so I need as much space as possible to fit everything I want," she says. "Next to the tree, I put my papier-mâché Santa that is doing the splits. I found him at a flea market for \$5. On the dresser I have next to my couch, I removed all the regular décor and put a little ceramic house. I got the house for \$5 at a flea market—my grandma had the same one when I was growing up. I hung up the garland around the room and made the oversized satin bows out of fabric. The fireplace mantel is an installation I created using floral foam as a base. All the ornaments are vintage or antique and I made the beaded bow out of vintage garland I thrifted years ago."

The dining room also features seasonal DIY projects. "My husband and I made all the paper snowflakes, and I made the paper chains with my kids," she says. "I made the large garland hanging above the window seat out of several small garlands. I used Tru-Tone C7 colored bulbs mixed in with normal-sized incandescent colored lights. The tablescape is a mixture of new items and vintage serving ware I've acquired over the years. I made the candy tree out of real candy and the orange tree is a DIY project featuring clementines with cloves and holly leaves."







top, left: On the dresser in the primary in the primary bedroom is a thrifted vintage aluminum pom-pom tree. On the wall is a picture of two zebras Erika found on Facebook Marketplace for free.

top, right: The canopy above the bed has a frame from Etsy. Erika thrifted the ottoman from Facebook Marketplace.

opposite: The duvet in the primary bedroom is a vintage-style chenille from Golden Yarrow Goods. Erika and her husband, Dane, made the chandelier from cotton fringe she dyed and real brass.

The primary bedroom is also adorned with Christmas sparkle and shine. "I hung tinsel garland along the ceiling to mimic the living room and added vintage glass ornaments," Erika says. "I featured my prized vintage aluminum tree with all vintage ornaments draped in tinsel. For extra pops of cheer, I scattered my vintage Putz houses around the room."

Erika always finds new ways to make the holiday memorable for her family. "My approach to Christmas is to create the most magic," she says. "That doesn't mean buying new expensive hauls every season. I want to encourage people to find items they love and use them year after year. Do what makes you happy, surround yourself with what you love. You do not have to follow trends. Unwrapping beloved ornaments, stockings, etc., brings so much joy."

When asked about what makes decorating for Christmas so special for her, Erika says, "I love the coziness of it. I'm always trying to emulate the feeling I would get as a child at Christmastime. I like to look at books, movies and more for inspiration to create the ultimate magic. I want my kids to have the best holiday memories."

Merry & Mismatched

Creating magical holiday tables with
a mix of new and old treasures.

WRITTEN, STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY KELLY McMASTER

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON don't just deck the halls—deck the table! Whether you're hosting a big Christmas brunch, a cozy cocoa moment, or appetizers and cocktails, your tabletop is the perfect canvas for creativity.

GATHER 'ROUND: THE JOY OF A VINTAGE-INSPIRED HOLIDAY TABLE

With a mix of flea market treasures and newfound items, these whimsical table settings bring together layers of texture, nostalgia, and personality. Each look is simple to pull together, and best of all, easy to recreate with items you already have, can score second-hand or purchase inexpensively at a favorite retailer.

Let's take a seat at each one.



2

1. FROSTY & FESTIVE: A WHIMSICAL WELCOME FOR HOLIDAY APPETIZERS

Kick off your gathering with a playful setting. A charming snowman plate sets the tone, layered over china with scalloped edges and bright accents. A mix of stripes, plaids, and metallic flatware adds visual interest, while a sprinkle of gold star confetti and retro-style glassware brings sparkle and charm.

Flea Market Tip: Look for single novelty plates or vintage holiday glasses—mismatched pieces are part of the magic!

2. A FOREST OF CHEER: VINTAGE WHIMSY FOR EVERY PEEP

Create a magical tabletop forest with bottle-brush trees in every size and shade. This eclectic display features a bluebird figurine perched next to a classic ornament; all nestled on top of layered blue-and-white transferware. A simple striped napkin adds color and a relaxed, homespun feel.

Flea Market Tip: Bird figurines are often overlooked but with a little clean-up and fresh ideas they come alive—snag them when you see them and build a collection over time.



3



4



5

3. JINGLE BELLE CHIC: A SOPHISTICATED SPIN ON HOLIDAY CHEER

Black-and-white octagon plates add a more refined feel, especially when layered with bright red flatware, striped napkins, and festive mini bells. A plaid charger anchors the look, while a thrifted, frosty, snowy tree-themed glass brings in a wintry woodland vibe.

Flea Market Tip: Don't overlook pieces with muted tones or black-and-white motifs—they mix beautifully with bolder holiday colors.

4. A SNOWY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Set with snowy scenes, classic transferware, and a forest of bottle brush trees, this table captures the cozy spirit of a home-spun holiday. Vintage glassware and well-loved flatware evoke simpler times—where every meal feels like a homecoming.

Flea Market Tip: You can often find vintage flatware sold in inexpensive bundles, and settings do not have to match to work.

5. A TOUCH OF ROMANCE: PASTEL PRETTIES

Soft florals, golden hues, and heirloom touches create a dreamy, softer setting that whispers of holidays past. With delicate china, pink glassware and a sprinkle of stardust, this table invites guests to linger a little longer in the glow of the season.

Flea Market Tip: China adorned in an assortment of flowers do not need to match. Set the table with a variety of patterns to make each guest feel extra special.

Everyday plates can still work at Christmas-time as shown here.



6



PEPPERMINT POP: A SWEET & SPIRITED SETTING

Bold and bright, this setting shows that red polka dot plates are great year-round and especially cute when mixed with candy cane stripes, and playful patterns. A mini bottle-brush wreath tied with berries and twine sits atop the plate as a sweet favor, while retro striped glassware ties it all together.

Flea Market Tip: Keep a supply of small ornaments, ribbons, and wreaths in your stash- they're perfect for topping plates or adding personal flair to each setting.



7

7. CHERRY MERRY & BRIGHT: A PASTEL PEPPERMINT DREAM

Who says holiday décor can't be fruity and floral? This unexpected combo of cherry-themed dishware, pastel bottle-brush trees, and floral glassware feels fresh and festive. Layered plates with ruffled edges and striped napkins bring color and contrast to the setting.

Flea Market Tip: Shop year-round for colorful pieces. Out-of-season finds like cherry plates or floral glasses shine when styled for the holidays!

8. SANTA'S SWEET SPOT: VIBES FOR A COZY COCOA MOMENT

Nothing says "Christmas" like a jolly old Santa. This heartwarming setting features a bold placemat as the anchor, with floral plates stacked neatly beneath a giant candy cane. A polka-dot mug invites guests to linger over something warm, while plaid accents and gold flatware round out the nostalgic charm, perfect for coffee and cookies.

Flea Market Tip: Vintage holiday paper goods—placemats, trays, tins—make excellent table backdrops even when slightly worn.

Each of these place settings tells a little story—whether your holiday style is sweet and simple or merry and maximalist, flea market finds allow you to decorate with your heart, a bit of history, and lots of fun.



8





How to Build A FLEA MARKET HOLIDAY TABLE

- **Start with layers.** Use textiles like vintage tablecloths, assorted tea towels, festive napkins, old scarves or handkerchiefs. Don't be afraid to use non-traditional items.
- **Mix and mismatch.** Different eras, colors, and styles give your table depth and personality.
- **Think vertically.** Use stacked cake stands, trees, or vintage tiered trays to add height. And pile on the plates, too!
- **Top it off.** Mini wreaths, name tags, ornaments, figurines, or natural elements (like pinecones or berries) make great finishing touches.
- **Light it Up.** Candles, tea lights, votive cups, even battery-operated candles or little trees will add even more magic to your tablescape.
- **Collect over time.** The best tables come together slowly. Grab a plate here, a glass there—your collection will grow through the years.





Stacie's signature pink palette brings a dreamy twist to traditional holiday charm.



WRITTEN BY EMMA DORSEY
STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY STACIE STOWERS

A Season of *Sweetness*

Holiday magic
at Cottage
on Wynn



Warmth, wonder, and a touch of whimsy, Stacie's décor is all about feeling at home.



WHEN THE HOLIDAY SEASON rolls around, Stacie Stowers transforms her Georgia cottage into a magical, memory-filled retreat. With four daughters, a love for all things cozy, and a signature pink-infused style, her home tells a story of warmth, creativity, and heartfelt tradition.

"I've loved holiday décor since I was a little girl," Stacie says. "Growing up, my mom always made the holidays feel magical. It was hands down the best time of year in our house, and I knew I wanted to recreate that same kind of joy and warmth for my own family."

Over the years, Stacie's collection of holiday treasures has grown slowly and meaningfully. "It started small with a 6-foot tree and a few special pieces. Over time, the collection grew. I found treasures at thrift stores, yard sales, and even asked for Christmas décor for my birthday because I loved it that much."

Decorating became even more important after the birth of her second daughter, who has special needs. "Since we were home more than most families, we really leaned into making our place feel joyful, comforting, and full of wonder each season."



Vintage charm, pink accents, and family traditions, Stacie's holiday style is uniquely her own.





The scent of sugar and spice fills the air, Stacie's kitchen is where joy is made.

In recent years, Stacie's holiday style has taken a soft and feminine turn. "We started leaning into pink in the last few years. I've always loved it, but it really took off when my daughters asked if we could paint our kitchen door pink, and of course, I said yes." With four girls who all love the color, pink has become a year-round staple and now plays a big role in the family's holiday look. "It just brings so much joy and whimsy to everything."

Despite the distinctly styled décor, there is no pushback from the rest of the family. "My girls absolutely love [the décor], and even my husband has grown to enjoy how festive everything feels."

Stacie typically starts planning in the summer, with decorations going up right after Halloween. "It's my favorite way to kick off the season." While she used to leave them up into January, she now starts taking things down just after Christmas. "Once the presents are unwrapped, I'm ready for a fresh start."







Storage is a big part of keeping things organized. "Label everything and use clear bins when you can. I also try to group items by room or by color theme." Stacie wraps delicate pieces in felt or dish towels and swears by ornament trays.

Her most treasured holiday pieces include heirloom angel ornaments passed down from her grandmother and mom, as well as handmade decorations from her daughters. "They might be tiny or glittery or a little crooked, but they're some of my absolute favorites."

Thoughtfully curated by color and room, every piece finds its perfect place.





Wrapped in ribbon
and wonder, Stacie's
holiday tree is the
heart of her home.







Found treasures, forever memories, each piece carries a touch of the past.

For Stacie, it's never just about decorating. It's about creating a feeling, one that her daughters will remember for years to come. Through vintage finds, personal touches, and a palette that's all her own, she's built a home that celebrates both beauty and heart. And at the end of the day, that's what makes the season truly shine.

"I want our home to feel like a warm hug during the holidays, cozy, magical, and full of joy."



"I want our home to feel like a warm hug during the holidays, cozy, magical, and full of joy."



To see more of Stacie's home

VISIT @COTTAGEONWYNN ON INSTAGRAM.





An Exuberant ENTRY

With nostalgic details and flea market flair;
this entryway proves that even the smallest
spaces can pack big holiday spirit.

WRITTEN, STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED
BY KELLY McMASTER





WHEN YOU STEP INTO MY HOME during the holidays, you're greeted by a staircase that's become one of my favorite spots to decorate. I love filling this little entry nook with layers of vintage charm- flea market treasures I've collected over the years, and others that are cherished hand-me-down pieces from family and friends.

The old bench with the gingham cushion is always here, but for Christmas, I add a bright red "merry" pillow and a colorful rag rug to set a cheerful tone right from the start. The vintage chest was my great grandmother's and it's stuffed with hats, mittens and scarves. The empty window frame is simply perched atop the chest and leans against the wall, and I fill it year round with photos, books, mini chalkboards, small artwork-whatever strikes my fancy.

I like to tuck books and treasures into unexpected places, like the steps themselves or around the base of the trees on the landing. The garland up the railing is a simple cedar-style base that I dressed up with a bold red ribbon garland, then I added a few ornaments in between the stockings. This year, I added a couple of small trees at the top of the stairs-one flocked, one classic-and along with Santa and Rudolph peeking in the window, it's a favorite cheery spot.









10 Tips FOR A FESTIVE ENTRYWAY

MAKE SPIRITS BRIGHT THE MOMENT GUESTS STEP THROUGH THE DOOR!

- **Layer in Texture:** Use rugs, throws, and pillows in seasonal patterns (like plaids or gingham) to make the space feel extra inviting and cozy.
- **Add a Mini Tree:** A small faux or real tree instantly says "Christmas!" Bonus points for lights or vintage ornaments. I was fortunate to be able to add several at the top of the staircase as there is an electrical outlet there to plug in twinkly lights. If you do not, battery powered lights are a great choice, too.
- **Use the Stairs:** If you have stairs, decorate the steps with wrapped gifts, stacked books, or a collection of crates. You could mix in live poinsettias like shown here or work in Santa figures or cute deer. And a garland is a must! I layered mine with battery operated lights, a string of bright red bows, stockings and finished it off with a garland of stars and bells.
- **Style a Bench or Chair:** If you have room, it's fun to work in a bench, chair, small table or chest of drawers. I managed to fit three of these elements into my space, but even one would do the trick.
- **Hang a Wreath Indoors:** Why stop at the front door? Add a wreath to a wall, door, or even a mirror inside your entry for more holiday cheer.
- **Show Off Your Finds:** Flea market treasures, like retro signs, old skates, or vintage postcards, add nostalgia and personality. I used the coat rack to hang a scarf from my childhood and my brother's old skates. I love the childhood memories of ice skating with my family in Minnesota that they evoke.
- **Create a Holiday Gallery Wall:** Swap in seasonal art, framed holiday cards, or winter scenes to bring the walls into the celebration. I had a great time adding a wire shelf, a horse head door knocker, and all sorts of little bits and bobs I had in my stash of holiday décor. You can always use Command Strips if you don't want to overdo the nail holes.
- **Use Books Creatively:** Stack vintage books by color or theme—or tie them with ribbon for a charming, low-cost decoration. I'm always on the hunt for inexpensive books that fit my color scheme and tuck them in everywhere.
- **Make It Scent-Sational:** Add a bowl of cinnamon sticks, a pine-scented candle, or a simmer pot nearby to delight the senses. I have scented sachets and fragrance packets hidden all around my entry.





The wall gallery is ever-changing, but I try to mix in seasonal prints, little handmade touches to keep it feeling festive and personal. I scrounge through my bins of décor and add to the gallery for days on end as I adorn the house. There is something delightful about seeing all these layers together—vintage signs, old books, twinkly garland, family mementos, whimsical art—that makes it feel like Christmas the moment you walk through the door.











Christmas **CLUTTERCORE**

WHY I EMBRACE THE JOYFULLY MAXIMALIST FLEA MARKET STYLE

No one will ever mistake me for a minimalist—and that’s perfectly fine. I find true joy in the hunt: the people I meet at flea markets, the stories behind each piece I bring home, and the delight of arranging cozy little vignettes throughout my space. It truly is my “therapy.”

When family and friends visit, curiosity blooms and conversations spark—each item a jumping-off point for storytelling. Not everyone appreciates this eclectic aesthetic, and I get that. But I’m unapologetically drawn to it. Give me all the color, whimsy, patina, and delightful quirk. Flea market style isn’t just décor—it’s a way of living joyfully surrounded by the things that make me smile all year ‘round.

Crinklaw fine art

Garden studio & gallery

Original Paintings & Hand
painted Ceramics



Visit the Gallery by
appointment only Newman,
CA 95360

 209.573.3523



Visit:
www.crinklawfineart.com

 [www.instagram.com/
katherine_crinklaw_artist](https://www.instagram.com/katherine_crinklaw_artist)

 Crinklaw Fine Art



Decked to

Delight

With a deep love of vintage finds and decades of flea market hunting under her belt, this homeowner turns her 1940s home into a holiday haven filled with memories, meaning, and a little glitter too.

PRODUCED BY KELLY McMASTER
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JULIE PRAIRIE



16



17



21



22

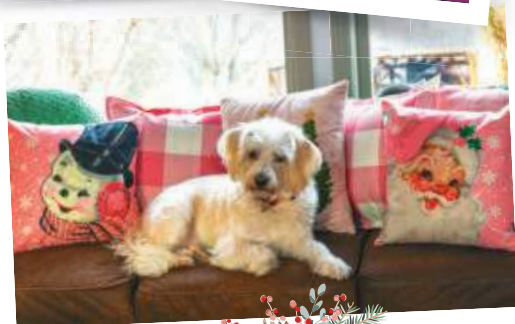


23





Friends Jenn and Jen join Angela in holiday craftmaking.



IT ALL STARTED WITH a simple 1940s ranch: two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a whole lot of potential. When Angela Ellerbroek and her family bought the home in 2002, they saw not just what it was—but what it could become. “We knew this was the house we’d be in for the long haul,” Angela shares. So, in 2008, with a new baby on the way, the couple nearly doubled this Sioux Falls, SD home, adding a spacious main suite and a fully finished basement complete with bedrooms and an entertainment area.

For a vintage collector, there was another major perk: storage. “Luckily for me, the basement has tons of space—for bins and bins of décor for every holiday,” she laughs.

A LIFE IN VINTAGE

Angela’s love for vintage began more than 30 years ago, when she started collecting watering cans of every size and color. “At one point, I had over 100, all displayed on shelves on my screened-in porch.”







The watering cans have since been sold off, but another collection from that same era is still going strong—vintage dog figurines. “I have over 250 now! They live in a cabinet that is completely full, so the hunt has slowed down.... but sometimes, I see one I just cannot resist.”

HOLIDAY MAGIC IN EVERY CORNER

Starting in September, the basement bins begin their annual migration upstairs. First Halloween, then Thanksgiving, then the grand finale: Christmas. “The hauling of totes and trees is fast and furious,” Angela jokes, adding that her husband, son, and even some of her son’s friends often get roped into the effort.

The Christmas decorating kicks off the day after Thanksgiving and the final take down happens around the end of January. Real or artificial trees have each had their day, but lately, Angela has loved displaying vintage ornaments on a live flocked tree. “The branches start drooping under the weight after a couple of weeks,” she admits. Her solution? Wire each branch before lights or ornaments even go up. “It helps keep everything in place.”

The decorating process for the Ellersbrook family is slow and meaningful. “I light a fire, put on Christmas music, and take my time unwrapping each ornament,” she says. “That part alone takes three full days.”

MEANINGFUL MOMENTS & HANDMADE MEMORIES

Some pieces always find a spot front and center. A vintage red typewriter with a letter to Santa. Feathered Holt Howard angels. A stocking stitched by her mother, and another from her husband’s childhood. There’s also a wood cubby shelf filled with favorite finds: spun cotton elves and Santas, Gurley candles, and bottle brush trees. “It’s never the same two years in a row,” she says. “That’s the fun of it—rearranging and seeing where everything ends up.”

But it is not just the store-bought treasures that shine. “Some of my favorite pieces are the ones we made together,” she shares. There’s the snowman she and her son painted when he was three. “I thought we would take our time. But he painted most of it red in 15 minutes and said he was done!” she laughs.







Kitschy TREATS

These mini “cigarette” snacks are a throwback to the days before it was cool to be smoke-free and healthy. Harmless and easy to make, they’re a fun conversation starter.

WHAT YOU’LL NEED:

- Silver Sugar/Sanding Crystals or Crushed Oreo Cookies
- White Chocolate Candy Coating
- Red Candy Coating
- Black Food Coloring



WHAT YOU’LL DO:

1. Melt some white candy coating in a heatproof cup in the microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring in between. Remove when it is almost melted and continue to stir until it is completely melted. (The cup you use should be narrow and tall so that you can easily dunk the pretzel sticks). Add a few drops of vegetable oil or coconut oil and stir until the coating is very fluid, adding a little additional as necessary. (If you do not thin the coating, it will be a little thick and the cigarettes may look gloppy).
2. Next, dip each pretzel stick in the white coating, leaving a portion uncoated to look like the cigarette tip. (To really look like cigarettes, all the uncoated tips should be roughly the same length. You can pre-mark the dipping line with a sharp knife if you want). Scrape off the excess on the edge of the cup as you dip and place each one on a parchment lined cookie sheet or tray. Place the entire tray in the fridge for 5 minutes to harden the coating before moving on to the next step.
3. Place some silver sugar in a small bowl and add a droplet of black food coloring. Mix the two together, leaving some streaks. Or crush a few Oreo cookies to mimic ashes. Set aside.
4. Next, melt a small amount of red coating in a heatproof cup in the microwave, in the same manner as the white coating. Once again, add a drop or two of oil so that the coating is very fluid. Remove the tray from the fridge and dip each “cigarette” tip in red coating (these don’t have to be even), scrape off the excess on the edge of the cup, and then immediately dip each in the black/silver sanding sugar, sprinkling a little extra with your fingers to add texture.
5. Display and serve your “cigarettes” on a little platter or a vintage ash tray—you could place some of the extra sugar crystals in the center as “ashes”. Enjoy!

HOME FOR THE Holidays



Craft days with friends are another treasured tradition. "There's always a little wine, a few glue gun burns, a lot of glitter, and tons of laughs," she says. Together, they've made gorgeous wreaths with vintage ornaments filled with Santas, others with an eclectic mix of old Christmas treasures.

THE JOY OF THE HUNT

Even with decades of collecting behind her, she still finds magic in the flea market hunt. "I've slowed down with buying, but every now and then, a piece just calls to me," Angela says. Case in point: a giant Santa from a 1950s hardware store display. "I saw him two months in a row at our local flea market. The second month, I told myself—if he's still there, he's coming home with me. He was. I snatched him up."

Luckily, she sells on Whatnot (under the name Angelaell), which helps her keep things rotating. "If something no longer sparks joy, I can pass it on. I love knowing it's going to someone who is just as excited to give it a new life."

CREATING CHRISTMAS MAGIC

For Angela, it's about more than just decor. "I think, deep down, I'm just trying to create the perfect Christmas," she reflects. "I want my son to remember this house decked out, Christmas music playing, games, movies, laughter—and time together," she says.

And it's not just the people who enjoy it. The family pets get in on the fun too. "Our grey kitty, Sir Philip, loves to nap in the bins of vintage Santas. Our black cat, Expo, finds the pile of pillows and makes himself a bed. And our dog, Charlie, just wants to be in the middle of everything," she adds.

In this home, every ornament tells a story, and every glitter-covered craft holds a memory. With love, laughter, and a little vintage charm, Christmas truly comes to life.

*To see more of
Angela's home,*

YOU CAN FIND HER @FUSSANDPUTZ ON INSTAGRAM AND ON WHATNOT, WHERE HER USERNAME IS ANGELLAELL.



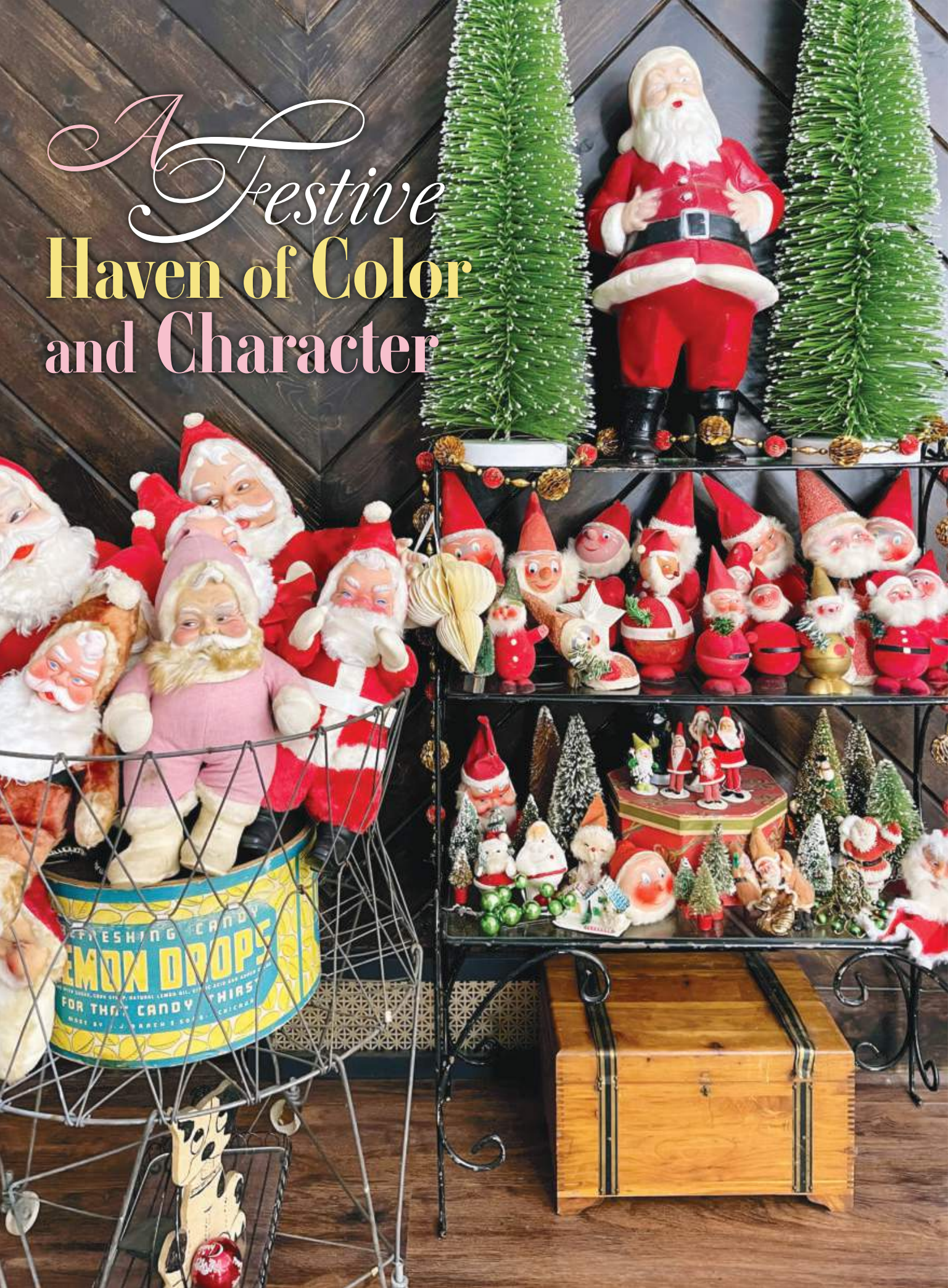
Favorite VINTAGE HOLIDAY FINDS

Here are a few of Angela's pieces that always make the display list—and a few that still spark the thrill of the hunt:

- **Holt Howard feathered angels:** Elegant, whimsical, and full of 1950s charm.
- **Spun cotton Santas and elves:** Quirky and nostalgic showstoppers.
- **Gurley candles:** Especially Santas and trees with colorful aging.
- **Vintage bottle brush trees:** Easy to group and endlessly versatile.
- **The giant 1950s hardware store Santa:** A true statement piece!
- **Handmade wreaths:** Created from salvaged vintage bits and bobs.
- **Dog figurines:** Over 250 and still growing (carefully!).
- **The red typewriter:** A staple each year, always with a letter to Santa.



A Festive
Haven of Color
and Character





Warm, whimsical, and full of holiday cheer; this collector's vibrant home sparks joy for all who enter.

WRITTEN BY EMMA DORSEY
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNIFER RIPPINGER



COURTNEY TERREAU CALLS herself a vintage lover with an old-soul style. She lives in McHenry, Illinois, in a house she purchased in July 2021 and moved into in April 2023 after extensive remodeling. She jokes that her brother lives in her backyard, since their homes back right up to one another. Her dad lives just a two-minute drive away, and she says one thing led to another, and now she is close to both her brother's family and her parents and she loves it!

Courtney's home has become a true reflection of her personality. She shares, "a few friends have told me that if they did not know who owned the house, they would know as soon as they came in. I believe that was a compliment."



Courtney's Sage Advice

- Do not worry about perfection-it is overrated.
- Do not fret over others' opinions- this is YOUR home.
- Do not rush, just enjoy the process!
- Do not put anything too close to the edge of displays that could fall.
- Do not try to copy someone else-let your home reflect YOUR personality.



Courtney's vintage Christmas: collected with care, styled with heart, and filled with joy.



Courtney works full-time in her parents' office and has also been selling vintage wares at Antiques of Winfield for over 7 years. Before that, she co-owned a brick-and-mortar vintage shop in Chicago with her cousin. She credits vintage collecting with bringing her joy and connecting her to others. "I do happy dances when I find a great vintage item and get all giddy like a kid in a candy store," she laughs.

She traces her passion for vintage back to childhood. "My first collectible was when I was in kindergarten," she recalls. She and her mom and cousin would pick out plastic charms with bells to put on necklaces or bracelets. She remembers standing in line for new releases and trading stickers with friends. Later, her family moved to Canada, and she spent weekends at auction houses in Guelph, Ontario. She saved babysitting money to bid and would even coax auctioneers to sell items sooner to fit her schedule. One of her favorite pieces from that time is a trunk she still owns.

Once back in Illinois after college, she began frequenting the Kane County Flea Market St. Charles and the Sandwich Flea Market in Sandwich with her family. She carefully collected items she knew she would use in her future home. One standout find was a see-through mailbox that inspired her mailbox collection. She began exploring estate sales, thrift stores, church rummage sales, and eventually opened her own booth.





For Courtney, vintage collecting is deeply personal but has also become her livelihood. "Vintage items just make me happy. It has turned into my hobby, job and lifestyle, and I feel quite fortunate for that."

Courtney likes to begin holiday decorating in early November. She carefully transitions from her vintage Halloween décor into vintage Christmas. Since she balances a full-time job and her booth, she decorates early so she can enjoy it longer.

She takes it down in February, though admits, "You always miss something, so it seems there is always something of my vintage Christmas hanging around." After that, vintage Easter takes over. She laughs when friends and family say, "You do this for every holiday?!"

Storage has required creativity in her vintage-filled, smaller home. Built in 1975 in simple 70s style, it had few closets. Courtney and her aunt built a custom basement closet for tubs of Christmas items. She organizes items by theme, though admits that after many tubs, you just "throw it in a tub."

She also leaves her favorite vintage holiday items on display in glass cabinets throughout the year. A giant stuffed Santa in a wicker rocker stays in one room all year, ready for the holidays.

Tiny treasures with timeless charm.





New finds often live in a basket on the main floor until it is time to decorate for the holidays. "They make me happy, so why not leave them out?" she says.

Courtney is proud of family heirlooms and special finds. Some ornaments come from her mom, who began collecting them in the 1950s at Marshall Field's and still has many of those pieces.

Her own favorites include Rushton Santas (she even has a pink one), vintage Scotch tape holders with Christmas tape, Christmas seals, and German Santa candy holders.

When asked for styling advice, Courtney shares practical tips. "Go with your gut, do what you like." She often looks to magazines, Pinterest, and Instagram for inspiration, but says the best thing you can do is make your own style.





She may repeat vignettes from previous years but tweaks them each time. She starts with a single piece, then adds and removes items until it feels right. She mixes old and new and even includes non-holiday items if they feel festive.

Courtney aims to finish decorating plenty of time ahead of the holidays. She says her hope is simple yet heartfelt. "My hope is that it continues to make me happy and brings a spark of joy to others who might see it. But also, it feels like home. A comfortable, warm and safe space."

Throughout the season, she cherishes traditions: listening to Christmas music, putting up the tree with her dad, decorating her parents' tree with her mom, and her niece and nephews often join for ornament hanging and friendly competition. Wrapping gifts on Christmas Eve surrounded by her vintage décor brings warmth. She treasures the annual reading of holiday stories by her dad or grandpa on Christmas Eve, followed by family appetizers, games, and conversation.

Courtney says, "The best tradition is spending time with family. That is what the holiday is all about, really."



Christmas Eve memories made magical by vintage glow.







Courtney's VINTAGE COLLECTING TIPS

- 1. Don't wait for perfect items.** "Vintage items are old. They'll never be perfect, and that's what makes them special."
- 2. Look high, low, and behind.** "When you go to sales or flea markets, look under tables, on top of shelves, and even ask about items in the background. I once scored amazing lampshades from a garage because I asked...they were about to take them to the dump."
- 3. Be kind.** "If you are negotiating, do it with a smile. Do not lowball. Kindness and a good attitude go a long way."
- 4. Get to know sellers.** "Ask questions. Dealers love to share knowledge, and you never know, if they know what you're into, they might even set items aside for you."
- 5. Collect what you love.** "Don't chase trends. If it brings you joy, that is what matters."
- 6. Always carry cash.** "I keep a small stash in a safe spot in my car just in case I find a sale on the fly and haven't hit the ATM yet."
- 7. Dig deep.** "Ask if an unsorted box or a basement bin is for sale. You'd be amazed at what treasures you can find when you ask."
- 8. Build your community.** "My friends, coworkers, even friends of friends, send me photos or let me know when they see something I'd love. I've made a lot of great connections just talking about vintage."



"Don't wait for perfect, vintage never is."



To see more of Courtney's collections

VISIT HER @WHATKNOTSCHICAGO ON INSTAGRAM.



A VINTAGE Wonderland *at Home*

This cozy Florida cottage comes alive with heirloom charm, flea market treasures, and a nostalgic holiday spirit that kicks off before November.

PRODUCED BY KELLY McMASTER | STYLING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELISSA MAQUILON



CREATING COZY, JOYFUL SPACES FULL OF NOSTALGIA

Meet Melissa Maquilon, a vintage-lover and joyful holiday decorator based in sunny Lakeland, Florida. She's lived in her cozy home for ten years and shares it with her husband of three years and their two sweet pups—Minnie the Yorkie and Mya the Beagle.

"I've always loved decorating," Melissa says, "but I didn't start collecting vintage and flea market items until 2021—after I found my very first Santa mug. That was it. I was hooked."

A SEASON FULL OF CHEER

For Melissa, the holiday season starts early—and always with a touch of magic. "Growing up, our Christmas tree was up by November 1st, and now I keep that tradition alive. I usually start decorating the last week of October. We kick off the season with Christmas music playing while we put up the tree—just like my family did when I was little. It's our way of stretching out the holiday magic."



 *To see more of Melissa's home*

VISIT [@HOMESWEETRELIQS](#) ON INSTAGRAM.





Her home transforms into a festive wonderland filled with collected treasures, vintage finds, and heartfelt touches. "My goal is always to create a warm, cozy space that feels nostalgic and spreads joy and holiday cheer to everyone who visits—whether in person or through Instagram!"

A TREASURED PIECE

One of the standout pieces in Melissa's holiday home is her beloved hutch—a special hand-me-down from her grandmother, lovingly known as "Abuela." "She saw how much I adored it and gifted it to me as a wedding gift. I'll always cherish it and love decorating it for every season."

Though her growing collection is cleverly tucked away in bins and stashed in closets and the garage (to the good-natured dismay of her husband!), each item finds a place in her home's holiday story.

DECORATING TIPS FROM MELISSA

Her signature look is layered and textured, with a mix of old and new, soft and sparkly. Melissa shares this advice: "Play with height, textures, and layers, and add seasonal pops of color. Don't get frustrated—sometimes it helps to step away and come back with fresh eyes."

And for those just beginning to collect vintage pieces? "Buy what you truly love and be patient. The best pieces often find you," she says. Her favorite haunts include flea markets, thrift stores, antique shops, and a few trusted resellers on Instagram.



Visions of **Christmas**

For fans of cozy style, vintage charm,
and heartfelt holiday decorating.

PRODUCED BY KELLY McMASTER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK LOHMAN







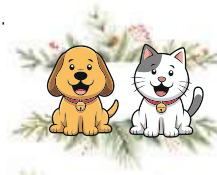


IF YOUR IDEA OF THE PERFECT HOLIDAY SEASON includes twinkling lights, vintage ornaments, and the comforting scent of pine, then *Visions of Christmas* by Fifi O'Neill belongs on your coffee table (or in your lap with a mug of cocoa). Known for her romantic, rustic style and love of all things timeless, O'Neill invites readers into one of the most beautifully decorated homes celebrating Christmas in all its nostalgic glory.

This isn't just a book about pretty rooms—although it's absolutely full of them. It's a warm, inspiring look at decorating with heart and soul. The magical home featured is that of Amy Stegeman, who has her own unique take on holiday style with old-world European elegance yet cozy styled with vintage touches, natural greenery, handmade details, and plenty of personal stories.

Whether you're starting your holiday decorating early or just love flipping through beautiful interiors year-round, *Visions of Christmas* offers a dreamy escape—and lots of real, usable ideas too. It's the kind of book that makes you want to slow down, light a candle, and create your own little world of comfort and joy.

All proceeds from the sale of *Visions of Christmas* will be donated to animal charities and rescue organizations nationwide.









Top 3 Ideas **TO GLEAN FROM VISIONS OF CHRISTMAS**

- **Decorate with Nature:** Fresh greenery, pinecones, dried citrus slices, and bundles of cinnamon sticks bring an organic, homespun feel to mantels, tabletops, and entryways.
- **Mix Vintage with Handmade:** The pages of this book are filled with old-fashioned treasures—think mercury glass, timeworn ornaments, antique sleds—but they're often paired with handmade touches like paper stars, knitted stockings, or family-made crafts. It's a perfect way to layer history and heart.
- **Tell Your Story Through Décor:** One of the most touching takeaways from the book is how every home reflects personal history. Whether it's Grandma's cookie tin, a worn Bible, or a handmade nativity passed down through generations, the most meaningful holiday decor tells your own story.



VISIONS OF CHRISTMAS BY FIFI O'NEILL, PUBLISHED
 BY TCC BOOKS, SEPTEMBER 2025. VISIT [AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com) TO PURCHASE YOUR COPY.



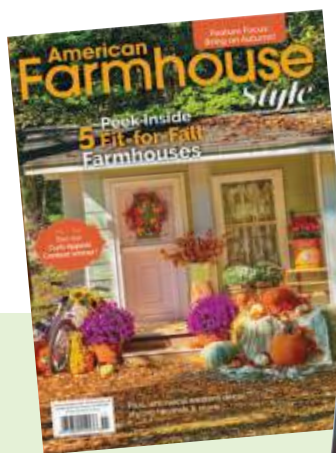
Your Home Deserves _____ **DOUBLE** _____ the Inspiration.

Get 1 Year Print and Digital subscription combo of
American Farmhouse Style* + *Cottages & Bungalows and

**SAVE
82%**

on the cover price!

Only
\$49.95



SCAN NOW

Visit <https://www.fleamarketdecor.com/fmd2> or call us
at **844-330-6373** to place the order.



Rockin' Around *the* CHRISTMAS TREE

Collect vintage ornaments to fill out your tree and enliven your home.



BY ROBERT HECKERT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LINDA STRAND

SOME ORNAMENTS ARE RARE

and fun to collect; others we keep because they're beautiful. Blogger Linda Strand of Q is for Quandie goes with the latter method when she curates her collection of vintage Christmas ornaments. "I'm not a big believer in collecting things because they're valuable," she says. "I collect things because I like them. That's not the typical philosophy of collectors, but it's what I like to do."

COLLECTING FOR HISTORY

Like many of the homes in her neighborhood, Linda's was built in 1904 and was originally part of a dairy farm. Because of this, she mainly buys vintage ornaments in order to maintain her home's antiquated and historic appearance. Her only criterion for ornaments is that they're colorful. "In Minnesota, it gets cold and dark, so we have to cheer up and brighten those dark days," she says. Linda finds all her ornaments at estate sales and garage sales, often in their original packaging.



An antique cake pan acts as a display for Linda's extra blown-glass ornaments. It's a simple way to show off your collection without having to buy an extra tree.

opposite: With a little creativity, Linda has kept her Shiny Brites from rolling around by placing them in a vintage toolbox of the same color.



Vintage ORNAMENTS 101

HERE ARE SEVERAL TYPES OF ORNAMENTS, SO YOU SOUND KNOWLEDGEABLE AT YOUR NEXT CHRISTMAS MARKET AND DON'T NEED TO REFER TO THEM AS "THE WEIRD SHAPED ONE" OR "THE CIRCLE-ISH ONE."

INDENT GLASS ORNAMENTS. Otherwise known as reflector ornaments, these have been around for several hundred years. They're typically spherical or tear-drop shaped, with concave impressions. The indentation, or reflector, is either a circle or star, and the inside is a glittery swirl of diamond studs and colors.

SHINY BRITES. A light bulb company called Corning Glass Company first developed this brand of blown-glass ornaments in 1939. They were mass-produced during World War II and have maintained their position as a staple vintage decoration. Linda's Shiny Brites from the 1940s still retain a special, handmade touch, because a factory worker painted on each ornament by hand.

FINIAL TREE TOPPERS. These act as the crown of the Christmas tree, and first became popular during the Victorian Era (1837-1901), when the royal family began the trend of placing them on top of their own Christmas trees. Since they sit atop the tree, the glass is thin, making them extremely delicate to handle.

MERCURY GLASS. Ornaments made of mercury glass stand out from the crowd, because they're extremely shiny, like silver. Although many ornaments are reflective, the surface of mercury glass is like a mirror. When it comes to differentiating between ornaments, it's important to know that mercury glass ornaments have two walls of glass rather than a single wall.

FIGURALS. A figural refers to a shape other than a ball, teardrop or icicle. Ornaments shaped like a bugle, a snowman, animals and Santa all fall in the category of figurals.



Some vintage ornaments come with hand painted designs, as on these gold pieces.

HUNTING AND GATHERING

Although she doesn't seek out valuable items, she's ended up with many rare pieces. Some of her most interesting items are decorations that come from Germany. Beginning as early as 1880, German companies created decorations of animals, vegetables, nuts and other pieces from nature. Linda has several silvered, clip-on finches and peacocks with spun glass tails that typically sell for \$12-\$20, but she bought them for \$4. Another rare German find was a collection of pink glass pinecone ornaments, which she found for only a few dollars. Her secret to finding such great deals is to shop in the summer when few people are even thinking about Christmas.

DISPLAY TRICKS

Linda only has one tree on which to display her ornaments. She places the ornaments that don't make it on the tree in antique kitchenware, toys and even a toolbox. "With these containers, I can still put them on display," she says. "It's nice because you don't need to have a whole collection to show them off."

To see more of Linda's collections

VISIT HER BLOG QISFORQUANDIE.COM AND [@QISFORQUANDIE](https://www.instagram.com/QISFORQUANDIE) ON INSTAGRAM.



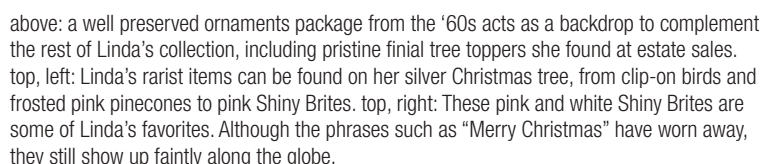
Defending YOUR DECORATIONS

**SADLY, ORNAMENTS DO BREAK,
BUT CAREFUL STORAGE CAN HELP
PREVENT THIS TRAGEDY.**

How often have you opened a box of ornaments only to find that “Baby’s First Christmas” or one of your other precious ornaments had shattered? Even “I experience semi-regular breakage with my ornaments,” says Linda. Ornaments, especially vintage pieces, are valuable, delicate and have lots of sentimental value, so you want to keep them safe.

When it comes to storing, avoid buying ornament holders. Cardboard holders have some cushion, but they're vulnerable to the elements and crumple easily. Plastic units aren't much better. They're durable, but their walls are hard and many ornaments have shattered in them. Both are great for getting pieces separated and organized, but when it comes to vintage ornaments, there's a better solution.

China protectors are the best way to package your precious vintage ornaments. You may already have them in storage from your last move. Their quilted outside walls will protect your decorations from dust, animals and other factors. The padded dividers on the inside create a protective and padded cocoon that won't cause any damage if an ornament bumps against it.





A Tree *Full of Memories*

See how this collector honors her mom with her Christmas tree.

PRODUCED BY KELLY McMASTER | STYLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY AMBER CANCHOLA



"WHEN MY MOM PASSED IN 2021,

Christmas just didn't feel the same,"

says Amber Canchola, the loving daughter behind this heartwarming holiday display. "She had a love

for old treasures but also new shiny things." So, in the spirit of keeping

her memory close, and bringing back a piece of her childhood,

Amber spent the better part of a year thrifting ornaments—each one

chosen with purpose. "I couldn't decide on a Ralph Lauren or Disney

theme," she admits. "So, I mixed the two together to create my dream

tree. A piece of me and a piece of my mom," says Amber. "My love

for vintage goes beyond my tree," she adds. "Classic vintage Disney

pieces mixed with vintage Santas is a combo that can make anyone

smile!", she adds. One of her favorite ornaments—a moose tucked

into a coffee cup—comes from her mom's last Christmas tree. "There's

three, and they are so special," she says. Another sentimental spark?

A Ralph Lauren car and a vintage Mickey ornament that originally

inspired the whole theme.

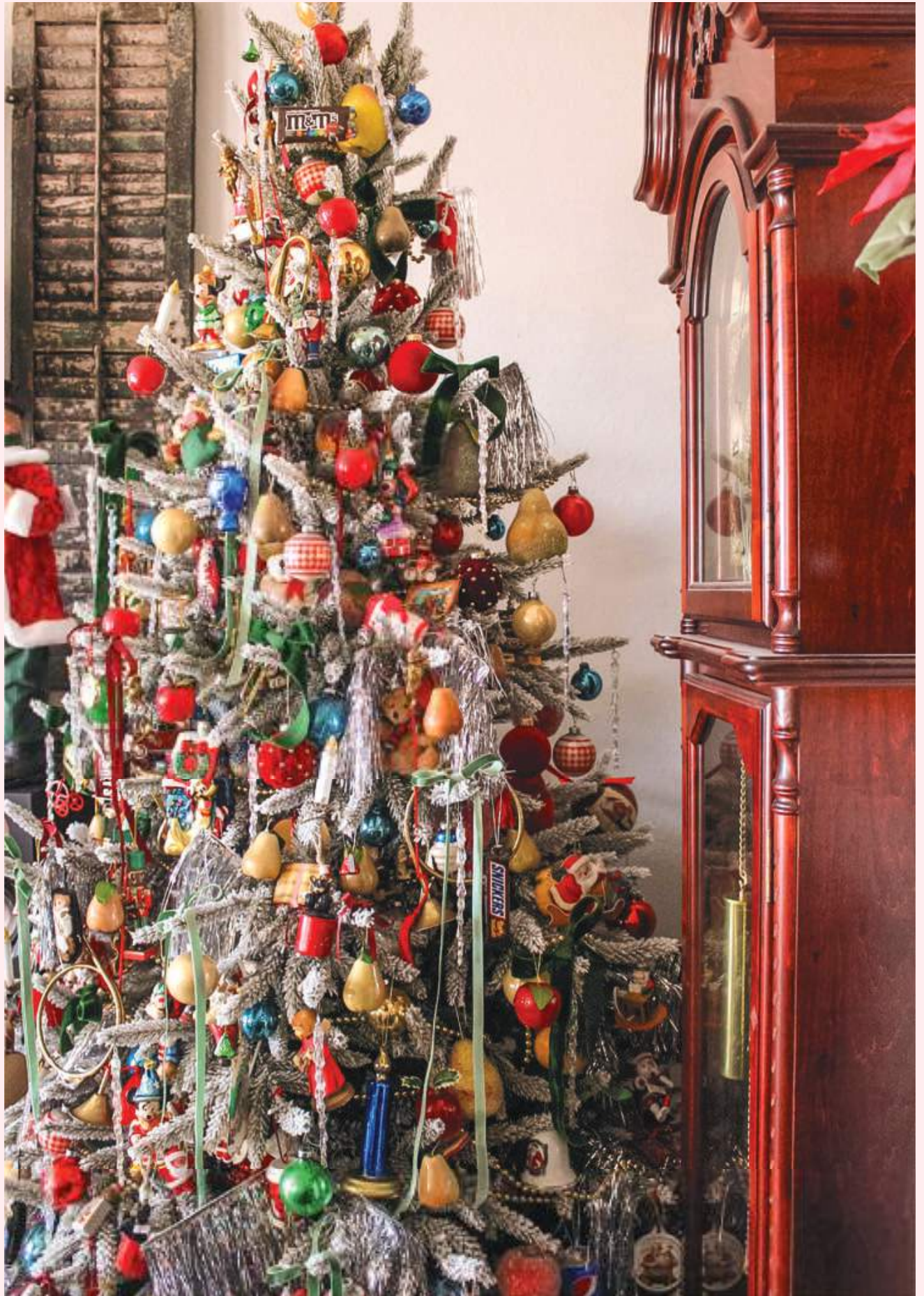
Each decoration carries a story,

and together, they create something bigger: a joyful, glowing

reminder that love lives on in the sparkle of the season.



TO SEE MORE OF AMBER'S CREATIVITY VISIT HER @RAINY.DAYCOR ON INSTAGRAM.



FleaMarket décor

