

Creating Magic at *Rose Mille*

*Story by Debbykay Peterson
Photography collection of Michelle Rose Jorgensen*

The magic begins with an inspiration la— a kernel of an idea — and then it takes root, grows and blooms into a uniquely created object d’art, amazing home décor or a vintage-inspired accessory. The kernel may have taken root from the generous spools of gorgeous French silk ribbon, canisters of shimmering German glass glitter, vintage linen, glass buttons, or dreamy silk and velvet millinery from around the world. Inspiration abounds from a multitude of quality French vintage items, shabby chic garden décor, fine home furnishings and one-of-a kind treasures that are displayed just past the stately white-columned entrance to Rose Mille.

Nestled in the heart of the historic river town with majestic wooded bluffs in the foreground and the St. Croix River in the background, proprietor and designer Michelle Rose Jorgensen provides gracious inspiration to patrons that help them create their own magic to beautify their lives and homes. The 1887 shop still features the original brick walls and wood floors. The storefront was once home to a well-loved, old-fashioned neighborhood hardware store — Thompson Hardware — where anything and everything could be found for any number of projects “in a bin around the corner ... just past the collection of every nut and bolt imaginable,” recalls Diane Thompson, retired owner of Thompson Hardware. Similar sentiments can be said of Rose Mille.

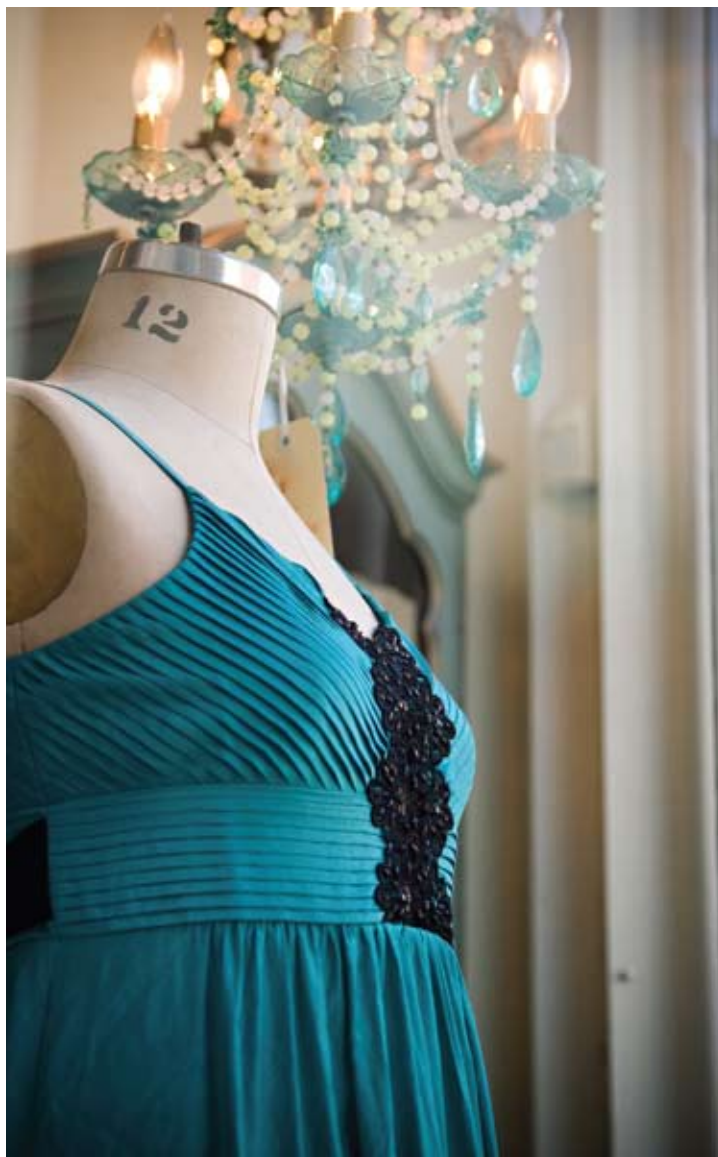




Though unrelated to the historic building's predecessor, the entrepreneurial principles of creating, problem solving and serving as a resource to others prevails at Rose Mille. Hanging in a glitter garland above the antique glass transom entrance to the craft room are the words, "Create Your Own Magic." Michelle's experience as a well-versed craft and millinery instructor and designer draws out the creativity that lies within those that are seeking help with an idea or project. The craft room contains materials not found in most locales. Michelle, with a keen eye, carefully selects her products and materials with her patrons' interests in mind, while keeping slightly ahead of what is emerging as fashionable and fresh.

Everyone who has a passion for ephemera will find vintage sheet music, paper scraps and German Dresden paper for creating heirloom decorations, scrapbooks and other treasures. Dozens of tiny drawers in one corner cupboard are filled with miniature ribbons, sparkling baubles, chandelier crystals, cabochons, and vintage glass fruit nearly real enough to eat. The drawers are pulled partially open to beckon a peek inside for ideas that lie within. A lavish abundance of quality lawn, homespun, gingham and oil cloth yardages are neatly tucked on antique shelving along the side of one wall. The possibilities are endless with the new-old stock fabrics and other vintage laces, embroideries and trims lovingly selvedge and creatively displayed in amazing ways to dazzle the senses. Creative souls will find it difficult — if not impossible — to resist lingering for hours in the craft room and throughout the rest of the shop.





The front of the shop houses an ever-changing display of unique designer fashions and accessories — most inspired by vintage fabrics or styles. Much of the one-of-a-kind hats, handbags and other accessories are designed by Michelle and include vintage millinery, such as silk flowers, red glass cherries, feathers and spun cotton fruit. Michelle has a passion for millinery and has created custom hats and head pieces for weddings and special events using one of the antique wood hat molds from her vast collection. Even though Michelle doesn't make as many hats as she once did, she is deeply passionate and knowledgeable about using millinery pieces in highly fashionable and creative ways.

Those making a journey to the lumberjack river town will not be disappointed in the breadth of materials artistically assembled in awe-inspiring displays. Since much of the inventory is artist designed or created from one-of-a-kind finds, it is ever changing — new magic is uncovered each time a visit is made to Rose Mille. Rose Mille is a special place where all are welcomed to find and create their own magic and beauty in their own lives. Those who venture through the magical doors will find that their creativity will bloom in new ways — ways usually only found in dreams. ~

Rose Mille is located along the St. Croix River in historic Stillwater, Minnesota. To window shop for inspiring craft materials, vintage-inspired designs, fine home furnishings and classes, visit www.rosemille.com. Proprietor, Michelle Rose Jorgensen welcomes e-mails at info@rosemille.com.

Debby Kay Peterson is a writer and photographer who lives in Afton, Minnesota. She invites you to visit her gardens and creative work at www.rosecottagegardensandfarm.com. She welcomes e-mails at rosecottagegardensandfarm@gmail.com.

Inspired Call

If there is a locale of intrigue that you think ought to be featured in future issues of *Somerset Life*, we'd love to hear from you. Please follow Submission Guidelines found in this issue of *Somerset Life* and send low-res images of your favorite locale of intrigue via e-mail to the Editor-in-Chief. If selected, you will be asked to furnish hi-res images (300 dpi at 8" x 10") that are suitable for publication.

