

Creative Business Maven

MARKETING

TIPS
THAT WON'T COST
YOU A DIME

UP CLOSE &
PERSONAL

with

BRENNA ALEX

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW

INTRODUCING

HANNAH PRITCHARD
THE OWNER OF

LOVELY LITTLES
AND CO.

33 HANDMADE

GIFTS

FOR THE ONES YOU LOVE

VOLUME I 1st
February 2016

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LET US KNOW
WHAT YOU
THINK!
EMAIL LINDSAY OR USE
#MAVEN

Editor's *NOTE*

Creative Business Maven, powered by Royal Blue Studio, is the go-to resource for hand-made entrepreneurs who are seeking the best, wholesome methods for their business and lifestyle so they can stand out and create strong, long-lasting brands.

Welcome to this space. I cannot put into words how excited I am about this lovely magazine. Creative Business Maven was created to give handmade businesses another way to show off their wonderful products. I think, in this day and age, people seem to forget there is a face behind a handmade item.

There is a mom who busts her butt every day managing her online orders, shopping for supplies, creating new products, taking photographs of the product, marketing it, and then shipping it.

We forget about all of this because it is so easy to hop onto someone's website, find what you need, add to cart, and pay. We forget that there is a woman behind this page doing all of these things. Just to get this special item to you. We forget that she probably has a husband, a house to clean, possibly another job on the side, kids to take care of, lunches and dinners to make, and a business to run.

This issue is dedicated to the women who dedicate themselves to their handmade business. I want them to know that their work is priceless and I don't want that to go unnoticed.

Several handmade businesses are featured in this issue. The special thing about this digital magazine is if you see something you like (and I know you will) you are able to click on that item and be taken directly to the seller's shop. Show your support for the magazine and the handmade mavens by visiting our group on Facebook (mavenmag) or follow me on Instagram (royal.blue.studio).

Lindsay Maloney
Editor



Hi, I'm Lindsay. I am the owner of Royal Blue Studio and the creator of Creative Business Maven magazine. I am a business consultant for handmade artisans. I help creatives and makers learn the tools and strategies they need to grow their craft business online, acquire new customers, and build their handmade empire. I would love to work with you and show you how it's done so let's set up a time to talk.

Maven Business

Marketing Tips That Won't Cost You a Dime

With so much information at our fingertips and an abundance of expert advice (and not so much “expert” advice) it is harder than ever to know which way and which person to listen to. So what do you do? Most of the super dorky girls, like me, listen to everyone and anything they can get their hands on. They buy books, listen to podcasts, download and read PDF's, and take a bajillion notes. And then they sit back, all proud, and say to themselves, “wow I'm really on a role here. Look at all of the notes I've taken. Look at all of the to-lists I created.” And then they call it a day and download they're 10 podcasts to listen to tomorrow.

Now don't get me wrong. You need to arm yourself with knowledge. Because you kind of need to know what you're doing as a business owner. An obvious point. I know. But when do you stop? You're never going to know everything. It's not possible. Online marketing strategies and social media changes all. Of. The. Time. And you're never going to truly learn what works for you until you start testing the waters yourself and then finding someone who knows exactly what they're doing. Someone who can guide you and your business through these stages with your business and goals in mind.

Marketing doesn't sound sexy. Maybe to some people. But to most, it brings about a confused facial expression. And some people say to me, “I don't really market my products. I just sell on Etsy and promote my products in Facebook groups.” That makes me want to cringe and scream a little. ESPECIALLY when I go to their shop site and everything they make is so fricken gorgeous I wish I was rich so I could buy everything they make.

Alot of the marketing techniques out their always have a catch. They cost money. And usually it's alot. Well most small business owners are pretty stingy with their hard earned dollars and I think that's why so many of them struggle in this terrain.

It's time you start running your business like a high-end boutique. You may be thinking, “umm, but I'm not.” That just doesn't matter. What you want is for people to perceive you as one. Because that's all that matters. Eventually you will literally become your idea of a high-end boutique.

So get yourself into that mind-set and let's dive into these marketing tips that you can use for your business that won't cost you a dime.



The three tools we are going to be utilizing are Pinterest, Instagram, and Periscope.

Most people are utilizing Pinterest to pin recipes, cute clothes, DIY projects, and quotes. But I want you to be using it for your business. Google loves Pinterest. And I want to make sure, that when people are Googling a keyword that goes with your product they are brought to your Pinterest board.

Let's say you sell wedding jewelry. You need to have a board (possibly several) for people to view and then pin. You could have boards titled with your keywords that you found in Google Keyword Planner. For example: Bridal jewelry, bridesmaid jewelry, flower girl jewelry, or mother of the bride jewelry. And then to make it extra special, be sure to put a keyword rich description for each board and photo that will lead the pinner directly to your shop for purchasing.

What about Instagram? Most of you are using Instagram for your business by posting photos of your products. I want you to take it a step further and utilize the Instagram explore tab. This tab is going to show you a mix of things. But the more you network on Instagram the more this explore tab will be filled with your dream shopper. This area is constantly updating. Soon it will be full of posts from people who seem like your long last best friend. Looking for help from you.

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Maven Business

Marketing Tips That Won't Cost You a Dime

Hashtag research is another great way to communicate with your dream shopper. We want to learn the language she is using. You want to solve a problem for her. Let's pretend we have a vegan skincare line. What problem does your skincare line solve? It could be acne, large pores, or dry skin. Search these hashtags and what other tags they are using. Write those down and use them in all of your posts. So when they're searching Instagram they will see you and your product.

Last, but not least, is the newbie on the block. Periscope. This will get you completely out of your comfort zone and will allow you to put a face to your brand. This is a live streaming application that lets viewers watch you as if you have your own TV show.

The videos are only up for 24 hours and then poof! They're gone. There are so many ways you could utilize this platform and so many reasons why. It's pretty hot how and I say it's best to jump in on something when it's new so you can get settled and build yourself up.

Some broadcast ideas would be explaining or doing a demo of your product, talk about the ingredients or techniques you use to make your product, provide tips on how to use your product, and promote your product as a commercial would. Be creative with it. The more you do it, the more comfortable and exciting it will be.



10 Periscope Broadcast Ideas

- #1 How your business started
- #2 Your daily work routine
- #3 Product sale
- #4 Favorite book
- #5 Review a product
- #6 Q&A session
- #7 Business Tips
- #8 Tutorial
- #9 Promote another business
- #10 Organization tips

Lindsay Maloney
CEO & Founder of Royal Blue Studio
Editor of Creative Business Maven

For more tips and tricks like this follow Lindsay on [Instagram](#).

[Schedule a free one-on-one session with Lindsay.](#)

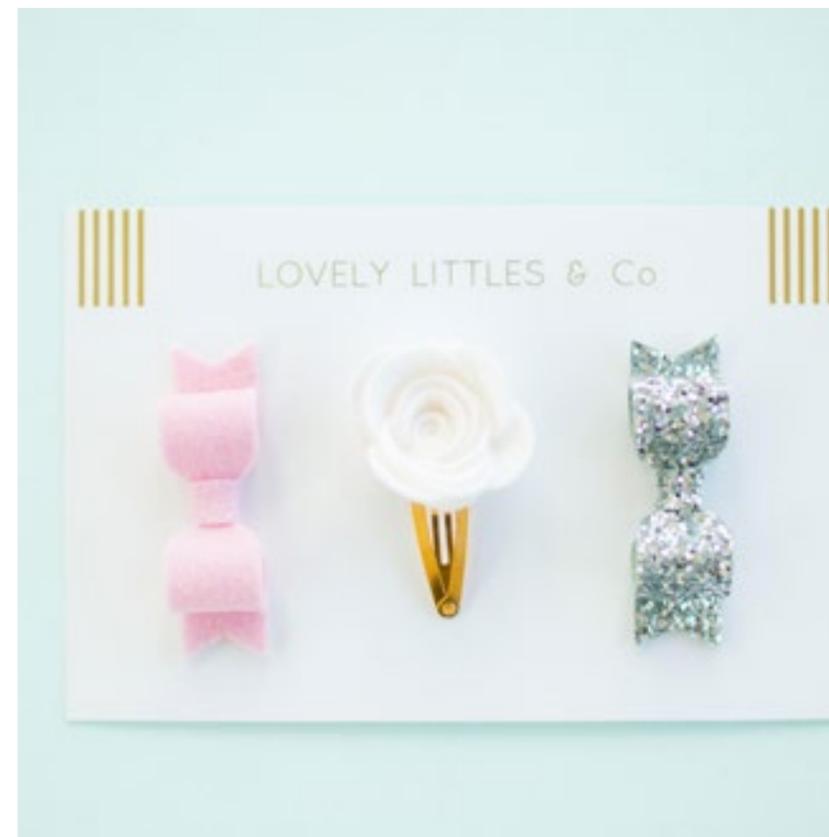
Creative Business Maven Presents:

Lovely Littles and Co



Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Lovely Littles and Co



Social Media Platforms:

Instagram & Facebook

What's your story? How did your business/website come about?

When I had my little girl Eva 3 1/2 years ago, I realised cute, fashionable hair accessories for little ones were hard to find. So I started Lovely Littles and Co, and went about creating beautiful, well made hair accessories out of only the best materials. It turned out a lot of adults loved my bows for themselves, so we cater from newborn to adult.

What do you love the most about what you do?

Everything!! I adore hand making every single bow, as if my own daughter or friend was going to wear it, and I love packing each order, knowing that when it's opened - I've added a bit of sparkle to someone's day!! But probably the icing on the cake, is when I get sent photos of a wedding and all her bridesmaids have our oversized glitter bows in their hair, or when proud new parents send me photos of their little one with a Lovely

Littles and Co bow on. All customer photos are always so lovely to receive.

Do you work from home?

Yes

How do you keep your day structured?

My daughter and family comes first, so bow making fits around them.

What social media platform do you love to hang out on the most?

Instagram is definitely a favourite of mine!!

The least? Why?

Erm... I'm really rubbish at Twitter - I just can't get the hang of it.

I love your Instagram account. The work you do is amazing. What type of content do you followers engage with the most?

Customers love to see ideas of how to wear my bows - so hair shots are always a hit!

What do you think the is most important thing to know when you are starting your handmade business?

You have to really love what you make. If you wouldn't spend your hard earned cash on it... Don't expect someone else too!!

I think it's so important to get the "shop handmade" awareness out there. What's your number one tip for that?

Shopping handmade is always a bit of an effort for most people, shopping from big stores is always easier. So make your selling platform clear and simple to use. Great photos are key!!



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Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Lovely Littles and Co



Lovely Littles and Co



It's time to take a step up and show everyone how amazing and beautiful your shop really is.

Creative Business Maven

magazine is the go-to resource for handmade entrepreneurs who are seeking the best, wholesome methods for their business and lifestyle so they can stand out and create strong, long-lasting brands.

How can our magazine help your business?

- your business will be featured every month to thousands of new eyeballs
- you get to utilize a whole new and trendy platform to show off your creations
- this is a shareable item so all of your customers, family, and friends will see you every month
- stand out of the social media white noise
- share your work in a new and trendy way
- the magazine is interactive. Which means, readers are able to click on a product photo and be taken straight to your shop for purchase

MAVEN VIP
 -8 product photos
 -8 product descriptions
 - links
 \$17.99/month

MAVEN SIMPLICITY
 -3 product photos
 -3 product descriptions
 -3 links
 \$9.99/month

Choose your package by clicking on the button.

Creative Business Maven Presents:

Maya Maya Collection



For me as a creator of Maya Maya Collection jewelry brand, Etsy has been one of my favorite finds of the year. Through Etsy I share my creations and try to find people with similar interests as mine. I hope I'll get inspired by talented artists from around the world.

My nickname is Maya, therefore the name of the jewelry collection. I've started making jewelry a few years ago as a hobby, because I've been creatively expressing myself for all of my life.

Working professionally in marketing business I've decided to connect my marketing experience and creative work.

Inspiration comes from trends in general, nature, joyful colors.

Maya Maya Collection

tion offers a wide range of eclectic, contemporary and beautiful jewelry, including bracelets, necklaces and earrings.

All jewelry is handcrafted in my home studio, and every piece is unique. I create pieces that I would like to wear, mostly from semi-precious gemstone, shells, rope, metal, silver, glass and other natural materials. Using only the finest materials and craftsmanship techniques I try to make products of the highest quality.

Everything that I do is designed and created with love in Zagreb, Croatia.

I hope that you'll like what we do.

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Maya Maya's shop



Jade bracelet is made from wonderful light green, round semi-precious Jade beads, and silver colored accents and butterfly charm. It looks very elegant and can be worn with different clothing combinations (for day or evening). This is double wrap bracelet, and it is 13 inches long (33 cm), plus additional 4 cm metal chain for regulation of the length. Size of the Jade beads is 8mm. Jade is the stone of calm. It balances nerves and soothes cardiac rhythm. A Jade bracelet or a pendant can 'recharge' you with energy when you feel tired. It traditionally guards against illness. We can customize the length of this gemstone bracelet, but you should contact us before ordering via Etsy conversation or email. To ensure longevity we use professional grade cord, high grade stone, and high quality metal details. Each item is handmade by us in our home studio with care, to preserve the quality of gemstones. You will get this gemstone bracelet in luxurious package, gift wrapped and ready for gift giving. If you use Priority Mail Service you can get this bracelet pretty fast. Shipping time is around 5 days for Europe and 12-13 days for the rest of the world. (Left)

Women bracelet made from colorful Agate beads, silver colored spacer beads and silver colored butterfly charm, or heart charm. Semi-precious Agate gemstones make this pink bracelet look wonderful. Each Agate beads bracelet is handmade and unique. Whether you choose to casually pair this fuchsia bracelet with your favorite jeans and white t-shirt, or get "fancy" in a little black dress, this beauty is perfect. It will complement your bohemian bracelets collection perfectly! Agate beads come in different colors but mostly they are pink, fuchsia, purple, white, grey, blue, yellow. Agate is commonly used for protection, strength and harmony. When ordering you can choose between bracelets with, or without silver spacer beads. We can customize the size, so feel free to tell us the size of your wrist via Etsy convo or email. Standard size of our bracelets is 6.2 inches (16 cm), and they come with additional 1.5 inch (4 cm) chain extension for regulation of the length. To ensure longevity we use professional grade cord, and high grade gemstone. Each item is handmade by us in our home studio. This gemstone bracelet is packed in elegant luxurious package, gift wrapped and ready for giving. (Right)



Lava Bracelet for women and girls - This semi precious stone bracelet is made from black Lava stone beads, silver colored beads and silver colored charm. Each bracelet is handmade and unique. Lava stones beads come in black color. Lava Rock belongs to Fire and Earth elements and therefore it is an incredibly powerful stone for anyone born under a fire sign in their astrology. When ordering, you can choose between two options. First is bracelet with silver beads, and the other option is without silver beads. We can customize the size, so feel free to tell us the size of your wrist. Standard size of our bracelets is 6.2 inches (16 cm), and they come with additional 1.5 inch (4 cm) chain extension for regulation of the length. Complimentary Lava Stone Necklace can also be seen in the photo. To ensure longevity we use professional grade cord, and high grade stone. Each item is handmade by us in our home studio with care, to preserve the quality of gemstones. Bracelets are packed in elegant luxurious package, gift wrapped and ready for gift giving. (Left)

Rising Moon

My name is Fallyn O'Malley and I created my business Rising Moon Jewelry last year in hopes of making a little extra money. Now that I have been doing this everyday I have grown to love it!

I love creating with my hands and making beautiful things for people to wear. I always love when a piece of jewelry makes someone feel better about themselves!

I am eighteen years old and currently live in Kansas, where I create and ship all of my products from. I have always been in love with the earth and all of its colors, this has grown to be my inspiration for jewelry.

I started out with Etsy but recently switched over to using Store Envy, you can find my shop there and most of my products. I accept Paypal also and post on social media about new products. Social media is also where I hold giveaways and post about special deals in my shop!

I make a large range of products for children to adults. I handcraft earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and sometimes rings! Making a custom creation for a certain person's needs or wants is one of my favorite things to do.

My children's bracelets are simplistic and stretchy for all ages. I use semi precious gemstones in most of all the jewelry I make. I love learning about the meanings and uses of the stones, there is an endless selection of things you can create when you use stones!

Aside from the jewelry making I am a mother to my two year old daughter and I babysit on the side. Having my shop on the side has given me a lot more confidence in crafting and jewelry. Rising Moon Jewelry has helped me be who I am and make others happy while doing so!

Thank you for reading about my product.



Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Rising Moon's shop

Handmade earrings with glass pink baby bell beads and small turquoise beads. These are on gold plated ear wires. I love the dainty style of these earrings and the warm spring vibes. The crystal glass baby bells are perfect with the blue green turquoise. (right)



Hand strung beaded necklace of fluorite, labradorite, quartz, and sterling silver beads. The unique clasp on this necklace is sterling silver also. This is a long necklace and hangs thirteen inches from the clasp. There are bigger chunky fluorite beads and small chip beads. The focal crystal point of fluorite is beautiful in the light. This is a more flashy style than I usually create. (left)



This is a simple beaded stretchy bracelet with a large snowflake obsidian bead. The accent beads on this are sterling silver and there is one black wooden bead on the inside of the bracelet. I love the monotone colors of this piece. It is stretchy and would fit just about anyone. (right)

Creative Business Maven Presents:

Soul Serenade

I'm Denise Schuler of soulserenade.etsy.com. I Love God/Jesus, wife and mamma to Trevor and Emma!

I was an antique dealer for several years and had my soldered bottles and paper wreaths in three stores in southern California.

I signed up to on a show on HGTV called Cash in the Attic. I mainly sold most of my inventory from my stores on that show.

It was a fun experience and I'd love to do something like that again.

Fast forward to present day I relaunched my etsy in December of 2014 with 10 items and now I have over 100 items.

I love vintage, graphic design and inspirational items. I sell graphic mugs, jewelry, art downloads and upcycled items.

I like to create things that are inspirational and pretty.



Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Soul Serenade's shop



CHOOSE ANY DESIGN SCRIPTURE OR SAYING. You can get any of my downloads on a pendant just convo with me.



This listing is for an INSTANT DOWNLOAD JPEG file of this artwork. Hand lettering~

DISHWASHER SAFE Small 12oz. latte coffee mug with artwork is on both sides. Large 17 oz mug also available. Photo 3 Soul Sister necklace available. Other photos are of items in my shop. Design can be with or without the word sweet.

Maven Writings:

What is Fashion?

Trista Eden

Mark Twain once wrote, "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little to no influence on society." And of the words that he wrote back in the 1800s, how many of those words, still ring true today?

For a long time, in my life in particular, I associated the way people would perceive me, with what I wore or how I acted. I fell into the cookie cutter mentality all too often, just to find myself, still feeling like I didn't fit in. And how could that be? I mean, I was wearing exactly what I saw the other girls in, on Instagram and Facebook. I bought the make up that had Katy Perry's face all over it, just because I wanted to be in the "IN" crowd. But at the end of the day, when I would come home from work, I would take those "fashionable" clothes off and I would wash away all of the make-up and all that was left was me. Plain old me.

I don't know when I actually had the "Ah Ha." moment but, I know that one day not too long ago, I decided that I was going to wear exactly what I wanted to wear. I wasn't going to worry about what other people thought about me. I felt like I had had an epiphany. Fashion has always been associated with superficiality and more often than not, materialism. And I just didn't want to be that way. Or more so, someone or something that I'm not.

So I decided that I wanted to do something a little bit different. I went to the local Goodwill store and got a very ugly, very old, button down blouse for 3 dollars. I stopped by the craft store and picked up some fabric dye and some rhinestones. I proceeded to fill my mop bucket with water, pour in the dye, and then let the shirt soak for a couple of hours. When I pulled the shirt out of the bucket, I was surprised by the color. It had gone from a bright green and pink flannel blouse to a deep purply black flannel blouse. It was AWESOME!

I decided that the shirt was still a little too normal so I cut the sleeves off. And then I cut the bottom of it off. I ended up tying it together in the middle for an even more daring look. I glued the rhinestones all over the pockets and along the collar. That 3 dollar shirt, quickly turned into one of my favorite tops of all time. I threw on a black cowboy hat and strutted out of the house in a completely off the wall outfit unlike anything I had ever worn before.

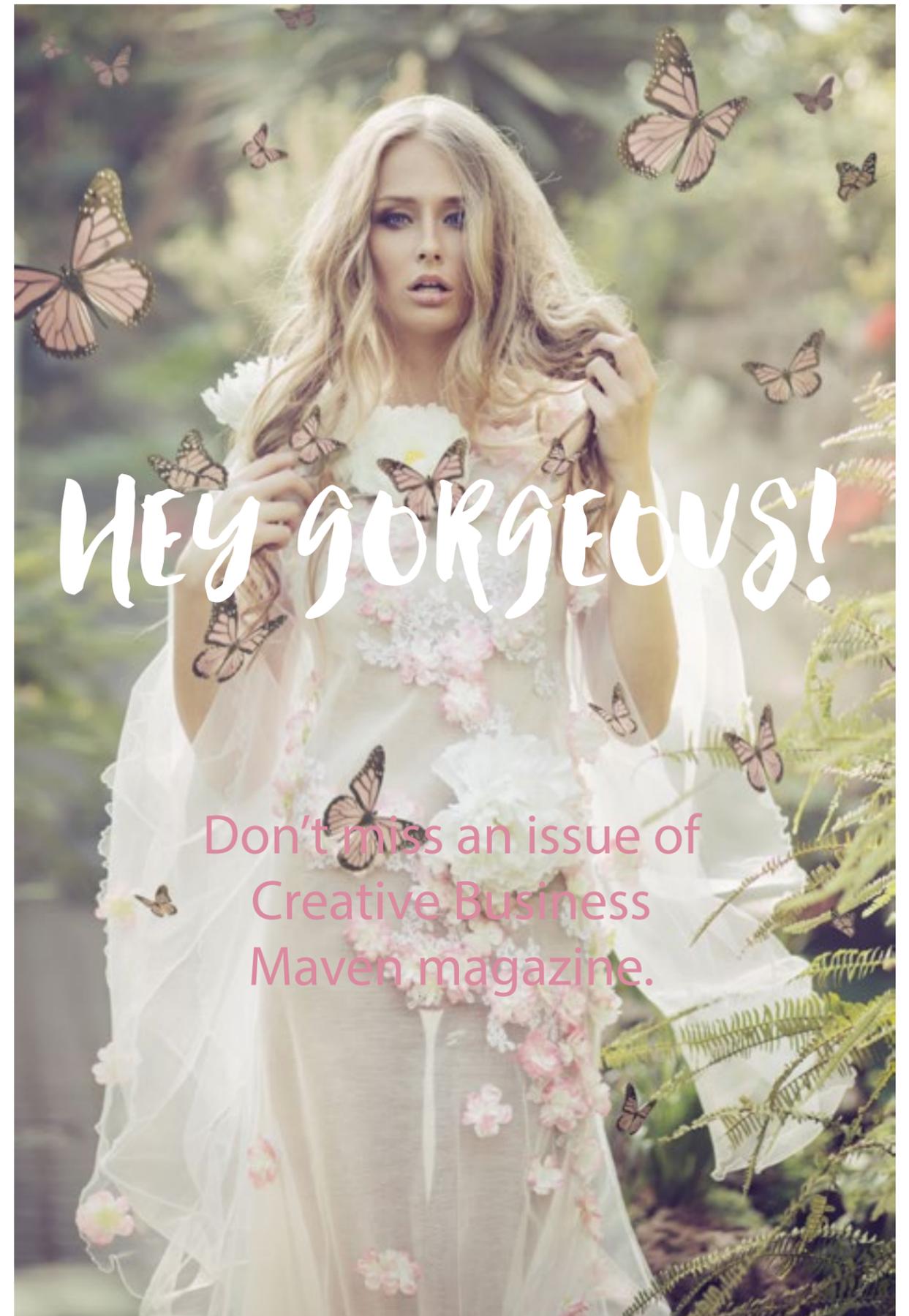
I was beyond confident and I was actually pretty excited to know that there was no way, another girl and I would show up wearing the same outfit.

That night, everyone asked me, "Trista! Where did you get such a cool top?" They were more than shocked that I had made it myself and that it was so uniquely different. Before I knew it, my friends were coming to me for fashion advise. Me? Are you serious? How could they want advise from me? That time, I actually felt the "Ah Ha" moment. I felt the light bulb turn on. I had finally figured out what fashion truly was.

Fashion isn't actually what you wear. Its more how you wear, what you wear. Everyone has their own signature style. Some of us are a little more timid about sharing our style with others for fear that we will be judged. But, I assure you, from my own personal experience, you won't. Find a style you like and rock it. Adapt what you like and what you view as fashion to your social life and your business life. Then embrace it. If Lady Gaga can wear a dress made out of nothing but steak and beef, you can wear that slightly questionable outfit you have been eyeing for weeks.

Fashion is all around us every day in some of the most unique places. I think what Mark Twain meant to say was,

"The clothes don't make the man. The man makes the clothes. And society can just fall in line behind the man." At least, that is what I would say.



Creative Business Maven Presents:

Crafted by Gold

My name is Kylie Kuntz and I started Crafted By Gold. I run my business out my Orlando, Florida apartment with my boyfriend/photographer Orry and my dog/moral support Delani. I attend the University of Central Florida where I am getting my Bachelors in Accounting, and while I love accounting, focusing on my creativity has always been important to me. So now I go to school full time and work on my Etsy shop full time. I am always hoping to improve and evolve my art! Currently I make two kinds of crafts: jewelry and knitting. I love both equally and usually use all my free time doing one or the other.

Crafted By Gold creates delicate jewelry incorporating materials like vintage skeleton keys, bullet casings, druzy pendants, unique gemstones, resin flowers, and more. I enjoy creating beautiful jewelry with these materials using techniques like wire wrapping and intricate chain detail. I learned these techniques through a lot of trial and error over the past seven years.

Our hats at Crafted By Gold are made in three different styles with five different types of yarn. Each beanie is great for men or women, and even fit kids and teens. I have every color in the rainbow, and then some! Whether it's a relaxed fit lightweight beanie, or a super chunky wool beanie, Crafted By Gold has the hat for everyone this winter season.

I started Crafted By Gold because I wanted an outlet for my creativity. When I started making jewelry seven years ago, I just couldn't stop! I started selling locally and eventually found my way to Etsy about one year ago. I am proud to say that I have come a long way in those seven years, and I am excited to see where my jewelry goes next. Then I learned how to knit: I just love knitting! If jewelry is the outlet that stretches my brain and creative limits, then knitting is where I can relax. Something about seeing a giant tub full of yarn waiting to be turned into a warm and fuzzy hat or scarf makes me so happy. When I noticed that the tub full of yarn had turned into a large basket full of beanies, I knew I couldn't keep them all to myself. So I started sharing my beanies with friend and family, and eventually they made their way to my Etsy shop where my jewelry already was residing. I am adding new listings every week, and I hope you lovely readers will follow along with me on this new journey!



Creative Business Maven

Shop Features

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Crafted by Gold's shop

This necklace is truly one of a kind! This necklace was made from a real 9mm brass bullet casing, recycled after a fun day at the gun range. It was drilled so that I could turn it into a pendant. I inserted a titanium blue aura stone point to replace where the original bullet was. I used Swarovski crystals arranged in an ombre fashion in green, light teal, dark teal, and blue. The teal blue resin rose is the cherry on top of the pendant. The pendants and crystal beads are attached to a brass chain with a traditional brass lobster clasp closure. I make bullet pendants from 22's, 9mm, 45's, and more. All genuine bullet casings, shot by me! Each is one of a kind, and I am adding more each week.



The earrings are 18mm x 13 mm, and made of resin, a brass setting, and a brass earhook. I have 4 different color choices currently available! These earrings are perfect for glitzing up a casual outfit, or a perfect pairing for a fancy night out. The colors shown are (from left to right): Ruby Red, Amethyst Purple, Sapphire Blue, Emerald Green. More color choices will be available soon!



Handmade beanie knitted with a beautiful mystical purple colored chunky yarn. The yarn appears purple but upon closer inspection it has threads of both blue and burgundy, creating a beautiful color pallet. This hat is so wonderful for cold winter days! This yarn is very bulky and super warm as well as soft. This is some of my favorite yarn in the world because it makes such a soft yet sturdy hat. I love the way that when it is knitted it makes a beautiful braided pattern. I know that once you feel this hat you'll fall in love just like I did! If mystic purple is not your favorite color, I have around 20 other colors available. Check out my shop for all your beanie needs!



Creative Business Maven Presents:

Craft Point PL

My name is Izabela and I live and craft in Poland, Europe. As a bachelor of quality management I love high quality products especially handmade.

I am also in love to making scrapbooks, journals, notebooks, diaries, guestbooks, photo albums, cards and all paper goods.

I love painting so I make my books handpainted, also using impasto technique. Motto that guided my work is: "Quality loves beauty". I believe my items will bring a little pleasure to my Customers' every day life :)

In my private life I am a mother and wife and I am very, very happy woman with my two gentlemen! In the picture you can see I am with my little boy :)

CraftPointPL is home for handcrafted books that feature handmade, hand aged paper. With a wide variety of handcrafted paper goods, CraftPointPL has quickly become a favorite shopping destination for anyone that values paper art.

Each of my handcrafted paper works is unique and can never be replicated, making them the ideal choice for committing your memories to paper. Each card you see in my inventory is treated with only the highest quality natural materials, with a highly guarded proprietary method we have pioneered.



Creative Business Maven

Shop Features

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Craft Point PL's shop

Beautiful vintage inspired Wedding Guest Book or Wedding photo album in handpainted hard cover.



It comes with 2 wooden clips with tags "guests" and "photos" so you can use it during the wedding to encourage your guests to write in their wishes and advices for you, after wedding you can use it as a photo album.

Or you can also use this beautiful book as memory/keepsake book for your the best moments in life, for anniversary or other special occasions, for photos and thoughts. It can be also great idea for your own scrap-book.



This really LARGE Recipe Binder will be a great for everyone who loves cooking :) It is made to order so can be full personalized even in other motive - just ask :)

It is easy to store for all your recipes found online or wrote in paper.

This amazing 2 ring recipe book binder is absolutelay handmade - handpainted using acrylics and impasto technique, preserved by varnish. Comes with max. 10 personalized dividers (please, send me message about your dividers' titles - if not - they will be blank).

On the cover I can add whatever you need - your name, lettering - to be more personalized :) SIZE: A4 - around 12 by 8 1/2 inches.

You can choose binder with (100 sleeves - for 200 or more recipes) or without protected plastic sleeves - then just put your printed or handwritten recipes inside :) (below)

MADE TO ORDER IN ANY COLORS :) (right)

Uses:

Children Scrapbook,
Wedding Guest Book Idea
Baby blue photo book,
Kids memory book,
Sky blue keepsake handpainted book

I used only high quality materials when made this book, from hard board which was painted by me in adorable vintage sky/baby/pale blue and gold, and after the book was preserved by warnish.

On the cover I added a nice piece of cardboard with framed "Little Prince" or "Once upon a time..." - if you would like to have your initials/date/names or anything else - I can add/change it for free - please, add the information when you add the book to your cart.

This book is hand bound by linen thread from Polish registered feautres craft company. I used 50 cards (100 pages) of hard Italian ivory paper which was hand dyed in shadows of blue by me

After all cards have been hand ripped and paint into navy blue. - please, see 3 last photos.

Book comes with golden bow of tulle.



Creative Business Maven Presents:

Forest Keepers

Adisa / Adi / Zahirović loves nature for some twenty years, now. Growing up, collecting plant specimens and gently pressing them in a herbarium was a hobby that filled her with joy. She would write down the finding location, the date, and the name of the plant her grandma told her. She learned later that there was botanical nomenclature, and learned Latin names of her loved green plants. The interest took many paths. Lichens and fungi became a high mountain to be climbed. There was (is) so much to learn about them.

The fractal geometry of lichens and their ability to live for hundreds of years is enough of a reason for you to take a closer look at them on your walk tomorrow!

An engineering student today, Adi is interested in the mechanisms that run the natural world. Right now, she is busy learning about biomimicry, nature-inspired design, as well as creating sustainable jewelry and accessories.

She had found that there is a lot of people who would make a switch, and replace plastic beads with natural resin and plant specimens, and she started making more of her jewelry. That is

how an idea to start forest keepers came to be. Adi is always working on new ways to use more recycled and repurposed materials. All the plant specimens she uses are harvested by hand from the local forest. Her lichen specimens are collected from fallen branches, and all the plants are picked sustainably. She believes there is so much of everything already out there that there is no need for a new-buy interventions. Her wrapping is both eco-friendly and recycled, with a naturalistic feel to it. You even get a little card with your specimen's ID information!

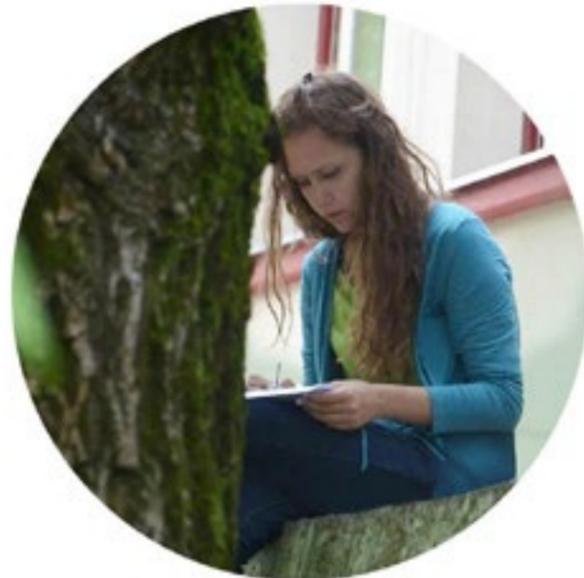
Visit her little online cabin at ForestKeepers.Etsy.com

Beauty is the form under which the intellect prefers to study the world.

-R. W. Emerson



Creative Business Maven



Shop Features

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Forest Keeper's shop



Unique Lichen Earrings made with natural resin and Hypogymnia Physodes lichen. Lichens were collected from fallen branches in a forest near my home. Every lichen earring is unique, distinctive and made carefully and sustainably. Perfect gift for your naturalist!

These rings are a perfect gift for nature lovers and naturalists! They have the adjustable base so they fit every size! Rings are made with real lichen specimen picked from fallen branches of a forest near my home and naturally made resin. EACH LICHEN RING MAY VARY in the shape of lichen, but every lichen ring is made with the same Hypogymnia Physodes lichen specie.



Lichen Necklace made with real lichen specimen, lat. Hypogymnia Physodes. It was collected locally, in a forest near my home. Picked from the fallen branches and bark parts, and the casted natural resin makes it a sustainable fashion piece! This is a perfect gift for your friends nature lovers and naturalists!



Maven Writings:

Are You Ready For The New Color Trends For 2016?



Trends come and go, and every year The Pantone Color Institute declares the Color of the Year. This year, there are two!

Rose Quartz is a soft, pale pink with an ethereal feel, and Serenity is a spa blue with purple undertones. Most people will describe them as Light Pink and Baby Blue. Kind of a safe bet, don't you think? As long as babies are being born, those colors will be popular. Now before you go crazy changing up all of your shop items, remember that depending on what your product is, these color trends make take a while to affect your business. Pantone has also released the complementary colors to Rose Quartz and Serenity as well, and there are plenty! Colors range from mid-tone greens and purples, to rich browns and even metallics, so there is something for everyone.

Last year's Color of the Year was Marsala, which did ok in some paint and textured fabrics, but the leader of the pack was actually a Color of the Month - Turquoise! It is still everywhere you look, whether it's jewelry, furniture, accessories or home décor. It has become a veritable staple color for most shops in one way or another.

I'm predicting Thyme, Beryl Green or Volcanic Glass may be the next big thing. But time will tell. For now, pay attention to what is popular in your shop, and go with that until things start to die off. Then do some research and find out what's going viral in the color world!

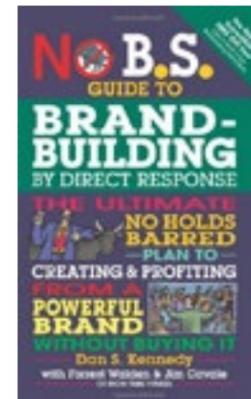
Until next month,
Christy

Read like a...

Creative Business Maven

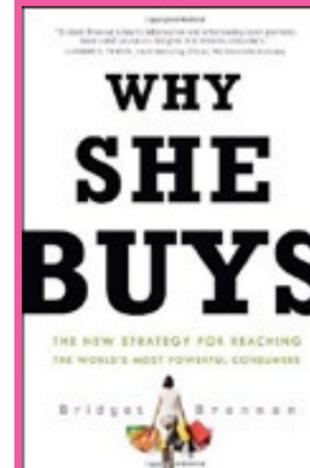
Shoppers note: **Lindsay's recommended reads**
Click on the book to purchase

Developing your personal brand is a crucial component for success in today's modern world. Business owners already know the power of branding, but with personal branding, connection increases and so do your sales. By showing individuality, personal struggle, and authenticity, your story becomes a source of inspiration for those who relate to your personal memoir. With increased connection, customers and clients begin to know you, like you, and trust you, which ultimately attracts and grows a like-minded audience. Holistic Fashionista Memoirs offers a holistic approach to business via 36 real life personal stories of women in business who overcame adversity, persevered, and started a brand that represents their truth. The power of story is instrumental in today's marketplace; you must connect with your audience to gain their trust, and when you do they will love you forever.



Millionaire maker Dan S. Kennedy, joined by successful franchisors Forrest Walden and Jim Cavale, debunk the branding lies and myths shared by small business owners and entrepreneurs and deliver a heavy dose of reality—YOUR BRAND SHOULD BE A HAPPY, FREE BY-PRODUCT OF DIRECT MARKETING—NOT PURCHASED OUTRIGHT.

No matter your background, SEO 2016 will walk you through search engine optimization techniques used to grow countless companies online, exact steps to rank high in Google, and how get a ton of customers with SEO. First, let me tell you a little secret about SEO marketing.



If the consumer economy had a sex, it would be female. If the business world had a sex, it would be male. And therein lies the pickle. Women are the engine of the global economy, driving 80 percent of consumer spending in the United States alone. They hold the purse strings, and when they've got a tight grip on them as they do now, companies must be shrewder than ever to win them over. Just when executives have mastered becoming technology literate, they find there's another skill they need: becoming female literate.

Creative Business Maven Presents:

Baby's Welcome Books



Once upon a time there were a woman and a man. They meant the world to each other and loved each other very much. Their love grew and grew and grew until they had to realize that they had too much love to give. Therefore they decided to take a step further, a step that would change their lives forever...

This is the beginning of my personalized story for each child.

I'm Olaolu, the creative head of Baby's Welcome Books. I am a Black German or German Nigerian? Anyway: I am a female soul and most important, a passionate mother of my little girl and an enthusiastic aunty of many. It is because of them that I've started the Baby's Welcome Books. They inspired me to think of ways how to capture the fascinating moments of their beginning. Their uniqueness, their boldness, their laughter is pure beauty. There is nothing more magical to me than the birth of a child. Baby's Welcome Books aim to capture this magic.

So what's a Baby's Welcome Book? It is a beautiful personalized gift for a baby. A book that captures the very beginning: The warm sentiments when getting

notice of the arrival of the newborn. The book contains: a picture of the baby plus personal words of the donor, the baby's zodiac sign, the meaning of the baby's name, a beautiful personalized story, an empowering poem for its parents, personal words and a picture of the donor. It is a welcoming book for a special little angel: A Baby's Welcome Book.

I used to search for an unforgettable gift for a special baby. I always found it difficult to find a gift that wouldn't be given away to another baby like toys, teddy bears or clothing. I wanted to find a gift that would be kept for a long time, if not forever. A gift that wouldn't only make the new parents or grandparents happy. A gift that would also please the baby once it gets older. Every book contains enough space for personal thoughts, good wishes, blessings and much more.

You can purchase the Baby's Welcome Books in seven different colors as well as seven different cover pages containing traditional silhouette cutting designs. These were made by my family's ancestors. My wish was to conserve and reinterpret these designs by using them for my cover pages. I've always liked their vividness and the detailed ornaments. I wanted to pay tribute to these old artistic forms.

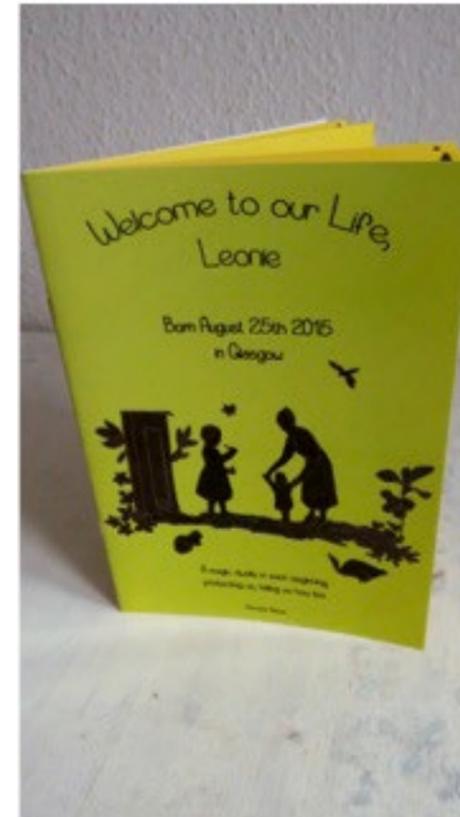
If you are looking for a beautiful gift for a child, you've found it. This is the perfect present for Mum's best home girl, daddy's buddy or the world's best granny. And for everyone else who wants to welcome a special little angel into this world.

Creative Business Maven

Shop Features

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to the Olaolu's shop



Every Baby's Welcome Book is personalized. Each cover page contains traditional silhouette designs made by old family members. There are seven different designs in eight different colors: pink, light blue, orange, green, yellow, purple, red and hot pink. Every customer can customize their own cover page by choosing freely between their preferred silhouette design and their favored color. Every cover page contains the first name of the child, its date of birth and a welcoming poem. If you have any individual wish such as a preferred color or a favorite poem, don't hesitate to contact me. (left)



Every child will love their Baby's Welcome Book. They will be eager to learn how to spell their name in sign language or how to write their name in Braille. It is going to be fun for everyone. And the older they get the more they will feel your love shining through. A love that shows on every page of Baby's Welcome Books. (right)

Once upon a time there were a woman and a man. They meant the world to each other and loved each other very much. Their love grew and grew and grew until they had to realize that they had too much love to give. Therefore they decided to take a step further, a step that would change their lives forever... If you want to please a special little girl or an awesome little prince don't hesitate to get a Baby's Welcome Book. It contains the meaning of the Baby's name a personalized children story, the zodiac sign of the child, an empowering poem for its parents, a picture of the baby and your warm words upon the baby's arrival, your picture and your blessings for the child. They decided to give all their love to [child's name] and start that beautiful adventure called life. (right)



LINDSAY LOVES



La Vie Boheme Warrior Cotton Yoga Towel

Under Armour Women's Coldgear Printed Leggings



Spiritual Gangster Stay Rad Heather Gray Sweatshirt

S'well Mara Hoffman EOS Blue 17oz Water-bottle



theBalm Stainiac

Tarte Cosmetics Lights Camera Lashes Mascara 0.24 oz. Black



UD Naked Smoky Eyeshadow Palette

BS-MALL(TM) Premium Synthetic Kabuki Makeup Brush Set
Cosmetics Foundation Blending Blush Eyeliner Face Powder Brush Makeup Brush Kit(10pcs, Silver Black)



Shoppers note:
Click on the photo to purchase

LINDSAY LOVES



Amazon Fire TV Stick

GripTight GorillaPod Stand For Phones



Amazon Echo

Movo PM10 Deluxe Lavalier Lapel Clip-on Omnidirectional Condenser Microphone



3 Piece Painted Distressed Mason Jars Bathroom Set -Teal Jars - Bathroom Organizer-

Coffee mug holder - white, antique white, and light gray hand painted and distressed finish



Wood Fruit and Vegetable Stand



Decorative Pallet Tray.



Creative Business Maven Presents:

The Lady's Crafty Craft

hi! my name is koura and i am one of the three parts of the ladies crafty!

the ladies crafty is composed of callie, kt and me. we are a new mom and business woman, a super creative teenager, and a newlywed filmmaker who crafts on the side.

our backstory is simple - koura and callie have been friends since they were 12 and 11 respectively. through the years they have each individually moved all over the country, but always stayed in touch. in 2013 they were finally in the same state and actually working together when callie saw koura's paintings on a wooden box. being the brilliant business woman that she is, she came up with the idea to start the ladies crafty. her niece, who is also an artist, helped with the painting of the first few items and has been helping with painting ever since.

our creative process consists of finding perfect pieces to bring to life through our artwork - this could be at a thrift store or reclaimed wood or premade wooden boxes or other wooden pieces that we select. each wooden piece gets hand sanded, preped for paint, and then an original design is painted on in watercolors, marker ink or acrylic paints. once it is dry, it is finished with a clear coat spray and any finishing touches are added on (felt feet for boxes, yarn or string or twine ties, etc).

we recently started adding in various household decor items such as the glass bottle listed here, and some picture frames and mason jars with fabric flowers. we also picked out a few vintage jewelry pieces, because they pair nicely with a wooden jewelry box!



we also had a large number of custom orders over the holidays, which not only were great to do, it really made us stretch our creative minds and come up with one of a kind pieces. we are also starting to work with wedding planners and florists in 2016, as we make custom centerpiece boxes and other gift items for wedding guests and for party favors.

i personally love the silence and simplicity of painting. i love the sound of a paintbrush on wood and i love the look of a finished piece when the clear coat has dried and the colors are rich within the wood grain. i also really love working with reclaimed wood, which we have started doing more and more of, and love it! my amazing husband has even jumped in on a few pieces as an honorary lady crafty. you can see his wooden acrylic paintings listed in our shop.

while we are not your usual etsy shop, and certainly can't be placed into any niche category, we love what we do, and hope you do too! come check us out and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like to inquire about a custom order!

Creative Business Maven

Shop Features

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to The Lady's Craft Craft shop



decorative glass bottle:
hand adorned metallic sequin ombre glass bottle with cork stopper - perfect for a coffee table, shelf decor or as part of a table centerpiece. (left)



wooden gift tags:
hand inked and water detailed small gift tags double as a bookmark after gift use. blank on reverse with special messages on the front such as "you & me" and "forever" in blue ink, finished with yellow and white bakers string



wooden "love you" tag:
laser cut wooden ornament painted with marker ink and water, finished with a clear coat and tied off with a piece of brown twine. adorable finishing touch for a gift or to hang on a wall or as a rear-view mirror ornament

Creative Business Maven Presents:

CLAUDIA NANNI FINE ART

I'm an Italian paintress graduated at Brera Academy in Milan. I am the veggie Mom of two little Girls (Diana&Leda) and I really love Waldorf World!

My parents encouraged me to start painting full time and sell my work online at Claudia Nanni Fine Art on Etsy.

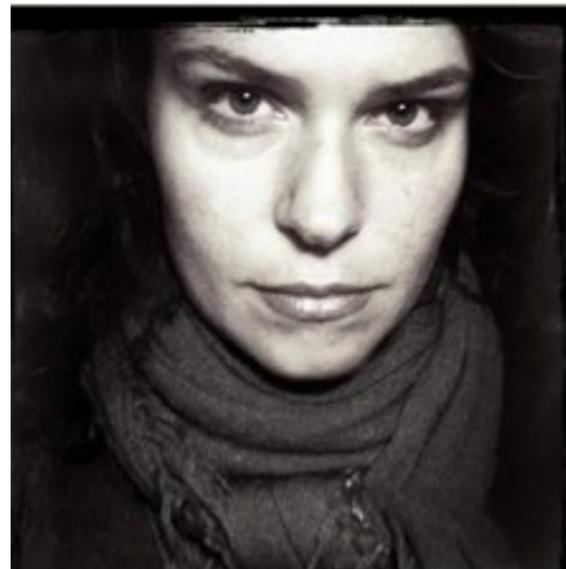
I work together with my daughters in my Home-Studio creating positive artworks and felted goods for Women and Kids.

I live in Switzerland since 2010. I like to reflect on Nature and try to find myself.

I believe in Waldorf imaginary, my inspiration comes mainly from Pinterest's Waldorf groups or from my daughter's drawings.

I love to be inspired by the seasons and the objects I collect. I also love to make Mandalas with dry flowers and gemstones!

I have always painted and since I was a child have dreamed of magic images talking to sensitive hearts. They say I use bright, harmonious and powerful colors.



I love the shades of blue and its subtle strength. Being evocative, for me, is a real need, which transpires in my creations!

I hope you may find the energy you need in my creations and that it will lead you upwards to the high peaks of your heart!

[Etsy Shop](#)

[Facebook](#)

Creative Business Maven

Shop Features

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to the CLAUDIA NANNI FINE ART shop



So adorable this starry cat! Small and original mini painting of your name surrounded by your favorite cosmic animal! This is the perfect addition to any nursery, a special gift for a wonderful birthday! I will personalize your painting as you wish! I really love to work closely with my customers, to create something truly unique for their children and friends!

DESCRIPTION

This is a custom original artwork. Usually hand painted with acrylic paint on canvas in my smoke free Studio.
Size: 3,93x3,93" - 10x10 cm.
Price: 50 euros. (right)



The first healing necklace for her! Pomponcina is a lovely organic pom-pom necklace made with the needle felted technique, this funny wool accessory is a nice gift for modern women! This necklace is also the perfect present for stressed and tired women. Try the pom-pom and squeeze it strongly! You'll notice how it has a relaxing effect on you. Touching the soft wool and the scent of the lavender essence will calm you down and will help you to handle the stress during the day.

I wear it every day and the soft touch of the woolen material has a magnificent power on me. It's called Pomponcina, I've chosen its name together with my daughters who adore this warm necklace too. Choose your color based on the chakras that you want to heal!

Red > First > Base of the spine > Grounding and Survival
Orange > Second > Lower abdomen, genitals > Emotions, sexuality
Yellow > Third > Solar plexus > Power, ego
Green > Fourth > Heart > Love, sense of responsibility
Blue > Fifth > Throat > Physical and spiritual communication
Indigo > Sixth > Just above the center of the brow, middle of forehead > Forgiveness, compassion, understanding
Violet > Seventh > Crown of the head > Connection with universal energies, transmission of ideas and information

DESCRIPTION

Pomponcina is made from organic Swiss Wool. I sell my Pomponcina with a coordinated bracelet named "Mini PomPom Bracelet". Price: 35 euros. (left)



This is the only kit of Story Stones inspired by Frozen available on Etsy! There are so many ways to play with Story Stones, the possibilities are endless! Storytelling encourages imagination and creativity, increases vocabulary and helps communication and listening skills.

My stones were mostly made from stones collected this summer from the beaches at Marina di Castagneto Carducci in Tuscany! One of the most beautiful beaches in Italy!

DESCRIPTION

I send my stones in a hand-sewn little bag. Every kit is unique and precious! One kit includes 10 sea stones covered with non-toxic acrylic paint and coated with a water based sealant. Because this item is 100% handpainted by me, I can make it with other characters, so please don't hesitate to mail me with your requests, I just love challenges!
Price: 50 euro.

Maven Writings:

four things to keep in mind this valentine's day

koura ship



It's february, and we all know what that means. you fall somewhere in the spectrum between "I LOVE VALENTINES DAY!" to throwing a party for your friends where you all dress in black and condemn every aspect of the verboten mass-commercialized consumer marketing ploy allegedly invented by hallmark.

while it might be with disdain, or with hope, or with the blissful happiness of someone newly in love, it is almost impossible NOT to think about relationships this time of year.

no matter where you fall on the scale, you have probably heard this in some form or another: "you have to be strong as you, before you can be with someone else."

what does that even mean??

well, first of all, it is only partially true.

in general, our mental happiness is connected to being with other people - but how do we find a balance of being ourselves, being strong as an individual, and being strong with someone else?

1 - know thyself.

before you go running off to a solitary yoga retreat or packing up for the mountains of montana to live alone, this is not as finite a step as it seems. first of all, we are always growing, changing, and part of knowing yourself is learning to learn about yourself as you change. this can be something as simple as keeping a journal of things you like or don't like, or making lists of things you like or don't like (or realizing you hate making lists), or whatever method works for you. no matter the way, it really comes down to both appreciating time alone and knowing that you are an important person to pay attention to.

2 - never let someone else define you.

again - fabulously detailed advice, right?

but really, what this means is at the end of the night, the only person who has to deal with your thoughts as you close your eyes to sleep is you. that doesn't mean you are the only one who has to live with your choices, as we all make ripples just by living life. but when it comes down to it, you have to be able to be strong as an individual without having that strength rooted solely in another person. maybe partially, or maybe by the idea of them - we all have our inspirations coming from somewhere. but in the end, you have to be able to hold up you.

3 - it's ok to be weak, just not forever

basically, this doesn't mean that you can never be strong just because it is ok to be weak at times. but we are all human - we have our nightmares and our difficulties and our at times shattered dreams. it is as unnatural not to be upset at something that rightfully should be upsetting as it is to not be happy about something that should bring you joy. but it doesn't have to define you for the rest of time.

there is an awesome japanese proverb about falling down one less time than you stand up (i believe the actual translation is "fall down seven times, stand up eight." [source](#)). it is totally ok to fall down and cry. it is even ok to fall down and have someone help you stand up that eighth time (or ninth or tenth....some times we just have gravity issues and it's a thing. that's ok).

...continued next page

four things to keep in mind this valentine's day

but, it means sometimes.

and you are allowed to have someone in your life who stands there cheering you on. in fact, it actually can make life easier, be it a friend, relative or lover. this is where you might not be totally strong as you, and need someone there for you. that's ok.

where it falls down is if you become incapable of ever standing up by yourself.

i will tell you a secret here - the best people to have in your life don't just help you stand up when you fall, they help make sure you stop falling and that you can stand on your own two feet, while leaving you with a certainty that you are never alone should you fall. and if you have anyone in your life like that, make sure they know how much they mean to you.

4 - relationships are a two way street

i think this is where the whole "you have to be strong as you first" idea came into play in our society.

if you are in a relationship where you just can not do anything without the other person, that is not healthy for you. and if you are in a relationship where the other person just can not do anything without you, that is not healthy for you either.

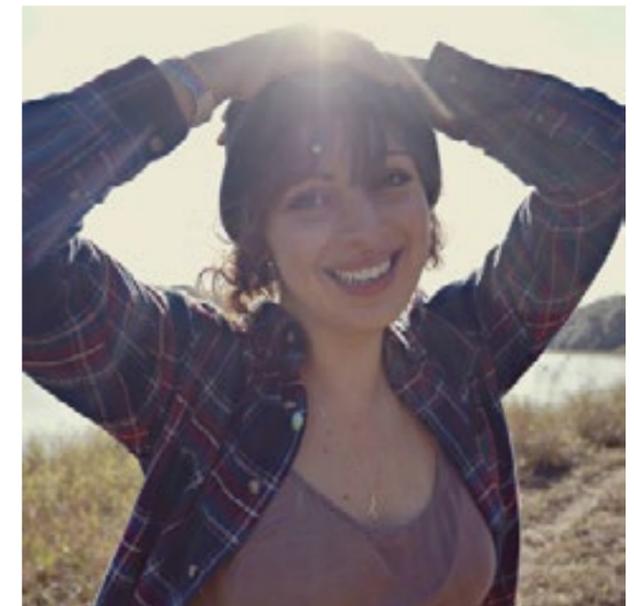
the best relationships are when each person knows who they are, or even that they don't know, but they want to learn. and they are friends first who figure it out on the journey together, picking each other up, always growing, always learning and always getting closer to where they can stand on their own, but they never need to because the other is there. either way - it's a balance of being yourself and being part of this conglomerate unit known as a relationship between two human beings. strong as individuals who are stronger together.

maybe you are bitter and think i should burn for even mentioning being in a relationship. maybe have been married for 50 years and think it's cute that i wrote this, or maybe you just started dating that cute guy from work or are going to summon the courage to send that valentine on the 14th to your long time crush or maybe you are just happy with where you are at in life and are reading this because you had to pee and saw the magazine while you were scrolling on your phone (it's ok - we all do it).

either way, remember that for the most part, humans are happier with other people, but that doesn't mean losing who you are in the process. it means being a better you with them..

meet koura ship

bio: artist, writer, film maker, fire dancer, musician's wife, kitten & guinea pig mom. it took a couple of decades to start to think she figured it all out and another decade to realize she didn't. but she's learned a thing or two along the way that might be worth sharing. we all have our own experiences and knowledge learned from them - this is hers.



Creative Business Maven Presents:

Adorable Dee-Signs

Denise is turning the big 5-0 at the end of January. A milestone year, and another year added of making beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry!

I have been making and selling jewelry for 32 years. I started when I was 18, doing Art Festivals and such in Michigan. I still do as many Art Festivals a year as I can find!

I pride myself on original one-of-a-kind designs and using only the best products, like swarovski crystals, original beads, etc. everything from hippie chick to rock and roll or flirty and fine, the designs are as varied as snowflakes!

During the day I work as a decorative product specialist and go into people's homes and color my clients world and make their spaces exactly what they are looking for.

Nighttime and weekends I am a bead guru! I am the mother to a gifted, creative 17 year old daughter, named Paige who also has a trendy jewelry line for teens. We have a rescue dog named Zhiccup and reside in Charlotte, NC, where we have been for 16 years.

I am originally from the Big Apple and cherish my New York Italian Roots. I love jewelry making because of all the fantastic people I get to meet and I just brokered a deal to be the original and only jewelry maker for a large rock band in New York called The Burbans and also for a worldwide group called The Hug Revolution, a group dedicated to embracing each other's differences, worldwide, and about peace, hugs and embracing, not dividing.

My off-time from work is always me surrounded in and selling at Art Festivals, being with my beautiful daughter and hanging with my supportive and wonderful boyfriend Keith.

It makes me glow when customers wear my art and tell me how much they love my style and the pieces they have purchased from me!



Red floral: red Lampwork beads with raised blue flowers with white swirls and polka dots. Swarovski crystals in red and teal complete the look.



Pink Lentil earrings: pink lentil Lampwork beads that have a gorgeous swirl of gold and green in them, are accented with bronze disc spacer beads and gold crystals.



Pink/ green shell beads: pink flowers and green leaves on shell disc beads with green pearls and hot pink swarovski crystals.

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Adorable Dee-Signs shop

Maven Writings:

Choker Necklaces: Jump on the 90's Trend

by Steffi Keung



Don't you remember hangin' with your crew and staring all the cool outfits at your best friend's 11th birthday party? I wore blue light-up sneakers (the coolest things ever!) a pink scrunchy to tie up my full head of hair on the crown of my head, baggy overalls that my mother absolutely insisted against, but they were my favorite (not to mention, it had multiple pockets to stash my favorite Polly Pockets, Lego ships, and holographic stickers). If only my mother let me wear makeup at 10 years old, I would have totally rocked the trendy dark plum lips too. My best friend wore her blue bandana that day to hide her frizzy hair and a striped matching set. Looking back, we were a trendy group of kids, so I'm happy we get to recycle these irresistible trends for present day.



From the streets to the red carpets, you may have seen a couple pieces that take you back in time to the N'Sync, Aaliyah, and old-school Britney days. The 90's has made a comeback, and while you may have cringed looking back at old photographs of you way back then, rest assured the 90's trends have taken a modern twist.

Crop tops, the more structured "mom jeans", flannels tied around the waist, bandana printed scarves and accessories, slicked back hair, chic, round sunglasses...the list goes on. Affordable stores like Forever 21 and H&M have caught on while celebs have also rocked the trends elegantly on the red carpets and in everyday attire.



One of my favorites of these 90's trends is the choker necklace. Even the [tattoo necklace](#) sold in those little quarter machines and redeemed at arcades has re-spawned and popped its way back onto girls' necks. There are also many variations of this trend, including Victorian lace chokers, chunky brass chokers, leather chokers, silk ribbon chokers with pendants, etc. It's so fun to play with different aesthetics- from grungy to glamorous.

[Kim Kardashian West](#) has expressed her love for chokers and has been flaunting them recently with her sophisticated maternity style. She's adorned herself with pieces ranging from super glitzy to over-sized gold architectural pieces to accompany her all-black outfits. Supermodels [Kendall](#) and [Gigi Hadid](#) seem to be fans as well. Brands such as Balmain, DKNY, Givenchy, Christian Dior and Chanel have also designed their own highly coveted bedazzled chokers.

I love this trend because it adds a distinctive flair to an outfit and draws attention to the neckline. Chokers pair well with plunging necklines or even sleeveless tops or gowns. In observing this choker trend everywhere, I decided to make my own chokers that you can see on [steffikjewelry.com](#). A simple [brass choker](#) is fashion-forward and enough to give you a subtle edge. This is the definitely the 90's trend that will distinguish you from the crowd.

ARE PEOPLE
COMING TO YOUR
SHOP....AND THEN
LEAVING RIGHT
AWAY?

Let's do something
about that.

Maven Health and Beauty:

Featuring:

Brenna Alex



Brenna, I am so excited to finally talk to you. I've been following you on Instagram for over a year now and I have yet to find someone who comes close to what you do! Your following is amazing. How long have you been sharing your health journey with the masses?

Hi Lindsay, thank you for having me and thank you for following my journey! I posted my first side by side transformation photo on Instagram in 2012.

Tell me about your weight loss journey? The transition is unbelievably inspiring.

Aw thank you! I started at the age of about 20/21, I had a doctor (very bluntly) ask me how long I'd been carrying the 'extra weight' and told me to start eating soup (what?) which made me feel embarrassed. I thought to myself, other people can see it too and now all I can eat is soup?

That's when I realized I was in a state of denial. I thought I was hiding it well by the way I dressed, always covered up in an oversized hooded sweatshirt or loose fitting pants. I had tried various fad diets and pills that promised results tomorrow but everything was short lived and I was still the same size, nothing was working as promised on the TV commercials.

Side Note: I forgave the doctor and even attended his wedding, no grudges were held as that doesn't serve me in a positive way. This experience did, however, open my eyes to the lack of general training in the medical field about simple nutrition advice which has allowed me to help others as I, at that point, couldn't rely on my doctor to tell me what to do. I had to do the research myself. I even have a current client who's doctor has watched her as she's completed my plans and is starting to recommend it to his other patients as he has firsthand seen the results!

My journey started on a gravel road in the small town I grew up in. I decided I would just start walking, I didn't have access to a gym nor did I even know where to begin if I were to step foot in one so walking is what I did. I would walk for an hour a day, I didn't have any fancy apps, straps or tracking devices that counted my steps, heartbeat, calories etc. all I knew was that if I walked down to the little church on the corner and back that was about a mile. Each day I would strive to go a little further, walk a little faster, sometimes I would jog setting milestones like "just jog to the next telephone pole then you can walk again". Back then I didn't realize but I was incorporating interval training which is what I still do to this day (over 12yrs later)! A really cool thing that happened while on this road is every day I would see butterflies, and I reflect back on that now about how I was transforming myself just as a butterfly does. Shedding it's cocoon and growing beautiful wings!

In addition to the exercise I started looking at the foods I was eating and making simple swaps like using whole wheat bread instead of white, drinking more water and less soda, incorporating more fresh fruits/veggies, baked chips or air popped popcorn instead of regular chips etc. granted these were small adjustments but nonetheless they were small steps in the right direction! I also began to look at serving sizes and measuring out my meals, this was probably the most eye opening change.

After 3 months of making these changes I joined a small gym where I incorporated strength training 5x a week on top of my daily cardio and dedicated to myself that I wouldn't miss a day – and I didn't! It wasn't until after losing 50lbs that my body hit a plateau and no matter how hard I worked or how good I ate nothing would budge. That's when I hopped onto the bandwagon and joined one of those programs where you count points and granted I did lose weight however a very unhealthy mindset began to develop because the focus was on pounds... it was too much pressure to weigh in every week and too much power given to that number between our feet! I began to eat less and less, slowed down on strength training because – heaven forbid I build sexy lean muscle because it's making the number on the scale jump around! Once I hit my "goal weight" that was set according to a BMI type chart (don't get me started on that) I was feeling lost because I didn't like what I saw in the mirror. Why though? The number on the scale was what it was supposed to be based on my height/sex... I didn't like what I saw and that's because of body composition! I was what they call 'skinny fat' because my body was holding onto fat from under eating and doing too much cardio.

This is when I put the pedal to the metal, put my blinders on and just started grinding! I got back into strength training & interval cardio 5x a week. I dug deeper into nutrition and began following IIFYM (if it fits your macros) and really learned how to properly fuel my body to get it to respond the way I wanted it to! Throughout all of this I wasn't immune to life's curveballs. Trust me, I experienced MANY things that tried to stop my progress from panic attacks and anxiety that ended my corporate career to the end of a marriage. Through all obstacles strength training is where I found my relief, even if it were just for that one hour a day – I had relief because this was an hour that I had control over. And now I'm able to pay it forward and share my knowledge and experience with thousands of people online, in my home state and even at the local grocery store where I'm stopped after people recognize me from Instagram! Knowing that I'm helping change another person's life whether that be through weight loss, muscle gains or just giving them the hope/inspiration to start to love their body when they look in the mirror is beyond fulfilling. This is by far the most meaningful job I could ever ask for!

One of my favorite things about you, is your curves (girl crush, I admit it) and I have to say, you are the first person to actually get me to embrace my own. So thank you. Did you always embrace yourself this way or was it a struggle to get to that point?

Ahh I'm blushing, haha! I'm so happy to hear that I was able to play even a small part in you loving and embracing your own body more! I've always loved myself as a whole and really grew to appreciate my curves as I began to discover my body and all it's capabilities along the way. Throughout this journey I found an even bigger appreciation for my favorite curve.... DAT BOOTY! Which is why I created my brand Bootybuilder™ I found that not only did I like my natural curves but I was hooked after realizing how I had control to mold & shape them through strength training and really build the physique I desired. I have Bootybuilder™ apparel on my website and love to see my clients & customers from all over the world rep this brand!

Continued on next page



Brenna Alex

continued from previous page...

I love how you don't obsess about the scale. Your last post (Tuesday, January 12) couldn't resonate more with me. Why is it so important to stop obsessing about the number between our feet?

Body composition! I will scream it from the rooftops if I need to but this is something I truly try to educate women (and men) on whenever I can. The number on the scale really only tells us our relationship with gravity. It by no means can tell you how much body fat you're burning or how much lean muscle you've worked so hard to put on. We need to shift our focus from the number between our feet to our measurements, how we FEEL, how we LOOK in the mirror or photos. Start to measure your progress by the way that jacket that's tucked in the back of the closet because it's too small starts to fit after a few weeks of incorporating a consistent exercise/nutrition plan!

So, not only do you have this amazing body, you post about it on Instagram, your following is fricken gigantic, but you're a business woman too! Tell me about your fitness and meal plans? I've done a couple of rounds with you and absolutely loved them.

My Instagram account, @Brennaalex, is where I share my journey and also promote my monthly online fitness + meal plans! I developed a plan (which I'm so excited you've tried and loved!) based off of what I did and still do to achieve my results to not only lose weight but to keep it off for over a decade! Each month I put together a 4-week total body fitness plan where each day is a different routine – I know firsthand how un-motivating it can be to repeat the same workout over and over so I strive to keep it FUN and I'm always throwing something new at the group to shake things up! I also include a 2-week meal prep plan where I've carefully balanced the macros to 40% carbs / 30% protein / 30% fat (this is referred to as the Zone) and is how



I approach my own diet. I'm not a fan of restriction or deprivation so keeping everything in proper balance is what works for me & my clients!

In addition to that I send daily training emails directly to your inbox with written instruction on proper form for that day's routine as well as photos of each exercise so you don't have to spend your time googling each move!

And you don't stop there do you? You also have an Etsy store too! Tell me about it?

I created my Etsy shop www.thetrendcities.etsy.com in 2013 making headbands of all types (knit, crocheted and workout bands) which I also shared through social media (@TheTrendCities on Instagram and Facebook). I didn't know what to expect because I was making these headbands with my own two hands (with a mother who's a seamstress I guess I shouldn't be shocked that I had a natural knack for sewing). In my first year I made & sold over 10,000 headbands!! It's been such a fun part-time business as I'm able to take requests for custom pieces and am always looking for unique new patterns that are not mass produced so there will be no accidental 'twinning' with the girl on the weight bench next to you ;)

It was so great getting to know you more Brenna. I feel like you have such a large fan base because you are honest and real. And you make women feel good about themselves. That's so important. Any final words?

Thank you so much Lindsay! I appreciate this opportunity to share my story with others as my goal is to bring hope to even one person who may be struggling and let them know that this lifestyle IS possible and to never stop – take those small steps and watch them grow into something bigger!!



If you have a health and beauty story you would like to submit to the magazine, please email lindsay@lindsaymaloney.com

Creative Business Maven Presents:

Bohemian Chic Boutique



Hi, my name is Kim! I'm the owner, designer, and chief creative force behind Bohemian Chic Boutique. I've been making jewelry since 2011, though I took a break for a few years to focus on taking care of my little ones. I'm a stay-at-home mama to two beautiful babies, and making jewelry is my creative outlet and my "me time." It keeps me centered and aware; the energies of the crystals that I work with can really set the tone for my day.

I use all natural gemstones and crystals in my jewelry, along with high quality stainless steel, copper, and bronze elements. I really love tapping into the vibrations and healing elements of the crystals that I work with. Being an empath and a healer, I'm always inspired by the people around me- their energies, their needs and desires. I always keep healing in mind while creating, especially custom pieces, using specific crystals that can bring a person's energies together and incorporating their personalities into their own unique treasure. Being able to create a matchless piece of custom jewelry that truly speaks to them as a person and to their energies is so rewarding as a maker.

As an artist, my style is always changing, but I will always love working with amazing healing stones and crystals. Right now I especially love working with clear quartz and chrysocolla. Their energies, both clarifying and empowering, really speak to me. As do their beauty. Recently I have been making a lot of chakra and essential oil diffusing necklaces, and I love making and wearing these unique items. They are so colorful, vibrant and fun, and also rewarding as they align the body's natural vibrations. My gemstone wolf necklaces are also a current favorite. They are so gorgeous and full of energy.

I'm excited to watch my shop grow as I learn new things and tackle new challenges. Soon I will be delving into the realm of electro-forming! I am excited to bring even more fantastic and unique designs to my customers.

Creative Business Maven

Shop Features

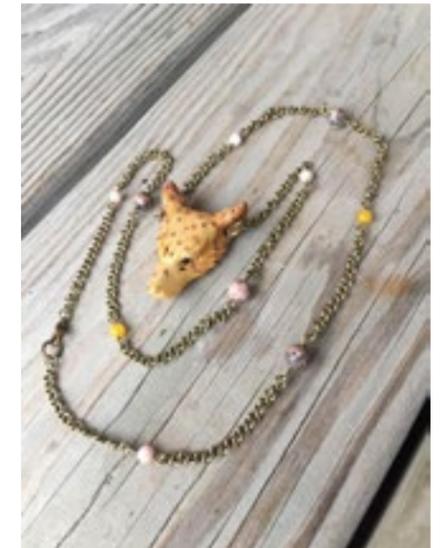
Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Bohemian Chic Boutique's shop



This is a super fun and energising chakra necklace!! The chakra gemstones are amethyst, lapis lazuli, amazonite, malachite, citrine, goldstone, and coral. Then there are three raw Quartz crystal points underneath. All on stainless steel chain.

Here is a stunning one of a kind wolf gemstone necklace. This unique necklace has a hand carved petrified wood wolf pendant. This stone is so gorgeous and full of character! The round beads are also gemstones; sunstone, red line jasper, and yellow Jade. All put together with unique bronze chain.



Here we have some amazing and shiny faceted pyrite beads on vegan cord. This style is so comfortable to wear!! You can choose between 1-5 wraps (that is how many times the bracelet will wrap around your wrist). You can also wear these as anklets or necklaces as well! Very versatile!

Creative Business Maven Presents:

Desert Daisy Jewelry

A Crystal Enthusiast with a Gypsy Soul

I come from a family of creatives, growing up on a family farm where my parents used their talents to make sure we never noticed the lack of material possessions. My mother gardened and sewed all of our clothes (and the most wonderful quilts); my father raised the animals and built all the barns as our little farm grew. Together, they instilled in me the appreciation for craft, the value in hand made, and the understanding that a little of ourselves goes into everything we create.

I rebelled a bit against my artsy upbringing and found myself in a scientific job behind a desk, Astrophysics. Interesting, but I never really fit in, I was always searching. Following my heart has led me on a winding path to where I am now, creating accessories that highlight the natural, raw beauty in the world. I travel all over the southwest to find the perfect stones, each one is hand selected by me for that extra something they seem to radiate.

Beauty to me does not lay in perfection, so the stones I naturally end up with are selected for character and depth. I find myself inspired by the unique energy of each stone, and sometimes when inspiration lags, a good old fashioned desert hike is all I need to get back into design.

I am also fascinated by the metaphysical studies that surround crystals. The place they have held in so many cultures over the course of history shows their pull on our collective psyche, and the majesty of a stone that has been part of the earth for millions of years before becoming part of the jewelry I make is what inspires me the most.

Desert Daisy Jewelry



While I may have left that little farm behind long ago, and traveled far, I still apply those learnings to everything I do. My jewelry is an extension of all the experiences I have been lucky to have, and I'm excited to share that little bit of me with anyone who wears it.

I started my shop in 2014, and made it my primary focus in the summer of 2015. I strive to create jewelry collections that inspire others and are on the edge of fashion. I am humbled that there are people out there that support my art, and I am lucky to be surrounded by talented friends and collaborators that help me bring my visions to life. My products, look books and blog can be found at www.desert-daisyjewelry.com, and you can follow my shop on Instagram @desert-daisyjewelry.

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Desert Daisy Jewelry's shop



Inspired by Pantone's colors of the year 2016, Rose Quartz and Serenity, a delicate Blue Kyanite blade has been electroformed in my home studio, a complicated process that can take up to 12 hours per piece and creates truly unique metal settings for each gem. Once the copper setting is complete, the pendant is strung from a rose gold plated chain, adjusting between 16 and 18 inches long. Each Kyanite blade is unique, but all of these are chosen for their rich blue color and delicate strength. This necklace can be worn alone as a feminine and pretty piece, or layered with other longer necklaces for a more Bohemian look.

Nothing is more magical and feminine to me than Moonstone. Milky white in color, it flashes rich blues in just the right light. These hand cut and polished Moonstone cabochons have been set in a smooth copper ring setting, using the above mentioned Electroforming process. There are a few different ones to choose from in the shop with the sizes listed. If you do not see your size available, I am always open to creating a custom one in your size. <https://www.etsy.com/listing/263258944/bohemian-moonstone-teardrop-copper-ring?ref=related-2> Speaking of custom orders, pictured below is a custom Spirit Quartz necklace that is truly one of a kind. I would be happy to create one similar for you.



These hairsticks are one of my most popular selling styles, and each one is truly as unique as the crystal that sits on top of it. A 6 inch wooden hairstick is topped with a hand selected crystal, pictured here are a variety of Amethysts, but there are many options to choose from in my shop. The stone is double wrapped, finished with a fishtail leather wrapping technique. If your hair is long and thick like mine, one of these gorgeous wands is all you need for an easy updo. If you have shorter, finer hair, I recommend buying a pair to secure your locks. (above)

*All photos in this article are courtesy of photographer Jennifer Leveritt (@edithtourmente)

Creative Business Maven Presents:

Made4Hypersensitives

Why i make my own skin care:

Many ask me why i make my own skincare products. The simple reason is that i feel i have no choice. I tried so many sensitive skin products and none of them were right for me. They had fragrances, alcohols, colors, but most of the time they just burned me or gave me a rash. The scents made my chronic daily migraine worse. Lotions broke me out in a rash resembling chicken pox, gave me cystic acne, or triggered eczema/psoriasis outbreaks. Every soap/shampoo/body wash tingled and burned my skin. I have scars on most of my body—especially my hands—because of daily handwashing with regular soap. I thought i had no other options until i discovered handmade soap.

In 2013, i travelled to australia to visit my family. I had been sick for 3 years, and my only diagnosis at that point was chronic daily migraine and psoriasis. I travelled all along the gold coast and came across eumundi markets. I saw a lot of soapmakers there and thought they were the smartest people on the planet. I loved their soaps, but i still dealt with dry skin on a daily basis.

When i got back home, with a suitcase full of soap, i soon converted my family. I kept buying handmade and tried half a dozen different farms who sold goat milk products. Fast forward to 2015, i had been thinking about making my own soap for a while at that point. Studied it for months before i invested in the idea. And i couldn't afford to keep buying handmade.

SINCE THEN, I HAVE BEEN LEARNING MORE AND MORE ABOUT EACH OIL AND WHAT TYPES OF INGREDIENTS MOST PEOPLE HAVE REACTIONS TO. I'M STILL LEARNING AND I DOUBT I WILL STOP. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT SKIN CONDITIONS RELATED TO CHRONIC ILLNESSES AND AUTOIMMUNE PROBLEMS, EVEN CANCER. LEARNING ABOUT EACH OF MY CUSTOMERS SKIN ISSUES HELPS ME TO CUSTOMIZE THEIR PRODUCT FOR THEM.

THERE ARE SO MANY NOURISHING BOTANICALS OUT THERE THAT CAN IMPROVE DIFFERENT SKIN TYPES. I USE ORGANIC, HERBAL, AND PURE INGREDIENTS AND USE ESSENTIAL OILS ONLY—NO FRAGRANCES IN MY PRODUCTS. I CATER TO PEOPLE WITH ALLERGIES, CHRONIC ILLNESSES, AND COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS. IF I AM MAKING SAY, A SAMPLE BAG OR A CUSTOMIZED SOAP, I ASK THE CUSTOMER TO TELL ME ANY/ALL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT THEIR SKIN. I GET PEOPLE WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS, FIBROMYALGIA, HS, CHRONIC PAIN, INSOMNIA, CANCER, AND SO MUCH MORE.

Your skin is your largest organ and it absorbs 60% of everything in comes into contact with. The majority of chronic/autoimmune illnesses affect skin's moisture levels, acid mantle, nourishment and when you are unhealthy or under stress it can trigger various types of skin issues. My goal is to improve the lives of my fellow sufferers, in any way possible.

Chronic illness affects almost 3 million americans, or 1 out of 2 individuals. That is a huge number of people suffering, even if they don't all have skin problems.

So many soapmakers don't make soaps for hypersensitive skin, just average skin. A lot of recipes i have seen use over 25% coconut oil. Since it is such a dry oil, it strips the skin in such high amounts. I use it at no more than 20% and always put another oil or two to combat dryness and condition. Apricot kernal oil and avocado oil are good examples. I have also met lavender-sensitive, olive-sensitive, bees-wax-sensitives that i have had to create recipes for. I hope i'm helping people who suffer and helping to restore their acid mantle—boosting their immune system in the process. The apple cider vinegar soap recipe is my best seller, which is awesome because i consider acv one of natures miracle products.

Different oils can have different properties. Some people are sensitive to essential oils as well, like babies are. In that case, unscented milk soaps are best. Whether its coconut or goats milk is up to the person. Pumpkin and carrot can remove dead skin cells and renew skin. Shea butter is one of the most popular oils on the market—yet one of the top contact allergies right next to latex!!

I have recently started my own website and i'm currently trying to integrate all my traffic from my etsy shop to the new online store. I also have a blog on the site and keep it updated with all my latest news, as well as my instagram. I hope i can do a youtube channel to talk to my fans a little more in-depth about my products. The site is www.Made4hypersensitives.Com i have also been crowdfunding to help build up the business and invest in more efficient equipment.

Creative Business Maven

Shop Features

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Made4Hypersensitives shop



Made with all-natural, organic Apple Cider Vinegar. Apple Cider Vinegar balances and restores your skin's pH and acid mantle. The acid mantle is the combination of sebum (oil) and perspiration on the skin's surface. This barrier protects the skin and makes it less vulnerable to environmental damage, less prone to dryness, and also inhibits the growth of foreign bacteria and fungi- enabling skin to be healthier and have fewer breakouts. Kills Yeast and Candida Albicans. This is the key to rejuvenating and repairing wrinkles, scars, skin damage, and acne cysts.

Made with 100% organic Mango Butter, Safflower Oil, Rice Bran Oil, Grapefruit Essential Oil, and Rosemary Essential Oil (preservative). This is a Vegan, Organic, and all-natural skin care product. You can use this body butter anywhere you want! Face, Body, Feet, wherever you need it. You can even apply it to cuts/scrapes.



Handmade Organic Pink Grapefruit Soap made with Organic and Vegan materials. Moroccan Red Clay adds a pretty color and is healthy for skin, with its detoxifying and rejuvenating properties. Grapefruit is rich in vitamin C, which is necessary for collagen production in the skin. Of the citrus fruits, grapefruit has the highest concentration of vitamin C. Grapefruit also has the highest concentration of lycopene, a phytochemical that is also found in tomatoes. Lycopene reduces the effects of free radicals, which can cause cancer. Grapefruit also has a phytochemical known as naringin. Naringin reduces toxins in the liver, which results in healthier skin.

Creative Business Maven Presents:

Surprise Designs

Hello, I am Leslie D. Tucker. I am a designer living in Newark, Delaware. I am originally from Philadelphia, PA. I married my husband and moved to Delaware in 2012. I am mom to five biological children and five stepchildren. I am also a grandmother.

I have been designing and creating different types of crafts for over 30 years. I also teach crochet class at a local art alliance.

In 2008, I launched my design business as a way to supplement my income. Today the business has grown into a huge success. I have the opportunity to create designs that are affordable and comfortable.

My design line includes a wide variety of colorful hats, scarves, fingerless gloves, slippers, bags and much more. The designs are great for the stay at home mom, the college student, the fashion model and the celebrity that walks the red carpet.

I am also a celebrity gifter. My designs have walked the red carpet at the 2015 GBK MTV Movie awards celebrity gifting suite, the 2015 GBK Primetime Emmy's celebrity gifting suite and the 2016 GBK Golden Globes celebrity gifting suite.

My designs are in the hands of celebrities including ABC Castle's Nathan Fillion, Frankie Munez, Emma Stone and Downtown Julie Brown to name a few.

Stop by my shop. You may find the hat, scarf or fingerless gloves you have been searching for.

Etsy - www.surprisedesignsde.etsy.com

Website - <http://shop.surprise-designs.com/>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/surprisedesigns

Instagram - <http://instagram.com/surprise.designs>



Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Surprise Designs shop



This hat is hand crochet in a wonderful warm acrylic yarn. It is super soft. This crochet hat best fits an average adult and teen head of 19 - 22 inches. One size.

These beautiful Fingerless Winter Gloves are the perfect addition to your winter wardrobe, not only will they keep you warm but they're a trendy accent. I made these gloves using a high quality acrylic yarn. (right)



This item can be worn as a Scarf, Hat, headband, bandedana or hood The draw string allows you to easily open the back. There are several ways to wear this item

Creative Business Maven Presents:

HajarMotherEarth

I'm Fatin Bakri from "HajarMotherEarth" accessories business.

I included three items from my new collection "Over The Rainbow" in which I used a very unique yarn with a variety of colors both neutral and colorful.

I love mixing colors that could convey positive energy and awaken the joy inside each one of us.

My main inspiration is nature and different cultures so my style is a combination of ethnic, bohemian and gypsy style.

Through my designs, I try to reach people's souls, people who want to reach an inner peace, be free inside and beautiful both inside and out.

For me, that could be achieved by creating accessories that are connected to nature, our origin and essence, and that is what HajarMotherEarth is all about.

The name of my shop mainly is "Hajar". I LOVE this name since I was a teenager. It means The Lotus Flower in the Egyptian hieroglyphic writing.

The prophet Ibrahim's wife was called Hajar and she was the first woman on earth to wear earrings!!.

I was so surprised when I knew this and this made me adore the name even more. Eventually, I ended up calling my shop "HAJAR".

Thus, for me, each female who would wear something I create would be my "Hajar".

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photo to be taken directly to Hajar Mother Earth's shop



This necklace reminds me of earth, trees and meditation. To make it, I used burlap, wood beads and these beautiful fabric beads I made using a very special yarn. These fabric beads are with a variety of colors to choose from: light and dark green/ brown and green/ orange and green/brown/orange)



These bohemian style hoop earrings are made with the same special yarn fabric which has a really delicate texture. Blue as the main color for these earrings which reminds of the tranquil skies and gives the feeling of inner peace. Here also, there are different combinations of colors to choose from: light and dark blue/ light and dark green/ brown and green/ green and purple



This is the first product I made in this collection so it was the starting point for it. I just love bangle sets. This is a set of two fabric wrapped bracelets in which I used once again the same special fabric I used in this particular collection. I believe anyone who will wear this piece would feel very special because this yarn is really one of a kind with its quality, texture and colors. As the other jewelry pieces, there is a mix of colors you can choose from for your own unique set: light and dark green/ brown and green/ light and dark blue/ green and purple.

Maven Writings:

Upcycling Maiden Long Island

Alice in Wonderland is one of my favorite Fairy Tales. One of my favorite scenes is the Mad Hatters tea party. Often I have imagined what the miss-matched chaos of the tea party scene would look like in real life. One day after being given a heap of old glasses, vases, teacups, saucers and the like I decided to experiment with these pieces to make something befitting the Hatter and his party. Maiden Long Island is always looking for new ways to upcycle the odds and ends we find. Part of the fun of owning your own crafting business is being able to push your creativity to the max. The end results are not always what you imagine or even something you like but the process is what is important. It helps the creative process and often leads you to make other items you never intended.



First we laid out all of the random glass and china pieces to see what would look nice together. Then we took some pieces that had been decorated but not used in other projects to see if vintage and modern would work together. We wanted to choose interesting pieces that could look like they were meant to fit together but not match. This part of the process was very much like a puzzle. It was also quite inspirational for other projects. The end results were some great pieces that are completely one of a kind yet functional.

Now our miss-matched serving pieces are some of our favorite items to make.



Writers Wanted!



Let's collab.

Write for the Creative Business Maven

Do you have this urge to get your words out there? Come write for us!

We love writings about beauty, health, business, fashion, and everything in between. Think you would make a good fit? Writing for the magazine will also allow you to feature your products, website, or whatever you wish to promote on a one page spread for free. Tap on the image above and let's start the collaboration!



Creative Business Maven Presents:

33 Handmade Gifts

for the ones You Love

It's that time of
year!

11 handmade
business owners
featuring their best
gifts for you and the
ones you love

Interactive Magazine Feature:

Click on the photos to be taken directly to the artist's shop

ART BY DESIGNS



Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom Of the Opera" movie quote "Say you love me, you know I do", Home decor, Instant download, Digital print. As a big fan of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera", inspiration for this print came to me while I was listening to the song "All I ask of you", and I felt like I just had to make this! And so, this print was created. Since the song "All I ask of you" is among the most romantic of the entire movie, I feel like this is the perfect gift for anyone that wants to tell that special someone "I love you". With its background which features a real song, and the high quality and sharpness of the lettering itself, this print is perfect to print at any size up to 16 inches X 20 inches, and is perfect to be hung or places anywhere in the house, in any room. Scalable up to: 16 inches X 20 inches Price: \$12.15

Lewis Carroll's "Alice In Wonderland" Literary poster, Minimalist print, We're All Mad Here, Mad Hatter, Instant Download. Need to find something for the literary fan? This printable is perfect for just that. It is inspired by Lewis Carroll famous novel Alice in Wonderland. The silhouette of Alice adds much mystery and the colors blue and off white creates the perfect mix of colors. It also features the quote "We're all mad here" Said by the Mad Hatter. Whether you buy it for yourself, or someone you truly love, this printable will always be the perfect buy. Scalable up to: 16 inches X 20 inches Price: \$13.57



Blueprint "Poke ball" Pokémon Graphic, Home decor, Printable art, Digital Download, Wall art, Instant download. This print of a Poke ball blueprint is something perfect for anyone that likes Pokémon, grown-ups and children alike, or anyone that likes this style of art. It brings nostalgia and happiness. Whenever you look at it, you can't help but remember sitting in front of the TV while the anime Pokémon is playing. Anyone that ever saw the show will absolutely adore this print. And with its fine lines, it is always an interesting print to look at. Scalable up to: 16 inches X 20 inches Price: \$12.15



BLACK PEARL CREATIONS



Cream Fringe Necklace. She had the soul of a gypsy, the heart of a hippie and the spirit of a fairy. Release the gypsy in you with this fabulous fringe necklace. (Skirt is also available).



Crocheted Blanket Scarf. Blanket Scarves are the trend for Winter 2015! Using a retro inspiring stitch and colorful fiber, a Black Pearl blanket scarf will stand out from the sea of plaid! This scarf is blocked out to 30" deep and 60" wide. Black Pearl's blanket scarves are made from luxury fibers such as Swedish wool, Japanese silk and ethically sourced cotton. Completely hand crocheted, they take several days to make. Due to the variations in the fiber, no two scarves are exactly the same. I mix colors to add an extra dimension in color. These are truly one of a kind masterpieces.



Wood Button Scarves. What's a better look than a scarf with wood buttons. Whether Juniper, Olive or Maple, wood buttons add a lovely bohemian look to the fabulous chunky scarves. (Heart button scarves are available in extremely limited quantities.)

BROOKES BITS HANDMADE



Natural Horse Hair tassel Necklaces. These horsehair tassels are hand dyed and is suspended from a 30-33' long thick leather cording. They are available in two colors, the aqua and the neon. The tassels measure about 4.5 inches including the hoop at the top!



Natural Druzy pendants that are suspended on a 24 inch gold chain! The druzy is natural and free formed making all pieces one of a kind and buyer picks the pendant they would like! They shimmer just beautifully in the light.



The last image is of gorgeous pave diamond edged jasper arrowheads. EXCLUSIVE ITEM. These high end bohemian jasper arrowhead necklaces are just what you need to add to your jewelry set! The jasper arrowhead is suspended on a 30" black chain. Approximate size: 2.5 inches Real stone arrowhead pendant with crystal pave diamonds on both sides and on bail. You may choose which specific one you would like at checkout.

JANICE GIFTS AND DESIGNS



Together is my favorite: This is a 6x6 etched lighted glass block with the saying 'Together is my favorite place to be XOX' What a wonderful sentiment to share with that special person in your life. Instead of candy and a card, try getting something that will last a lifetime!

This design can be personalized with your loved one's name at the bottom in Red vinyl. The bow pattern may vary.

Your wings were ready: Honor your loved one with this "Your wings were ready but my heart was not" personalized, lighted glass block. This special creation will remind you that although they are gone, they are not forgotten. The birds can symbolize flying away or, like my family did, they symbolized the children left behind. You can choose the number of birds, up to 14. You have your choice of colors and if you wish to add a name.



When a Cardinal: A cardinal is a representative of a loved one who has passed. When you see one, it means they are visiting you. They usually show up when you most need them or miss them. They also make an appearance during times of celebration as well as despair to let you know they will always be with you. Look for them, they'll appear. Bring Love and Life to your home this year with this gorgeous custom Glass Block! I will create for you a glass block with the lovely saying "When a cardinal appears in your yard it's a visitor from Heaven". Each block will be topped with matching Ribbons to add color and personality to your home. The block is 6"x3"x6". It is etched on the front and inside is a string of 20 electric lights.



EARTH COLLECTIVE



Earth Collectives sore muscle rub is safe and effective topical pain remedy for sore muscles, pulled muscles, arthritis, neck, stiff joints, shoulder stiffness, and just about any other muscle or joint aches. This muscle rub is crafted with organic cayenne, ginger, clove bud and organic menthol to provide a relaxing warming sensation. Cayenne can help relieve various types of pain, from neuropathy, back pain, muscles spasms, menstrual cramps, and even arthritis. The reason that cayenne works so well is because it contains capsaicin. Capsaicin blocks a neurotransmitter that transmits pain signals from the nerves to the central nervous system.



Earth Collectives Organic Baby Balm is handcrafted with organic extra virgin olive oil infused with organic calendula and organic chamomile along with a small amount of organic tea tree essential oil and organic chamomile essential oil. This soothing and gentle herbal salve can relive dry, chapped skin along with relieving diaper rash and discomfort. Adults can use it, too! :)



Organic Working Hands Balm

This handcrafted balm is made with organic shea butter, organic extra virgin olive oil and therapeutic grade essential oils of lavender, tea tree and chamomile to provide relief to hard working hands. This ideal for gardeners, nurses, contractors, crafters and anyone who works with their hands and/or experiences extremely dry, cracked and challenged skin.

ECHOCRAFTINGS ON



Hand knitted soft lace shawl in bright red color, decorated with metallic pink beads. This beautiful, elegant and warm lace shawl hugs Your neck and shoulders. Perfect accessory for frosty winter, early spring, chilly summer nights and windy fall. Wear it with jeans and t-shirt for casual days or dress it up with blouse and skirt for special events.



Hand knitted romantic wrist warmers in yellow and violet colors, decorated with lilac beads. Fingerless gloves are perfect for typing, driving, crafting, taking pictures etc. Wear them on bare hands or on gloves as an accessory.



Hand knitted short boot toppers in natural sheep gray and red, orange colors. Beautiful leg warmers with fire flower pattern. Colorful natural yarn is hand dyed with easter egg tablets, so the colors are totally unique and non-recurring. These stylish leg accessories give totally new and elegant look to any mid-calf boots. They look good with girly clothing like skirt and dress and why not with kneepants. Knitted from 100% woolen yarn. Length 13,5 cm (5.31 inches) Fits to calf circumference about 37 cm (14.57 inches)

ESSENTIALLY SAVVY



Stop counting sheep and get some rest with this adorable hand-made aromatherapy neck pillow.

The pillow has a wonderful relaxing aroma that will support restful sleep and relaxation along with aiding in neck strain and headaches. The pillow is hand made with extra care from super soft white minky fabric and generously filled with a mixture of aromatic French lavender, flax seeds, and an essential oil blend made from high quality essential oils. The pillow can be used as a hot/cold pack. Warm it up in the microwave or cool it in the freezer. This sweet little pillow is great for children to take to bed. Little ones can cozy up next to the warmed up pillow for a restful night of sleep. This also makes a great addition to the nursery and can be made without essential oils for babies (just request). The pillow measures L=19" x W=5" (This is a great size for children) The pillow measures L=19" x W=5" (This is a great size for children)



This adorable panda pillow is hand made with extra care from 100% certified organic cotton fabric and generously filled with a mixture of aromatic French lavender, flax seeds, and an essential oil blend made from high quality essential oils.

The pillow can be used as a hot/cold pack. Warm it up in the microwave or cool it in the freezer.

The benefits from using this pillow include;

- *Relief from chilled bones in the winter
- *Relief from neck strain
- *Relief from tension headaches
- *Assistance with restful sleep
- *Assistance with relaxation
- *Assistance with meditation

The pillow measures L=19" x W=5"

Relax with this soothing handmade eye pillow to help recover from a stressful day. The pillow has a wonderful relaxing aroma that will support restful sleep and relaxation along with aid in the relief of eye strain and headaches.

The adorable pillow is hand made from super soft plaid flannel fabric and is generously filled with a mixture of flaxseeds, french lavender and an essential oils blend that promotes rest and relaxation. Use this pillow for meditation, yoga, naps and before bed.

This pillow can be used as a hot/cold pack. Warmed it in the microwave for heat (30-60 seconds) or cool it in the freezer (30 minute) for cold use as a boo boo pillow.

The pillow measures L=8.5" W=3.5" H=1.5" This pillow lays flat across the eyes or forehead.



LULABELLE'S LLC



Mama Tribe. It has great meaning for me, we are all united as Mothers in this crazy, messy, stressful but so very rewarding journey of motherhood. I came out with this this Fall and was the first Etsy seller to come up with this phrase, this month a few other shops have now recreated it. It is very special to me! Comes in Jr. Small - Womens 2XL. Once a mom always a mom.



Custom Embroidered Name Hat. These are so adorable and perfect for announcing your new addition to the world! Hand sewn and hand embroidered, they are knit for a cozy, warm fit.

Made to Match mama!



TIGHTLY WOUND DESIGNS



There is something about that very first cup of coffee in the morning that sets your day. So if you are a coffee lover like me and absolutely cannot function without it, this handcrafted coffee lover set will be THE perfect addition to your home or coffee shop. Each letter stands 5 inches tall and is hand decorated with a variety of coffee theme colors that are guaranteed to brighten up a coffee lover's day. The C and the last E are decorated with a beautiful, deep espresso color, the O is hand decorated with a beautiful cream ribbon with gold polka dots, the F is wrapped with a deep mocha w/ white polka dots, the F is decorated with a caramel lace, and the last E is decorated with a tasteful beautiful white mocha. This is the perfect gift for any occasion, from a birthday, to a housewarming, or to include in a gift basket this holiday season. This is a one of a kind set for a coffee lover you will only find at Tightly Wound Designs.

***CUSTOM ORDERS WELCOME, If you would like a certain type of wine set inspired by your favorite type such as Merlot, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir, (etc) please message me and I can create a custom listing** Whether you enjoy boxed wine or a fine vintage this elegant set is for you! Each letter stands 5 inches tall (12.7cm) and is hand decorated with wine inspired decorative ribbon. The W and N are decorated with a deep Merlot and the I and E are decorated with a Pinot Grigio ribbon with polka dots (see third picture for a close up of the polka dots). There is a flower decoration on the corner of the W (optional). There are a variety of colors to choose from! This is a unique & captivating set for any wine lover. It looks beautiful displayed in the dining room, kitchen, or above the bar. It is an ideal gift for a wine lover on any occasion. Some ideas include a wine theme gift basket, displaying the set in a wine theme kitchen, dining room, above your bar or wine rack, or even in a restaurant. I absolutely love this set and know you will too.



CUSTOM ORDERS WELCOME This stylishly handcrafted "Wash/Wash & Dry" letter set stands 5 inches tall and is hand decorated with a variety of clean & beautiful colors. The W and H are decorated with a fun white and gold polka dot color, the A is decorated with a clean & fresh baby blue, and lastly the S is decorated in shiny gold. The & sign stands 9.5 inches tall and is hand decorated in gold. This unique set would be the perfect gift for the holidays, a housewarming gift, wedding gift, or even if you would just like to treat yourself! Buy yours today!



KANSAS CITY KREATIONS



Hand-Stamped Mom Necklace with Names, Swarovski Flat Birthstone Crystals, and Heart Charm
 * This is a 1 1/4" diameter polished hand-stamped nickel silver washer pendant, personalized with up to 4 names or 26 characters. It's a great gift for mom or grandma!
 Flat Swarovski birthstone crystals are placed in between the names. Up to four Swarovski crystal birthstones are included as well as your choice of a pewter open heart charm or a puffy heart charm. An 18" silver plated cable chain is also included.

Hand-Stamped Shoelace Plate for Running or Fitness Motivation* Who needs that extra little push when you're running or working out? I know I do!! These aluminum shoelace plates are great for attaching to your laces and serve as that little motivational reminder every time you look down! Each plate is personalized with your choice of saying.



Personalized Hand-Stamped Mom Necklace with Children's Names and Swarovski Birthstones
 * This is a 1" diameter polished hand-stamped nickel silver washer pendant. This is a great gift for moms and grandmas! Pendant can be personalized with up to 22 characters. Up to three Swarovski crystal birthstones are also included along with an 18" silver plated cable chain.

The Jewels of Kingwood



The Power of a Woman is extremely strong and ever present. In our Power of Women series of collages, each piece delivers a powerful message and each unframed print is READY TO SHIP, showcases a different sentiment about Life, and is designed using layers of various graphically manipulated images to provide a vintage look. Prints are available in 3 different sizes. In matters of the heart, the Power of the Female Psyche is strong yet vulnerable. This particular print showcases the deep, passionate love of a soulmate with the sentiment, "For it was not into my ear you whispered, but into my heart. It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul". This art print would make a perfect gift for Valentine's Day, a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or for your significant other for any occasion.



Special love gifts are appropriate all year long and not just for Valentine's Day. In our Love is in the Air series of prints and collages, the visual messages are powerful and focus on the many aspects of Love. Each print is READY TO SHIP and showcases a different sentiment about LOVE. This inspirational art print is designed using layers of altered and manipulated images to provide a unique look. This particular print showcases an outdoor fantasy style illustration about The Journey of two people. A great wedding or anniversary gift for couples, for a significant other, or LGBT friend, this print would also be perfect for Valentine's Day, a birthday gift, or for any occasion. Our unframed prints are available in 3 different sizes.



The Inspirational Christian Art Print, "Love, God", will make a wonderful addition to artwork for your home or office decor. This unframed Abstract Art print, that is available in 3 sizes and is READY TO SHIP, was created using a modern abstract style of design. The inspirational and motivating message in this Christian print would be a great gift for anyone. The inspiring quote, "My Child, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH. I've got this, remember? Love, God", has been layered on top of a hand designed abstract watercolor background that is a high resolution digital print, and will provide years of sharp, crisp details while maintaining the rich color tones. This selection would make a great gift for any Christian or for Easter, a birthday, confirmation, First Communion, graduation, housewarming, or any occasion gift.



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