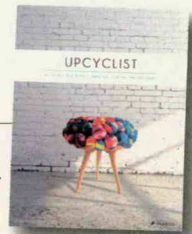


book reviews

**Upcyclist**

Antonia Edwards

Prestel



*Upcyclist* journeys through the intricacies, sophistication, and nuanced variations of upcycling. In the process, it lays to rest the idea that recycling is solely a product of thriftiness or a shallow environmentalism, or that the works produced lack the beauty and worth of their newly-made cousins.

Each chapter deals with a different material, including wood, textiles, metal, glass/ceramics, paper/plastic, and mixed media. Ranging from the hospitality industry to fine art, incorporating cultural fragments resonating through artists' childhoods from Valencia to Shanghai, and taking inspiration from set building and cinematography, upcycled works blur the lines between art, craft and design. Leather belt flooring, entomological paper sculptures, plastic bottle chandeliers, and repurposed Victorian toilet china come together to express the inherent validity in a product whose authenticity cannot be replicated.

Rather than defining what constitutes upcycling, Edwards's compelling account reveals artists' ingenuity in dealing with the practicalities of working with waste and found material

Regina Papachlimitzou



# ETHICAL LIVING LUCY SIEGLE



## Green crush

Faster than the earth can regenerate vital resources, we are using them up. Upcyclists who take discarded objects or materials and make them desirable again through design and reuse are at the forefront of a battle for hearts, minds and hammers. Antonia Edwards, a former nominee for an Observer ethical award, leads the charge. Her new book, *Upcyclist*, is organised by materials – wood, textiles, metal, glass and ceramics, paper and plastic, and mixed media – and shows not only how upcycling slows down consumption but also how it can unlock a whole creative process. Prepare to be inspired. To order a copy of *Upcyclist* for £23.99 (RRP £29.99), go to [bookshop.theguardian.com](http://bookshop.theguardian.com)



ILLUSTRATION ROB BIDDULPH

