

# SPIRIT OF SALVAGE

Here we salute the people, yards,  
products and places that make the  
UK salvage scene thrive

*'We love salvaging pieces of **timber and pallet wood** that most people wouldn't look twice at and turning it into **decorative and functional** items for the home. To know that our **creations are being loved** and appreciated when the wood could have gone to landfill is a wonderful feeling'* **Aaron and Zoe Lawn, Salvaged Norfolk on Etsy**



## A MINUTE WITH... JIM GREGORY AND JESSICA PENROSE OF FLEA CIRCUS

When Jim Gregory and Jessica Penrose met on the Newcastle vintage furniture scene, the idea for Flea Circus – a department store of independent sellers and creatives – was born. 'We wanted to create something fresher and more vibrant than the traditional antiques-centre model,' says Jim. 'We're blessed to have a wealth of independent businesses on our doorstep. It's what we bring to customers as a collective that makes Flea Circus work.'

With more than 35 local stockists, otherwise known as 'Fleas', Flea Circus

is a treasure trove. 'We have all sorts, including antique furniture and lighting, vintage clothes, hi-fi equipment and vinyl, "geek chic" and 80s electronics,' adds Jess. 'There's a book specialist, comic collector, soap maker and carpenter, plus ceramics, jewellery, original art and soft furnishings and mid-century glass too.'

Jim's own store, Etch Interiors, offers larger items like haberdashery counters and industrial lighting, while Jessica's Nothing New Interiors specialises in upcycled furniture.

○ [weareflea circus.com](http://weareflea circus.com)



Flea Circus brings together vintage sellers and creatives

Indian merchant's spice cart from the early 20th century, £395



## SPICE IT UP

Spotted at Reginald Ballum Decorative Antiques in Worthing, this reclaimed trader's cart would make a unique coffee table for homes with a rustic industrial-style interior scheme.

With large iron wheels, a zinc top and wooden shelf, it was apparently once used as a market spice stall – and would have been packed with sacks of fragrant, colourful spices. 'We think the era is circa early 1900s and that it originated from Rajasthan in India,' says a spokesperson from Reginald Ballum. 'It was once a spice stall, but the zinc top has been cleaned and polished, so there are no aromas left!'

Standing at 60cm tall, the cart could have a new life as a coffee table but could also be used in the kitchen, or as a stand for plants.

○ [reginaldballum.co.uk](http://reginaldballum.co.uk)



Mannakin stocks a range of salvaged mannequin body parts which are often used for art or upcycling projects



Second-hand mannequins are hired or sold for retail, display and events

## STILL LIFE

When Roz Edwards bought a mannequin in 2007 with £50 borrowed from her mum, she wondered if she could hire it out for cash. Bending the truth a fraction, she posted online that she had lots for hire – and was stunned by the response. 'Someone called saying they wanted eight in London the following week,' she said. 'I had to pretend I'd already loaned them, but when a TV producer from Trinny and Susannah's *What Not to Wear* called, I realised I was on to something.'

Roz collected mannequins until eventually she had enough to fill an 8,000-square-foot warehouse. Then a contact offered her 100 mannequins that were coming out of a shop – but that 100 became 20,000 which filled a two-acre yard in Lincolnshire where she now runs her business, Mannakin.

Roz hires out mannequins for events, photoshoots and to the film industry, as well as selling salvaged mannequins for upcycling and art projects. 'I'm passionate about reusing mannequins, otherwise they would go to landfill or into an incinerator,' she says. At Mannakin, they get another life.

○ [mannakin.com](http://mannakin.com)