

# D Moms

\* PREMIERE ISSUE

CHANDRA NORTH

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

MOM CRUSH:  
FOUR WOMEN  
CHANGING  
THE CITY

THE ESSENTIAL  
MOM UNIFORM

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BEDROOM  
THAT INSPIRES

THE 84 COOLEST  
THINGS TO DO  
IN DALLAS WITH  
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# ENRICH

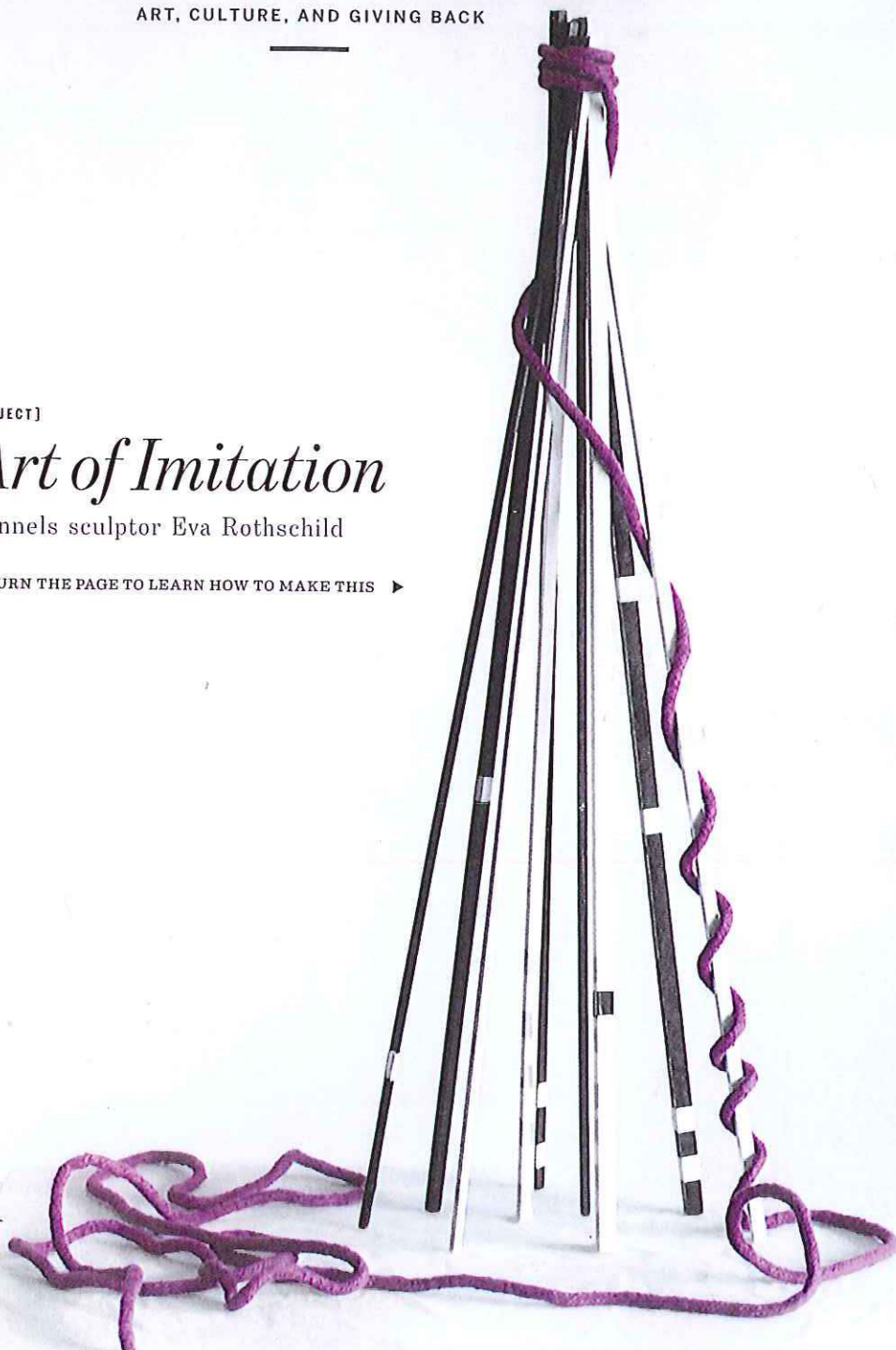
ART, CULTURE, AND GIVING BACK

[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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**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.

**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.

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,

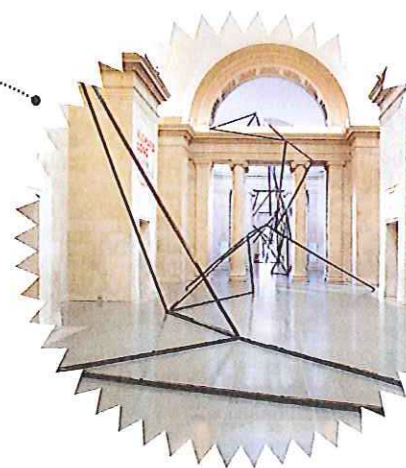
London-based artist Eva Rothschild has a show this fall as part of the Nasher Sculpture Center's Sightings series; she's a perfect match for this kind of project. Rothschild's sculptures are light and airy, often made of simple dowel rods and rope or fabrics. The end products, conjuring notions ranging 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

### The inspiration

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







## Make it!

**Prep** / Arrange dowel rods on a drop cloth and spray paint half white, half black. Let dry.

**Step1** / After rods have dried, cut a small piece of electrical tape and wrap it around the rods sparingly, using white tape on the black rods and black tape on the white rods.

**Step2** / To dye rope, fill a stockpot with hot water and add fabric dye powder. (We used wine and purple to make a beautiful mauve, but you can use whatever color combos you prefer.) Over medium heat bring water to a simmer. Add rope to the dye and let stand for 15-30 minutes, or until rope is dyed to desired depth of color. Remove rope with tongs and hang-dry outside over a tarp or bowl.

**Step3** / To make your dowel rod structure, arrange the rods any way you like, using the electrical tape to fasten each intersection. We went with the teepee shape, gathering all the rods in a cluster at the top, which was easy and allowed for a stable, tabletop sculpture.

**Step4** / After the rope has dried, tape the end piece down and coil it over the taped intersections on your sculpture. Keep in mind that Rothschild always allows some rope to dangle or gather in a pile, which gives the piece an animated, visceral mood.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO GET STARTED:

8-10 SQUARE DOWEL RODS IN  
VARYING WIDTHS (AVAILABLE IN  
THE MOLDING AND TRIM AISLE AT  
THE HOME DEPOT)

RIT FABRIC DYE (AVAILABLE AT  
JO-ANN FABRIC AND CRAFT OR  
ONLINE AT [RITDYE.COM](http://RITDYE.COM))

UNDYED COTTON ROPE (AVAILABLE  
IN THE UPHOLSTERY SECTION AT  
JO-ANN FABRIC AND CRAFT)

BLACK ELECTRICAL TAPE

WHITE ELECTRICAL TAPE

BLACK SPRAY PAINT

WHITE SPRAY PAINT