

\* PREMIERE ISSUE

# D Moms



CHANDRA NORTH

*The Supermom and  
Model Gets Back to Her  
Dallas Roots*

MOM CRUSH:  
FOUR WOMEN  
CHANGING  
THE CITY

THE ESSENTIAL  
MOM UNIFORM

A KID'S  
BEDROOM  
THAT INSPIRES

THE 84 COOLEST  
THINGS TO DO  
IN DALLAS WITH  
YOUR FAMILY

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# ENRICH

ART, CULTURE, AND GIVING BACK

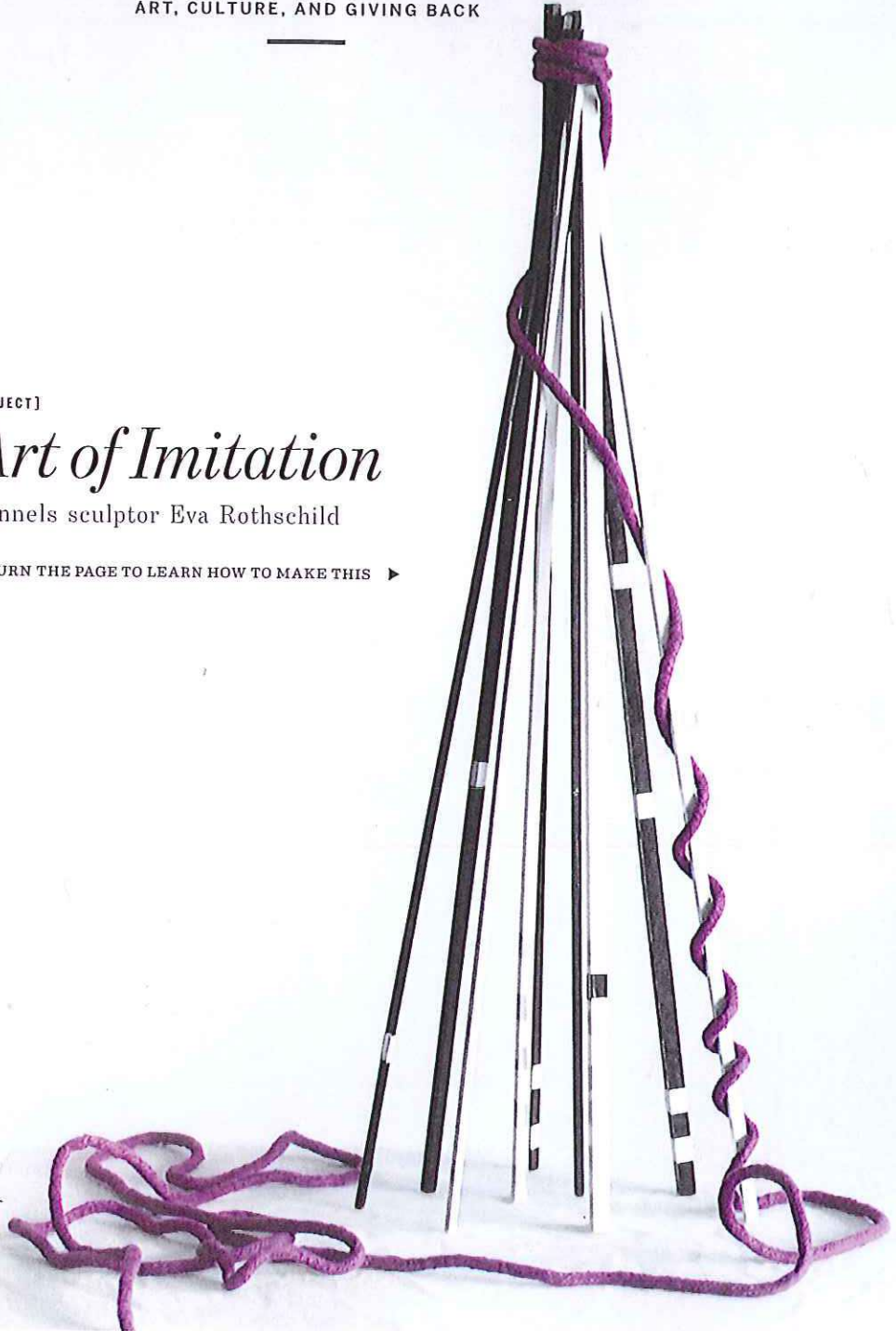
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[ART PROJECT]

## *The Art of Imitation*

A DIY project that channels sculptor Eva Rothschild

TURN THE PAGE TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE THIS ►



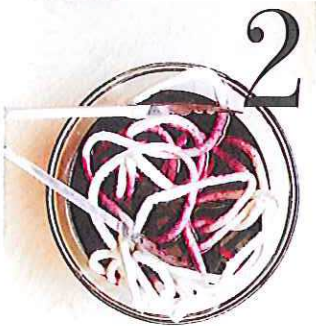
PHOTOGRAPHY: Elizabeth Lavin / WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY: Lucia Simek

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**AS AN ART CRITIC AND MOM,** I schlep my kids to a lot of museums and galleries. And though I know the exposure has built confidence in them about approaching art, I'll admit that there are also more than a few groans when I say, "Hey, guys. Let's check out some white-walled places where you can't touch anything or talk loudly!" So a couple of years ago, when the kids were grumping about doing another gallery walk-and-gawk, I devised a simple plan to keep things interesting. I outfitted them each with a notebook and pencil, took them to a sculpture show, and told them to find a work they wanted to re-create at home. We were going to pretend to be the artist they chose and make a miniature sculpture inspired by his or her work.



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Framing the museum trip in this way was a game-changer. The kids really looked at each sculpture and tried to figure out how it was made and how we, in turn, could make something like it ourselves. Since then, we've done a number of these "art imitation" projects, and, I daresay, it's made my kids—and me—more adept at looking and thinking about the art we encounter.

The best candidates for an art imitation are childlike in some way: playful, simply constructed, and timeless. The Irish-born,

London-based artist Eva Rothschild has a show this fall as part of the Nasher Sculpture Center's Sightings series; she's a perfect match for this kind of project. Rothschild's sculptures are light and airy, often made of simple dowel rods and rope or fabrics. The end products, conjuring notions ranging from twig houses and igloos to robots and exploding stars, imbue the spaces they occupy with a kind of geometric magic.

When I presented Rothschild's work in a coffee table book to my school-age daughters, they instantly began devising a plan for a little Rothschild-esque architectural structure of their own.

The supplies were easy to locate: square dowel rods, spray paint, and electrical tape. I also procured natural cotton rope and purple shades of fabric dye to color the rope and emulate Rothschild's swags of cord or leather. After we prepped the dowel rods with spray paint and added tape details, the kids constructed a simple teepee-like structure. We secured the top of the rods with electrical tape and wrapped it in the hand-dyed rope. The remainder of the rope dangled, giving the structure a very "Rothschild" animated but geometrically elegant vibe. The resulting piece feels like an affable little monument. —LUCIA SIMEK



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**FOLLOW YOUR ART:**  
(left to right) Felicity, Eva, Lucia, and Oliver Simek put the finishing touches on their sculpture. Special thanks to Oil and Cotton.

*The inspiration*

**ABOUT THE EXHIBIT**  
SIGHTINGS: EVA ROTHSCHILD  
NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER  
2001 FLORA STREET  
OCTOBER 20–JANUARY 20, 2013

