



◀ *The garden gnome with the felt hat turned out to be generous in its duties. Little by little the gnome's hair receded, and finally even the nose disappeared. The local squirrels had found an excellent nest building material. Finally, the twig body deteriorated and the gnome had reached the end of its journey. Even though it felt a bit sad to do, it was time to burn it. The old gnome gave still his wire to recycling and his ashes to the garden.*

About love for twigs

Years ago a birch twig course was arranged in my home village. In the shadow of an apple tree I made my first twig project, a shallow twig platter. The idea couldn't have been more simple, just twigs and wire. Working with twigs felt immediately appealing, and the result looked charming. It was love at first sight. There is something rewarding about working with birch twigs; the familiar smell, the earthy color, and the shape of the finished work. Many more twig works have been created since that first initial contact, and there is no end in sight.

Birch twigs are an excellent local material. Birches grow everywhere and are felled regularly. Twigs don't need to be bought; they are free from nature. Harvesting twigs is done either in autumn after the leaves have fallen or in early spring before the leaves have begun to bud.

I have held many birch twig courses, and it has been so rewarding to see excited students being swept away in the creative process. I have found interesting twig related chats on the Internet. But there is little

literature to found on working with twigs, and this why I wanted to collect and share my works in this book for others to enjoy and use.

In this book I show basic techniques with simple projects, followed by various interesting examples. I have used a lot of pictures to show different techniques and details and to try to convey a bit of the atmosphere during the working process. I especially enjoy the little stories at the end of the book about working together and creating together.

There is no right of wrong technique in working with twigs. The most important thing is for the chosen technique to lead to the desired results. Different techniques give your works different expressions. If you have never worked with twigs before, the instructions will help you get started. For those of you who are already familiar with this medium, this book can be a source of inspiration and new ideas. The generous amount of photographs in this book will take you on a fantastic journey into the world of creating with birch twigs.



The big hut was one of my first twig works.