



LIZZIE BUCKMASTER DOVE

TAKING TIME OUT FOR THIS CELEBRATED MASTER OF PAPER ART INVOLVES WALKS ALONG A NEARBY BEACH, FUN WITH HER TWO SMALL BOYS AND ALL THE COMFORTS OF LOCAL CAFES

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London, Barcelona ... Coledale, NSW. After nine years abroad, artist Lizzie Buckmaster Dove has made her South Coast home a unique haven of art and design for her young family. A collection of artworks on the wall (opposite page), includes an antique eye box that commemorates the birth of son Wilkie, Nancy Anderson's *Barn Owl*, Lizzie's paper works, a framed butterfly and painted studio photos found at a Barcelona market. The 1950s AX chair underneath is by Peter Hvidt and Orla Mølgaard-Nielsen. "We love chairs, and detail our finds in our *Chair Book*," says Lizzie's husband Mike Dove. Behind Lizzie and three-year-old Wilkie (this page) is a wedding gift: a picture of London's Brockwell Park, by Ewan Cameron. →



a weekend with ...

Lizzie sits in her art-filled studio. The tower of map cubes (**this page**) and the bamboo-like artwork (**opposite page, centre top**) are for her next show. More of her creativity can be seen in Wilkie's bedroom (**opposite page, centre bottom**), while the ladder bookshelf (**opposite page, bottom right**) is from local second-hand shop Retro Wombat.



Even when Sydney is in the grip of a sweltering heatwave, the airy home of artist Lizzie Buckmaster Dove feels like the southerly buster just blew in. Tucked between the beach and bush, this quirky home showcases the paper artist's passions for nature, family and art.

After 10 years living in London, Barcelona and Sydney, Lizzie migrated to the south coast of NSW in 2007 with husband Mike Dove, an urban planner, and sons Max, six, and Wilkie, three. Coledale, their new hometown, is a seaside village beautifully located along the Grand Pacific Drive between Sydney and Wollongong. If James Bond ever visited the Illawarra, he might have taken the Aston Martin down this road, which cuts, Italian-Riviera style, between the surf beaches, the Royal National Park and a towering escarpment.

It's a spectacular piece of country that suits Lizzie. "My art is focused on nature, and I like to spend as much of my weekend outside as possible," she says. "I love to walk barefoot to the beach from the house, head south along the sand and get lost in the ocean view. When I turn around to go home, I'm bowled over to see the escarpment – every time. We love to swim in the Coledale sea pool, look for anemones and starfish on the rock platforms and watch the boys skim-board in the shallows."

When home, this family likes to play together, and the house is well-planned for such fun, with large living spaces that range across two floors. Paintings, photographs and sculptures give every wall and corner a focus for visual interest: for example, a collection of bone-china teacups dangles above the dining table, while paper birds and balloons fly out of artworks.

Works-in-progress fill Lizzie's studio, which is separated from her bed with a breezy white curtain; from her second-floor window, she can see waves break on the beach. It's a fitting →

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space for her art, which explores natural history (with her unique spin on colonial biologists' cataloguing) through precise and intricate paper-cut paintings, constructions and installations.

"I can hear the birds' constant chorus, and have a ringside seat for the migration of the whales," she says. "Mike gave me binoculars for Christmas; I can't wait for the next whale-watching season."

Weekends range from wandering up to the Coledale Markets with the family, to attending Thirroul Pilates Studio with just Mike. "It's our time-out. We give each other a little wink on the way round the circuit," laughs Lizzie.

"One of my favourite things on a Saturday morning is to walk to the local shops to buy the paper and get coffee, sometimes breakfast, at Coledale Cafe. It's the social hub of the town – one can never drink a coffee alone," says Lizzie. "We've found such a wonderful community here."

Bistro 345 is another dining favourite. "The boys can play outside or draw on the paper tablecloths with the crayons provided," she says. "The Sunday night tapas is particularly good."

Some weekends, Lizzie travels up to Sydney. "I like to check out what is happening in the art spaces southwest of the city centre. And, of course, my gallery NG Art (which also has a great restaurant, Mission)," she says. "Also, I love visiting the hub of bookshops on Oxford Street, Paddington, and losing hours in Gould's bookstore in Newtown."

In Coledale, Mike and Lizzie have found a place they can't imagine ever leaving. "Max asked me the other day, 'When are we moving again, Mum?'" Lizzie recalls. "He's only six but he's lived in three countries and six homes. It felt good to tell him, 'No, Maxie, we're staying this time.'" →

Danish chairs feature in the kitchen (above left) along with a still life by Nick Stathopoulos and an abstract canvas by Karoly Kesero. The artwork above the stacked Eames chairs is by Lizzie. On the deck (top), she plays with Max and Wilkie. (Above) Marita Fraser's *Love of Diagrams (Part 2)* adds a constellation of colourful dots to an all-white space. A painting by the same artist (opposite page) shows bright tones melting beyond the frame and sliding onto the wall. Beside it is a work of Lizzie's, featuring Mexican swatch cards. An orange recliner from the 1950s is placed next to a cane coffee table from an op shop in Bondi. "The Moo rug is from London, and I'm not sure what the doll head is all about," says Mike, "but Lizzie has collected a few of them."

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WHAT ARE YOU ...

DOING FOR DINNER? Having friends over for beef kebabs from Harvey's, the local gourmet butcher. I'll marinate some chicken wings and make a few salads. **PASSIONATE ABOUT?** So many things! Books, art, fabric, nature, my children ... **BUYING?** Lots of novels. I also just bought a beautifully kooky piece of art by Steven Vella – it has a cow's tail in it. **DOING TO RELAX?** Pilates and walking on the beach. I'm also into growing vegies, composting and worm farming. **DECORATING YOUR HOME WITH?** Mostly art. I like suspending things, and I'm thinking a lot about wallpaper. **LISTENING TO?** David Byrne's new album; Kasey Chambers and Shane Nicholson; Antony and the Johnsons. **PAMPERING YOURSELF WITH?** Jurlique products smell so divine and make you feel beautiful. **DOING WITH YOUR CHILDREN?** Skim-boarding on their boogie boards. Cutting, drawing and baking. Riding Wilkie to preschool on the back of my bike. Trying not to freak out when Max carefully cuts the vegies for dinner. *For more details about Lizzie Buckmaster Dove's artwork, visit Sydney's NG Art Gallery at www.ngart.com.au or Melbourne's Flinders Lane Gallery at www.flg.com.au. ❖*

"We feel so lucky to be able to walk to the beach," says Lizzie, who loves exploring Coledale's rock platforms with sons Max and Wilkie (**above and bottom left**). When she can drag herself off the beach, Lizzie likes to visit her Sydney gallery, NG Art (**below right**) and its downstairs restaurant, Mission (**below centre**). Favourite local dining haunts include Bistro 345 in Thirroul (**top left**), where the boys like to use the supplied crayons to draw all over the paper tablecloths, and Coledale Cafe (**left**), a buzzing social hub, which the family likes to visit on the weekends.

