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A box is a universal item, but despite the fact that it is essentially a practical item, it doesn't take much to make a box work. So, making boxes affords a great deal of freedom of expression to the maker, and love and care are required to create a box that is truly special. I use a lot of veneers, and try to search out the unusual—the veneer used to create “Lava” is certainly exceptional and I believe contributes to making this a unique piece.

Natural timber has its own beauty, of course, but vibrant paint box colours hold a child-like appeal for me and I often use pre-dyed veneers to contrast with natural, light woods such as sycamore, maple, and birch. As Ann Louise Bang once said: “I love traditions and I love to challenge them.” I find this to be a healthy attitude—like good folk music, the way forward is always a blend of past, present, future...and magic. The results of my work are neither traditional nor radical—I endeavor to blend past and present practices whilst still nudging a barrier or two.

