



Aa for Artist



Bb for Barista



Cc for Chef







National *Cherry Blossom* Festival

We're excited to announce that the 2021 Festival will bloom this spring (March 20-April 11), with an innovative format that honors the tradition of the Festival, while prioritizing the health and safety of participants amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's Festival is designed to incorporate both virtual and personal experiences for everyone to enjoy this spring!

**WELCOME TO THE NATION'S
GREATEST SPRINGTIME CELEBRATION!**

The National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC, and celebrates the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. Today's Festival now spans four weeks and welcomes more than 1.5 million people to enjoy diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Events are primarily free and open to the public.







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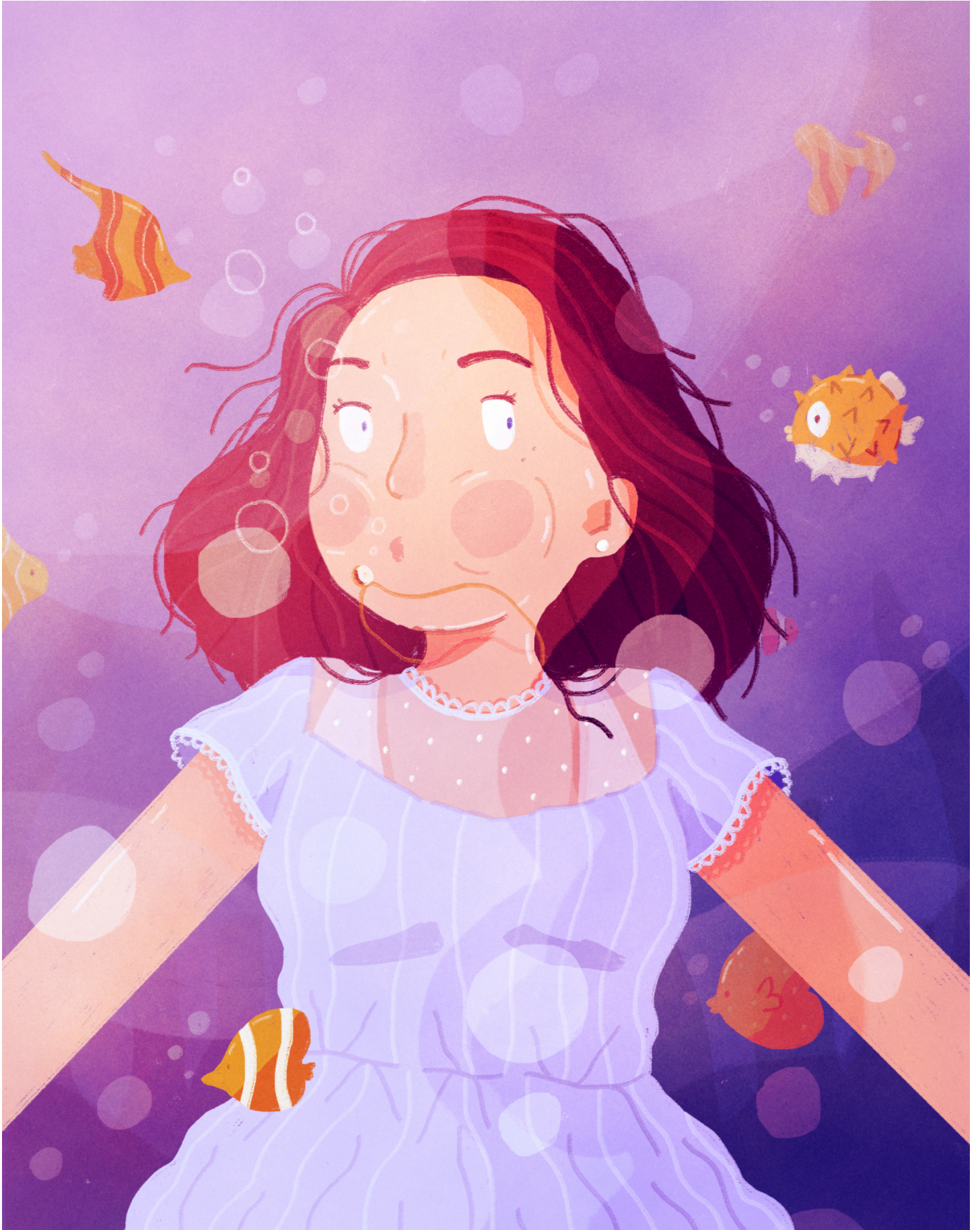






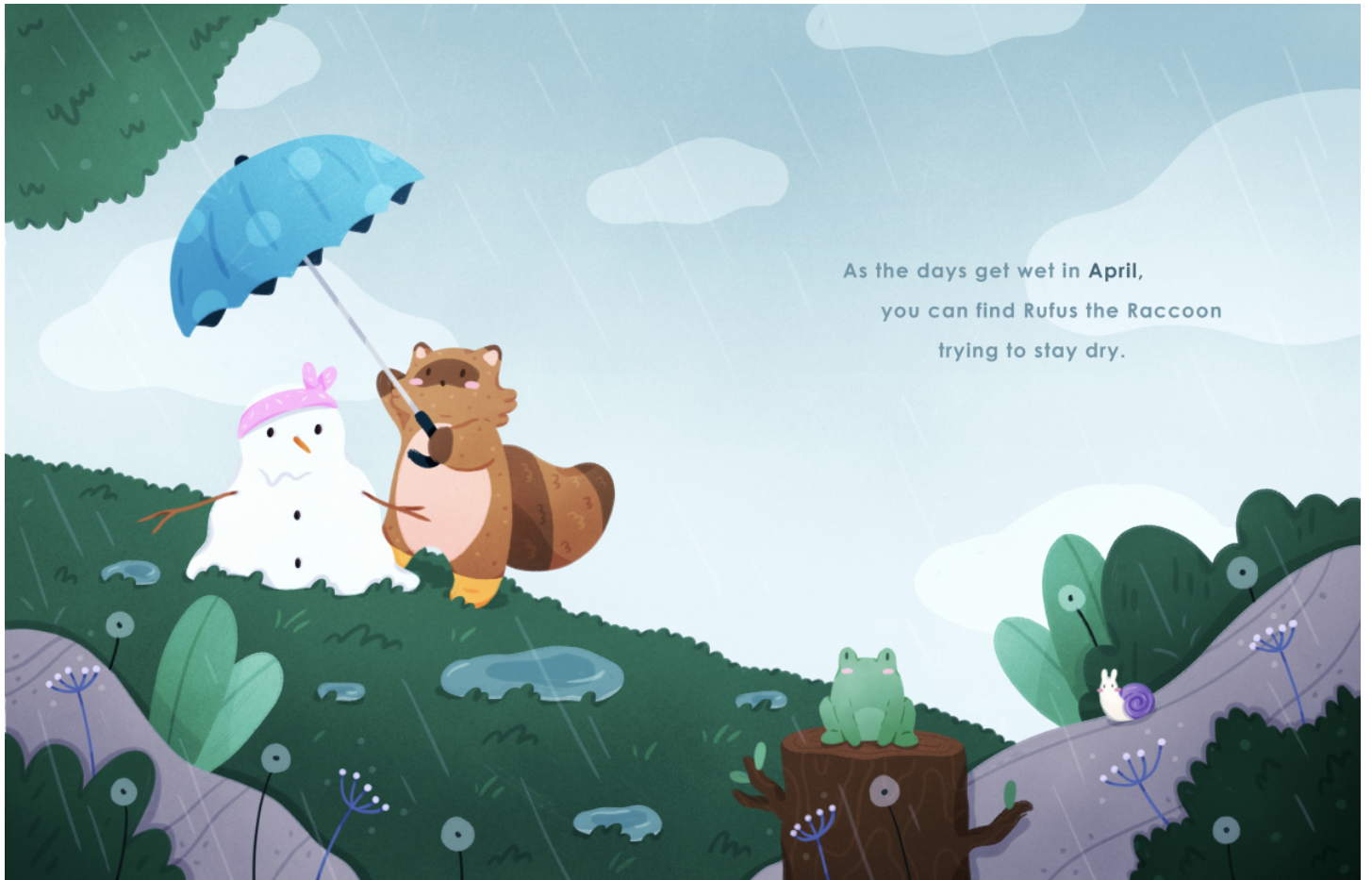
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As the days get wet in April,
you can find Rufus the Raccoon
trying to stay dry.





REDUCE, REUSE, REPAIR

OUR THROWAWAY CULTURE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GROWING MOUNTAIN OF WASTE BUT JENNY OLDAKER EXPLORES HOW A HOST COMMUNITY SCHEMES ARE LEADING THE CHARGE

We live in a world that was never designed to absorb indestructible waste. Today's disposable culture works against the cycles of nature, spawning an increase amount of unwanted stuff that's not going anywhere anytime soon. It's plainly an unsustainable model - and a perfect reason to train ourselves back into a mindset of treasuring our possessions, rather than viewing them as endlessly replaceable.

Luckily for us - an especially for the planet - this mentality is fast gaining ground, as ever more of us embrace a 'make, do and mend' philosophy that was the norm in the previous generations. This is backed up by a growing movement of grassroots projects, encouraging us to throw away less and look after what we have. From repair cafes to community lending programmes, many of us now live alongside local initiatives that can help us embrace a more sustainable way of life.

Meet you at the repair cafe An easy step to throwing away less is to repair rather than replace things we already own. If you've ever mended a hole in well-worn clothing or pieced together a precious item of broken pottery, you'll have a good idea just how satisfying it feels to give your possessions a new lease of life. However, many of us don't feel confident in our tinkering skills, which is where repair cafes and similar community mending initiatives come in. The repair cafe concept was started by Dutch journalist and environmentalist Martine Postma in 2009, and quickly snowballed, with examples now in action across the globe. The concept is simple: a group of volunteers comes together in a local space and people are invited to bring along their broken items to be fixed. The sharing of skills in this way has a fantastic range of benefits - and not just to the planet. Kate Jerrold is acutely aware of the broad positive impact of such projects. She started the Bristol Repair Cafe in 2012, after broken dishwasher started her wondering why there was no such scheme in her area, and realising that she could be the one to do something about it.





The Value of Style

by PT Staff

We live in a culture that constantly bombards us with inducements to buy, to accumulate stuff. But when it comes to clothes, no matter how full our closets are, we can often be heard to wail, "I have nothing to wear."



*"With style,
we stamp our personal identity
on an arrangement of things."*

That's because we often confuse fashion with style. Style is the ability to distinctively sort through the maze of things, make a selection and do so in a way that is in keeping with how we see ourselves. With style, we stamp our personal identity on an arrangement of things. And our closets always seem full of possibilities—it just depends on what aspect of our identity we want to make palpable in clothes that day.

Style is important, often undervalued because it is so widely misunderstood. Style is what we really want when we say we want to be fashionable. Style delights because it is always fresh, is a little ode to creativity and novelty. It gives a hint of personality, always a little excursion into self-expression. It is a reflection of your unique complexity as a human being.

More than anything, style is more than mere clothes. For one thing, it takes less in the way of clothes to express style than you might think. Style is a little excursion into self-expression through clothes. It is self-knowledge and self-confidence

expressed through what you choose to wear, a life-affirming expression of your character and spirit.

And for that reason, it always suggests that you are in control of your personal environment. That's one reason why it is an invaluable tool in moving through the world, whether the social world or the business world. It communicates that you are on top of things—the kind of person you want to have around for almost any task. Style, therefore, is persuasive all by itself, before you open your mouth or present credentials.

Fashion is in the clothes. Style is in the wearer. The distinction between fashion and style could not, therefore, be more important.







Fashion stuns. Style delights.
 Fashion costs. Style is priceless.
 Fashion is mindless. Style is intelligent.
 Fashion is fascistic. Style is individualistic.
 Fashion changes. Style evolves.
 Fashion is matter. Style is spirit.
 Fashion comes from outside. Style comes from within.
 Fashion is self-conscious. Style is self-assured.
 Fashion glares. Style glows.
 Fashion is slavery. Style is mastery.

Fashion is literal. Style is original.
 Fashion declares. Style insinuates.
 Fashion is serious. Style is ironic.
 Fashion is reproducible. Style is inimitable.
 Fashion is safety. Style is courage.
 Fashion is clothes. Style is character.
 Fashion is this minute. Style is forever.
 Fashion restricts. Style liberates.
 Fashion is rigid. Style is spontaneous.
 Fashion is surface. Style is substance.

"It is a reflection of your unique complexity as a human being."



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gardening

"The more that nature is left to its devices, the more benefits it can have."

Summer is firmly on the horizon, which means many of us are now thinking about sprucing up our gardens - especially since they will be such a prime location for socialising after a year of pandemic restrictions. And what could be better after months cooped up indoors than spending time in a bright and lively garden thrumming with wildlife, insects, and natural activity?

There are around 24 million gardens across the UK making up a combined area nearly four times the size of all of our national reserves put together, so we have a wonderful opportunity to help support British wildlife - something that's now more important than ever. "We have so much amazing wildlife in the UK, but research shows that some 44 per cent of species are on the decline," explains James Winder, programme coordinator at Naturehood, a community project working to reserve wildlife decline by connecting people with nature.

"This is a shocking statistic, but sadly one that doesn't come as a surprise when we consider that in the last century human activity has removed 97 per cent of our native wildflower meadows and around half a million ponds," he says. "Even our most-loved species are at risk, including hedgehogs which were categorised as 'vulnerable to extinction' in the UK in 2020."

Back to Nature

The good news is that reversing this worrying trend is really easy. "You can create a wildlife garden by simply leaving everything alone," says James. "The more that nature is left to its own devices, the more benefits it can have." But he acknowledges that a completely overrun garden isn't to everyone's taste: "It's really just about incorporating opportunities for food, water and shelter into your plans." He suggests spending time thinking about what you really want out of your garden before making any changes. "Do you want to see lots of birds? Or maybe you want to help support your dwindling pollinator population? Maybe you want to help hedgehogs travel safely," he says. "Any action - big or small - will have a great impact."

Creating a wildlife-friendly garden isn't just good for nature, either. Numerous studies have highlighted the positive impact spending time with nature can have on people's mental health and overall wellbeing. So before you pad down to the shed or head out to the garden centre, keep these suggestions in mind.



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