

The Classy Rat Newsletter

November 2019

A word from *Classy*...

Wow! I can't believe it's already November. I don't know about you, but I'm still not sick of butternut-squash-spice, the Rat Dimension's preferred fall flavor. I enjoy it in my coffee, tea, cookies, and yes.. I have a favorite bbqsauce: MonsterRats's butternut-squash-spice bbq sauce which goes great on ribs, breads, fruits, and other meats. Don't squeak it till you try it!

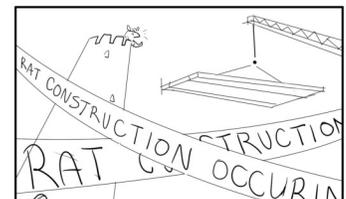


Now we all know Ratsgiving is just around the corner. Every rat and their uncle is dreaming up recipes, seating arrangements, and debate topics. Tails are beginning to fly in all different direction as we hustle to prepare. But wait! What are we doing? Don't forget the most important bit of the holiday: the literal centerpiece arrangement that goes in the center of the nest while grandma Fuzzball and Aunt Lola fight over the mashed pumpkin fritters!

In old days, it was just a clump of lint and trash that we rats couldn't find a better place for as we passed food around. But, it's slowly evolved over time to become a good opportunity for a classy decoration. Keep on reading to find some ideas for making your own Ratsgiving centerpiece, as well as some store-bought brands I recommend.

Things are underway with my Chairatty: Crumbs for Class. Since August, the students of Academy Rattus, as well as three other institutions across the galaxy are attending different schools while new facilities are being constructed. My team and I are documenting the process for a later episode of The Classy Files. I can't wait till next year, when the students get to twitch their whiskers in excitement after seeing their new school!

Have a good November!
Classy



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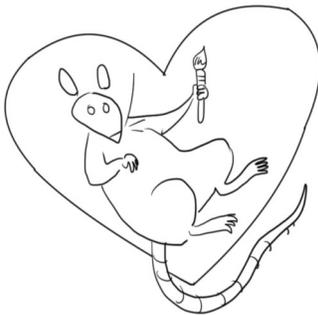
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Classy Rartist: Rat Friends



Rat Friends is a rat artist creating adorable clean line rat illustrations, stickers, and enamel pins. They also do pet portraits of rats and non-rats alike.

<http://Instagram.com/ratfrens>

Classy Rat Of The Month

Rasputin is a biomedical engineering student at California Polytechnic State University. He lives in the dorms and is known for his quirky, relaxed personality, and the pineapple he often sleeps in. When Rasputin is not studying, he enjoys exploring campus, traveling to scenic areas, playing piano, crochet, and cosplay.

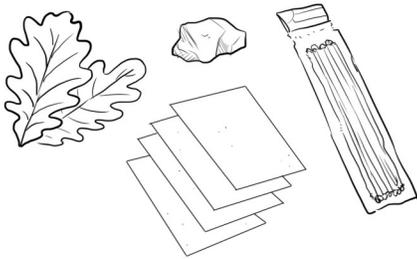
<http://Instagram.com/rasputintherat>



Classy Ratsgiving Centerpieces *your whole rat pack will ogle*

It's time to decorate the nest for you annual Ratsgiving Feast! Cooking is underway, guests have RSVP'd. You've got chairs and pillows set in a circle, a fog machine set to random, and your stereo is playing your favorite album of clicking sounds. But, the center of the room is looking real bare! Especially while it seems like everything is pointing towards it. You need a centerpiece.

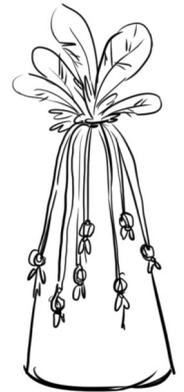
1. Royal Rat Flush



To make this centerpiece, you need 4 sheets of red and gold construction paper, tape, pipecleaners, a medium size rock, and some leaves from a big tree. Cut the construction paper into 1-1.5inch thick strips length wise. Take one strip, preferably a golden one, and tape it in a loop. Place the loop in the center of the room and put the rock in the middle of it. Then take two more strips of construction paper and tape them in bisecting arches over the rock, taking care to tape to the inside of the loop, and not the outside. Poke holes in the sides of the first loop and fasten them with pipe cleaners. Use as many as you like. Ta da! Now you have the Royal Rat Flush.

2. Pigeon-Feather Flourish

Collect 5-6 pigeon feathers, preferably after they have already fallen off the pigeon. Remember, it is a crime to take feathers from a pigeon without asking. You will also need 3-4 sheets of construction paper, a bit of string, tape, and a rock. While positioning the paper lengthwise, cut a slit halfway through. Then role the paper into a cone of your favored proportions and tape. Stick the pigeon feathers in the center of the cone however you would like. Cut 4-6 pieces of string to match the height of the cone. Tie them around the pebbles and hang them fro the top of the cone using tape or by tucking them into the top of the cone (you may want to do this before you add the feathers. And there you have it! The Pigeon-Feather Flourish.



3. Butternut-Squash-Spice Potpourri



You will need a container of butternut squash spice, some duct tape, a mess of twigs and dead leaves, and a dried gourd. Take the twigs and neatly organize them in the center of the room in a circle. Then place the dead leaves on top of the sticks in a small nest, as if for a fairy. Place the gourd down on the leaves, along with the sprigs of pine needles and other fragrant leaves. Cut the pieces of duct tape into interesting shapes and lay them sticky side up in various places on the arrangement, perhaps on top of the gourd or among-st the leaves. Then, finally take your butter-nut-squash-spice shaker and shake it all over the whole arrangement.

Store-bought Centerpieces

1. Classy Traditions Ratsgiving Centerpiece kit



Because we all lead such busy lives, I understand how hard it is to get to the little stuff. So, I created a couple different instructional kits for centerpiece construction, all based on the styles outlined above! All you need to do is walk in to a rat store near you, or even order online and we'll send you a kit. Using one of my centerpieces is sure to be a huge conversation point during your Ratsgiving meal, and think of all the family fun that could come with taking the couple of minutes while setting up for the meal to decorate the center of the room. New Classy Traditions could be born!

2. Mark Of The Rat Holiday Nest Accent Collection

I also recommend products from Mark of Rat when thinking about Ratsgiving décor. When I am not creating my own home decorations for the season, I ask my friend, Mark Ratfellow to design for me. Now, Mark and I get along swimmingly, and that's because he used to work for me and knows what's Classy. You won't find any butternut-squash spice products better than his (because he learned from the best, yours truly). Mark also has made sure that all his materials are 100% eco friendly and sustainable, meaning that no nebulas, constellations, or solar systems were harmed in the process of getting to your Ratsgiving table. Decorate for the holidays, knowing that your choices are helping the Vermin Galaxy, as well as the Greater Rat Dimension keep it together.



Mark Of The Rat

Ratoscopes

Greetings readers. This is our second month doing the ratoscopes. Please, enjoy your monthly glimpse into the mind of the void rat.

-Moog



1. (January) **Ginger:** You awake in the middle of the day. The sound of rumbling above you. You will be troubled by grave nightmares of walking vegetables. In your dream, they take the place of everyone you love. Nothing bad will happen in real life, but you will have a sense of unease. Avoid eating too many vegetables this month.



2. (February) **Garlic:** Less is more. When constructing your nest, do not feel tempted to add extra material. You and your pack will get better rest if you keep things at the bare minimum. If you find a purple textile, add that to your nest this month.



3. (March) **Chives:** You're doing a great job at work. All of your coworkers think so too, and so does the void rat. Take the time this month to relax and celebrate your life as a rat.



4. (*April*) **Watercress:** Avoid spongy ground when exploring.



5. (*May*) **Dandelion:** Listen to the voles. This month, they will have the best judgment as to what you should do.



6. (*June*) **Blackberry:** Look forward to extra crumbs around the 7-8th of this month! Wedges if you're lucky, but enough to buy yourself an extra pair of ear muffs for the cold, which you will need when you hide outside the nest for two hours waiting for the salesrat to go away.



7. (*July*) **Melon:** You're about to make some new friends, open up to them about what's important to you: chess and restaurant condiments.



8. (*August*) **Lemon:** Be cautious of pigeons this month, as there may be plenty of pigeon officers who are ruffled. The void rat didn't give me too much information, but know that this will be in the news.



9. (*September*) **Apricots:** After the dough has been thoroughly rolled to a thickness of no more than 14mm, tuck it into the bottom of your oiled baking pan. Add the mixture of butternut-squash and walnuts into the center of the pan and spread around until even. Then take your second crust and place on top, carefully pinching the edges of the crust together so as to seal in the filling. Take care to poke holes in the center of the pie in order to provide proper ventilation.



10. (*October*) **Squash:** Don't jump farther than you can see this month. You may miss the shelf and land in a pile of someone's laundry.



11. (*November*) **Turnip:** Pay attention to your normal commute. You may be used to things, but they are ever fluctuating. Don't miss out!



12. (*December*) **Potato:** Share your food with strangers this month. Be humble and allow them to take an extra portion, or even take the food that you have already bitten. Your generosity and patience will be rewarded sufficiently in crumbs and wedges.

AskClassy

Need some advice? Classy can help with that!

AskTheClassRat@gmail.com

Dear Classy,

I'm really inspired by your chairatable acts, but I sometimes wonder if you're just doing it for the publicity. I know this isn't so much advice as it is a question for you personally, Classy. But, have you ever thought of digging deeper?

TheRealRatvocate

Dear TheRealRatvocate

While I'm a little hurt that you would question my dedication to the causes which I support, I understand why you might feel that way. When your entire life is built up to be a brand as influential and fabulous as mine, people will always correlate your actions with the profits you make. Honestly, some rats are just jealous. Often when I get critiqued about my chairatable actions, it turns out that the other rat isn't doing as much good as I am by a long shot. So, maybe *you* need to dig deeper, TheRealRatvocate. Look at yourself first, before worrying about all the stars and their movements

Classy

Dear Classy

My daughter has recently become very interested in becoming a RaTv star. How can I convince her that this isn't a viable career path for her to pursue?

RatParenting

Dear RatParenting

Give her more options! Rats can only envision what they've seen, so of course she's going to want to be a celebrattie like yours truly. What I will warn you about, is to avoid picking a career for her, as I know from experience that when my mom tried doing that for me, I totally rebelled. Just make sure she knows her options. It can be hard to avoid societies broader stigmas, of course. For example, rats are often dissuaded from becoming food-handlers due to our bad reputations. But, even that's starting to change! Just look at Pizza Rat! If you're totally lost and need some more ideas, check out the rat-pups section at your local bookstore for some popular titles on careers for young rats to think about.

Classy



(c) Jo Schramer AKA Rats Jo 2019

@RatsJo

Ratdimension.com