

The Australian magazine for felting and more

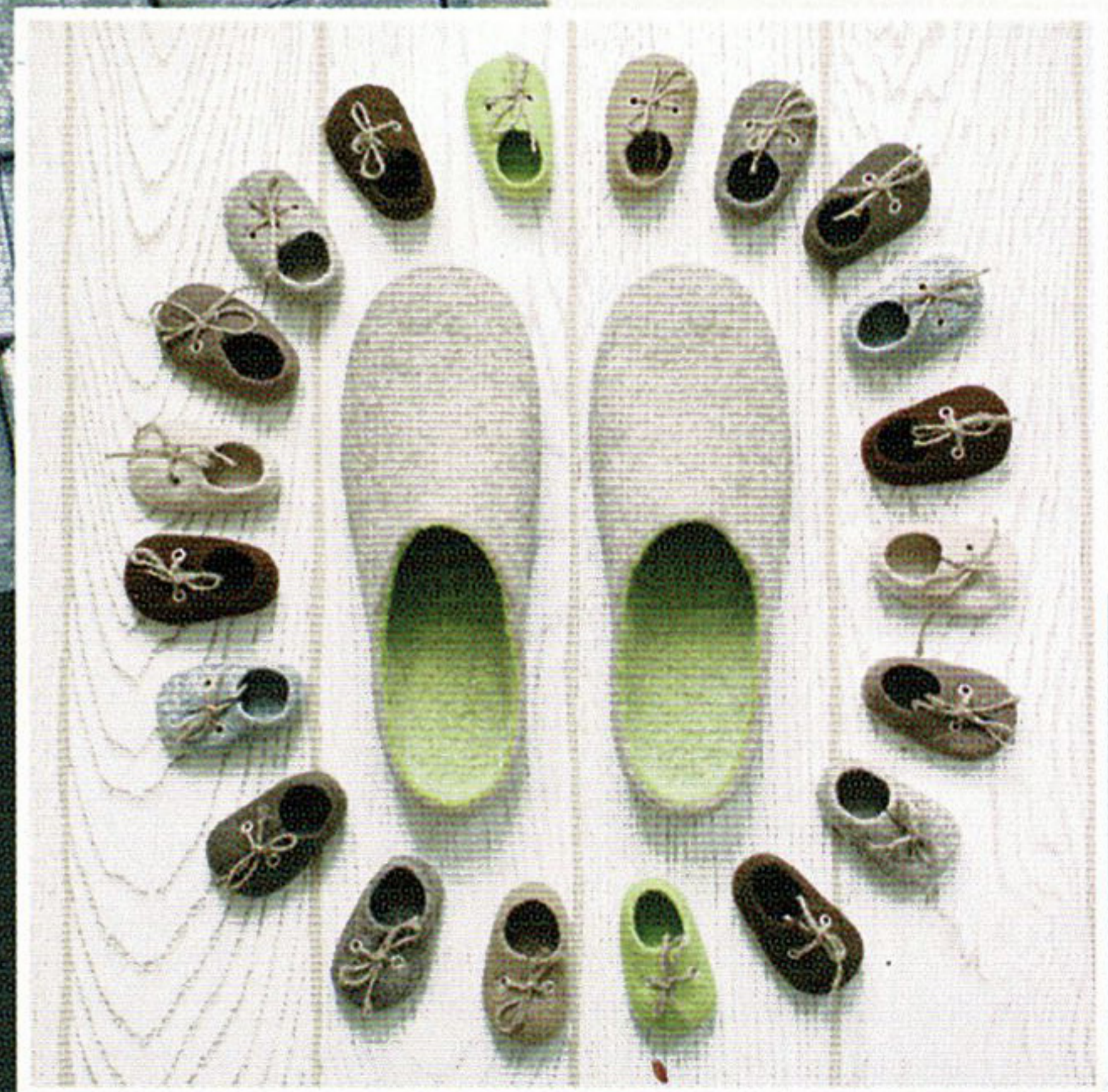
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# Felt®

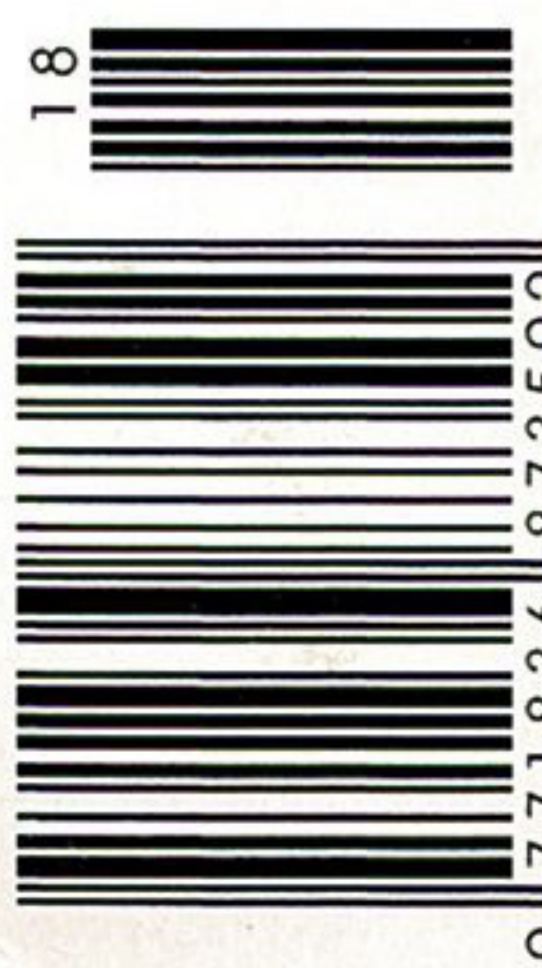


**FEATURING**  
FELT INSPIRED BY  
HOME & HEARTH

**INSIDE** Great projects and articles  
Inspirational feltmaker profiles  
Wet felting, needle felting & more!



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# In Focus

## Shoes, Slippers and Boots

Footwear refers to garments worn on the feet. Primarily it serves to protect us from the environment, to keep our feet safe and warm, but for most of human history it has also been a cultural and fashion statement. Our footwear speaks to who we are, the society we live in and how we would like others to see us.

Hand-felted footwear is warm, comfortable and very suited to wear throughout the year and around one's home; it fulfills both the practical and cultural requirements of satisfactory footwear. The admonition to 'walk a mile in someone's shoes' before judging them reminds us it is important to experience what another person experiences. Twisting that sentiment just slightly, in this article we profile a number of felt makers from the Northern Hemisphere who specialise in the making of shoes, slippers and boots, all of which would be a joy to wear!

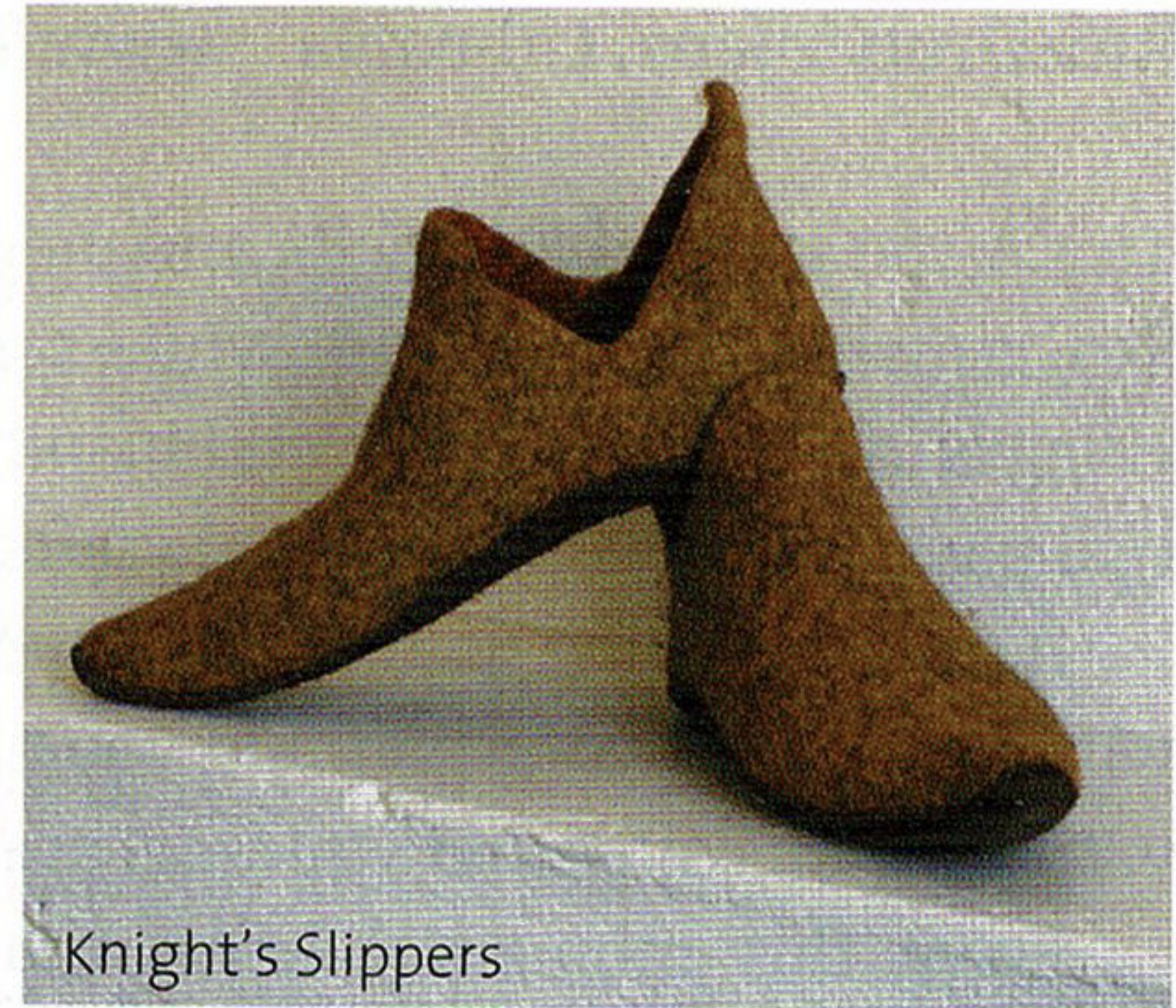
**Mette Østman** Odense, Denmark  
[www.metteoestman.dk](http://www.metteoestman.dk)

Making slippers was my introduction to felting in 1981. We only had access to a local, natural grey wool which was quite coarse, but the slippers were lovely and warm. Felt making has greatly expanded since then, with colourful merino and new techniques and it gradually became a bigger part of my life.

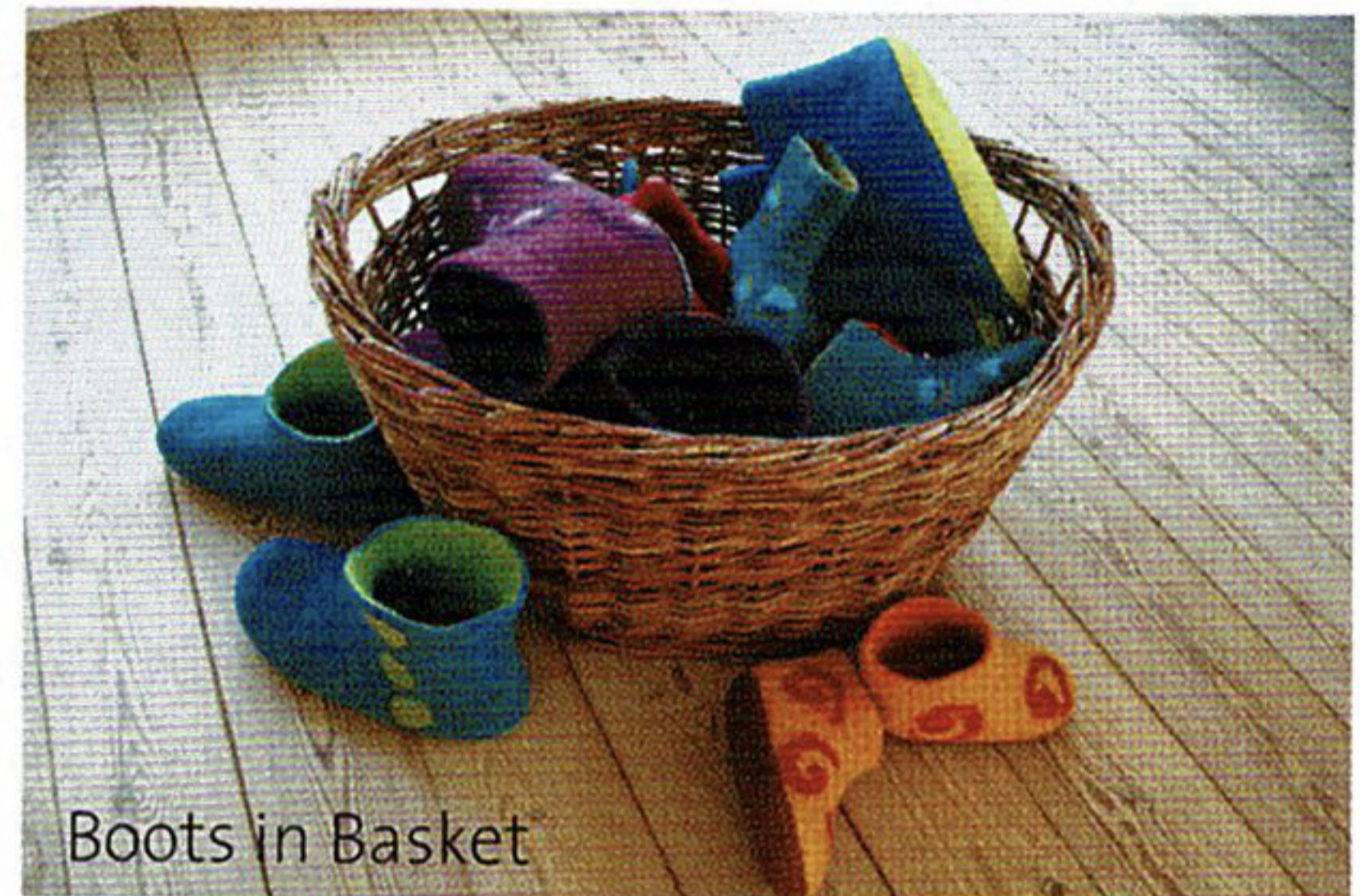
I have made many slippers for friends and family. For a while I also made them available for sale before switching to teaching others how to make them. That's much more fun and leaves the making of slippers open to new inspiration in the classes. In addition, I wrote a book titled *Felted Boot Slippers – a Thorough Guide*.

I am fascinated by the versatile possibilities offered by wool and felting and now I use the craft for creating functional accessories, decorative objects and art pieces. I make lamps and bags, cushions and felted rocks.

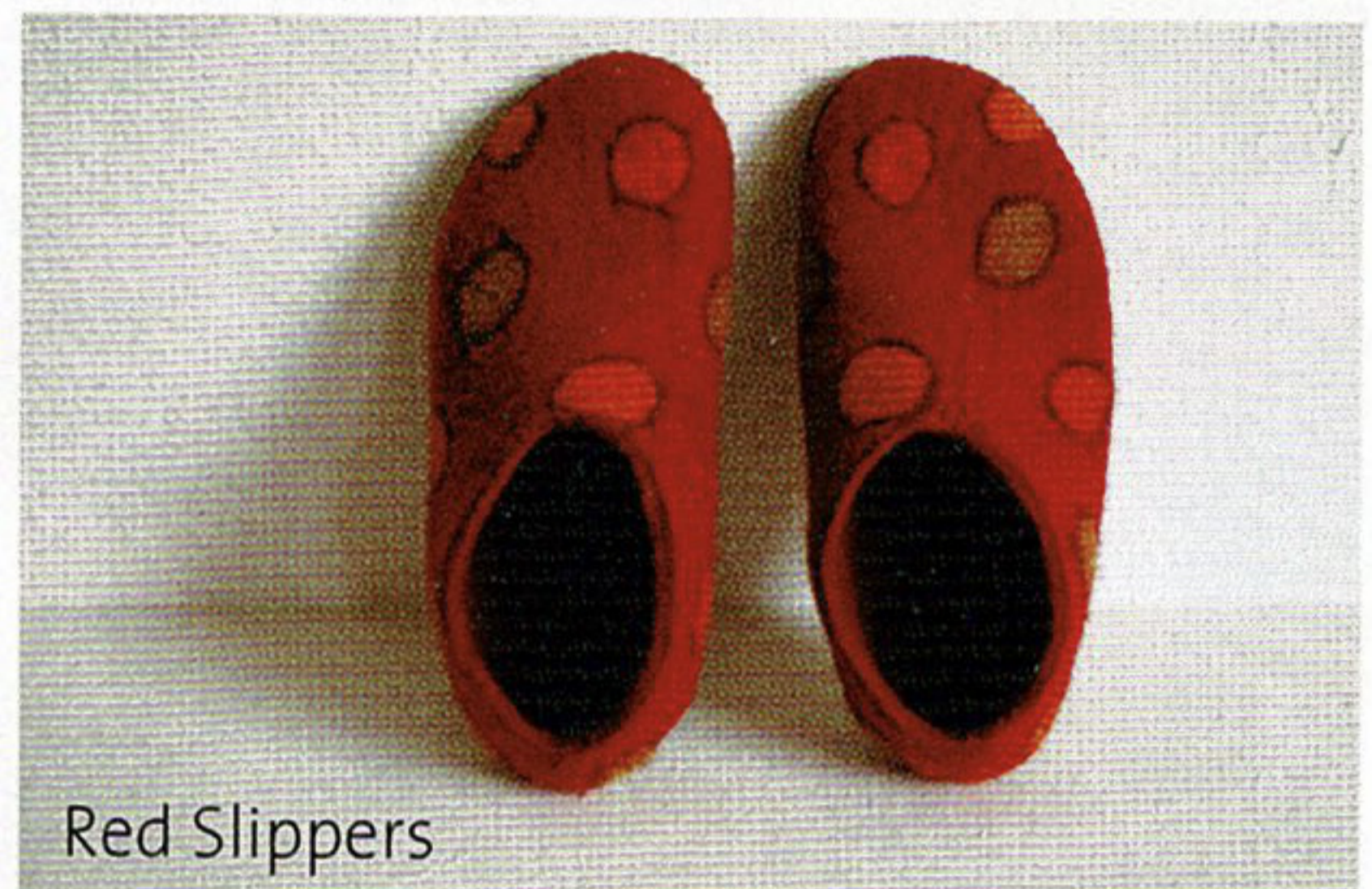
An ongoing fascination is the felting of vessels. The mixing of the colours, the shaping and experimenting with the fibres continues to interest me and led me to write another book, *Felted Vessels*



Knight's Slippers



Boots in Basket



Red Slippers

- Basic Design with Wool Fibres. Both are available through my website.

I am thrilled to teach felt making classes, to witness students' creativity and their joy when they realise the magic of felt.

All images by Mette Østman

**Natalya Brashovetska**, Cyprus  
[www.facebook.com/GriNatbags](https://www.facebook.com/GriNatbags)

I was born in Ukraine but for over 15 years I have lived in Cyprus. For me, felt making is much more than a hobby; it forms a major part of my life and occupies nearly all my free time alongside my intensive job as a medical theatre nurse. Making felt helps me to alleviate work-related stress and I get to connect with many talented feltmakers worldwide. Being largely self-taught, I fine-tuned my skills by attending master classes. From there I developed my own style and techniques that I now teach throughout Europe (and Australia in 2017).

My speciality lies in designing



and making functional and durable footwear, including orthopaedic shoes. I also create matching bags and scarves. Quality is paramount for me. Hand-felted shoes must be very durable; it relies on being not only a good craftsperson and felt maker, but also a good shoe maker. These are the techniques I teach so that students can create their own distinctive shoes.

