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Editor's MOTE

Creative Business Maven, powered by Royal Blue Studio, 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.

t's March and that means it's time for Spring!

Spring brings a sense of renewal and freshness to me. And I am so ready for that. I am already thinking of new methods, workflows, and routines for my personal lifestyle and for my business.

I think it's important to always be testing and analyzing how your day is carrying you. If you're feeling stressed out or in a slump I highly suggest taking a step back and looking at what exactly is creating this high stress feeling. Here are some things I like to look over:

- Am i getting enough sleep (super hard with little ones-they rule the night)
- Am I getting a workout in?
- Am I trying to eat clean?
- Am I drinking enough water?
- Am I creating my to-do lists?
- Am I implementing things I've learned?
- Do I have a system that doesn't waste my time while I'm working?
- Are there holes in my work day?
- What kinds of jobs could I put off?
- Are my priorities in line?

You may think these things don't really go together. But, they do for me. And they probably do for you if you really think about it. If one or two of these are suffering or not running up to par, then everything else kind of starts teetering until I notice where the weakness is and fix it.

So, this Spring, in addition to cleaning your house up and refreshing your yard, make sure you do some self-cleaning. You're number one. If you're suffering-then everything else follows. Take care of yourself and enjoy your renewal.

> Lindsay Maloney Editor-In-Chief



Don't forget! Creative Business Maven is INTERACTIVE! When you see something you love and just have to have or want to learn more about a product-all you have to do is click on the image and you will be brought right where you need to be.



Cover photo: © Subbotina Anna

March





This month in Creative Business Maven





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Maven

Features

Shop Creative Business Maven

Want it? Click it. Buy it. Get it.



Lindsay Loves



May Cause Miracles: A 40-Day Guidebook of Subtle Shifts for Radical Change and Unlimited Happiness by Gabrielle Bernstein

Giorgio Armani Giorgio Armani Si Eau De Parfums Spray for Women, 1.7 Ounce

Hippie Boho People Embroidery Floral Lace Crochet Mini Party Dress Tops

Essential Oil Wooden Box Organizer - Large Wood Storage Case Protects 68 Oils.

Secura Nano Ionic NanoCare Facial Steamer

Women's Fringe Delight Wedge Sandal



FEBRUARY PRAISE





Kaja Kelder Beautiful!

Like · Reply · February 1 at 5:21am

echocraftings Thank you! Beautiful magazine!

tightlywounddesigns @royal.blue.studio-

Absolutely gorgeous! It is an honor for Tightly Wound Designs to be included in your first issue!! Thank you so much! thenoblehoundshop I just took my first peek - what a great magazine! And so beautiful!

thefireworkbox 💖



Nicole Culver it looks beautiful!

Like · Reply ·

1 · February 1 at 8:23am

canyonalchemy Nice!



Olaolu Ayo This is truly amazing.

Like · Reply · February 1 at 8:25am



Denise Schuler Thanks so much for the feature! soulserenade.etsy.com

claudia_nanni_fine_art @royal.blue.studi
o dear Lindsay I'm really proud to be in

aduzad A gorgeous cover!

the first issue!

Thank you so much!

bravelittlelady I love this so much!



Angel Quintana I seriously am getting choked up! I am SOO proud chica!! and honored you featured the Holistic Fashionista Memoirs book!!! LOVE YOU and congrats!



Leslie D. Tucker Thank you for the feature! The magazine is amazing. The blogs post are also amazing. I just posted your SEO blog post to my page. My fans will love it. Surprise Designs.



Iza Spry

January 31 at 3:55pm

OMG OMG it's tomorrow! :))))))))



Elizabeth Bogan Great job!

Like · Reply · February 1 at 11:36pm

hajarmotherearthaccessories Lindsay, congratulations for the first day of the magazine. Lots of love and a million wishes of success.



Stephanie Posl Ross Thank you for the feature! Shared on Tightly Wound Designs page too!!



Niroma Studio

I'm Cindy Bokser of Niroma Studio, maker of hand Fiber art is the perfect creative avenue for people woven and macramé wall art, and modern wall last summer and have been enjoying a great, sup-

I practiced art as a child, taking painting and pottery classes, but I put away those interests in high school and college when academics and sports became a priority. Toward the end of my undergraduate career, I began to dabble in art again because it kept call-I decided the best thing for me would be to work in

the former home of the late artist Donald Judd. I ate, drank and breathed Judd all weekend with the limitless West Texas landscape and sky invigorating every sense, After 20 years of working for other people, it's been an and suddenly, I couldn't get the idea out of my head that and happened upon fiber arts. I started out by teaching myself the art of loom weaving, which evolved into

who are not diehard perfectionists, for people who hooks. I'm a mom to two toddler boys and also work are ok with throwing caution to the wind. I emin the visual arts. I launched my web shop and Etsy brace this art mostly because there really are no mistakes. It allows you to free up your mind and your portive social media community on Instagram. hands to let the yarn or rope take you in directions that are often not planned out. And I've found that when I succumb to the fiber, I often do my best work. This is similar to the way I do a lot of things in my life, for better or worse, so I've found it to be a fitting outlet for me. Sure, there are also fiber artists and artisans who plan every move, and that's the beauty of ing me back, but in all honesty, I wasn't very good. this art. It can be whatever you want it to be for you.

the arts, to champion the arts, and that's what I hap- Always feeling like my wall hangings, or any wall pily did and have been doing for the past decade. hangings, are done a bit of disservice when hung on a plain old nail, I created my first wall hook In early 2015, I took a business trip to Marfa, Texas, to and really enjoyed how it finished off the look. I now offer them in four shapes and seven colors.

incredibly fulfilling journey to start my own business. I needed to work with my hands again. I came home To have the freedom to create, speak about my work and business, and market it the way I want to, with only my sweat and tenacity to determine where it goes, is an a discovery of macramé, and now I feel unstoppable. unparalleled feeling. I'm excited to see how far I can go!



Beautiful, intricate, highly detailed large macrame wall hanging mounted on sealed white birch branch. This boho macrame piece is made up of multiple layers of natural unbleached cotton rope and twine, with an accent of light grey rope in the center.





This is not your granny's macrame. Macrame can be the perfect addition to the modern home. With clean, sleek styling, a macrame wall hanging adds texture and depth to wall spaces that are begging for a little extra attention. Macrame curtain is made of cotton rope and has been dip-dyed by hand an ombre grey with very faint deep purplish undertones. It hangs from a brass rod.

Clean, modern style wooden wall hooks complete the look of any room. A favorite for nurseries and kids rooms.

Hang a special outfit, coat, hat, jewelry or decorative wall hanging on your favorite shape wall hook to add that special detail.

These wall hooks come in four shapes and seven different colors and are made of solid pine.



Recurring Customers? Yes, please!

o, you have an Etsy shop. Or maybe Shopify. Or something else. You're busting your butt every month trying to make that sale. You set goals. And whether you meet them or not, the next month is just a replay of stress and hustling. Getting burned out? Wouldn't it be nice to have a steady income utilizing the products you already make?

Cratejoy is a platform that lets you turn your one time buyers into recurring customers.

Here's how:

Your customers become subscribers and rather than them going to buy products you sell from someone else, you are guaranteed to always have their business.

In recent years, subscription commerce has truly taken off, with companies like Birchbox, Jessica Alba's Honest company and many more seeing significant growth in revenue and customer base, retailers are starting to see the serious value in the subscription model - recurring, guaranteed revenue monthly.

In the last few months, handmade products and crafts in particular have become the toast of the subscription space.

People love the idea of receiving 'surprise packages' containing variations of their favorite handmade goods or craft goods, and those subscriptions are seeing rapid growth.

Cratejoy lets anyone achieve this without any technical or design knowledge. Also offers a 14 day free trial as well as a top level support team to assist in the onboarding process.

Interesting right? Sigh of relief? Thought so. Go click on the image and sign up!



Maven Writings

Pin it to Sell it: A Guide to Marketing on Pinterest in 7 Steps. Jacquelynne Holmes, MBA

Marketing is hard. For some of us, it's the most uncomfortable part of running our business, not only because it is timely and costly, but because building a brand is a delicate balance of awareness and reputation. We want to make sure that every minute or dollar spent can eventually provide some valuable returns later on, and that our brand won't be tarnished by too sales-y marketing strategies. Social media marketing is no different. Somewhere between the endless double-tapping on Instagram and retweeting your followers, you have to wonder if your followers will ever produce revenue.

Luckily, there is data that shows Pinterest as one of the most powerful social media platforms for marketing consumer items for women. The following steps will show you not only how to get started with marketing on Pinterest, but proven ways to increase traffic and followers.

First, the data:

- -85% of Pinterest users are women (eMarketer.com)
- 42% of U.S. women use Pinterest (Pew Research Center)
- Average users spend 98 minutes per month on Pinterest (RIS Media)
- -93% of users on Pinterest use it to plan purchases (Shopify)

What that means:

These stats show that not only are their users engaged, but the platform is literally women looking for stuff to buy.

Take a look at your business. Who do you sell to typically? What percentage of your customers are women? Are men the end-users of your product, or are they just buying it for the women in their life?

Are you sold on the power of Pinterest yet?

Step One: Creating your Business Account

https://business.pinterest.com/en

The most important part of getting started with Pinterest is not using a personal account for your business. Business accounts have integrated features to drive traffic for your website, including Rich Pins, which give prices and a link to your website directly on the pin. However, if you have a significant amount of followers that follow boards relevant to your business, you can convert your personal account into a business

After you have created your account, upload a personalized photo for the icon. While your first instinct may be to upload your business logo, you risk alienating potential followers by making them feel like they are being sold to prematurely. A personal picture of yourself, your dog, or a picture of your garden allows other Pinners to focus solely on your content.

Step Two: Confirm your Website

This step is optional, but undoubtedly important if your main interest is driving traffic to your website to increase sales. Confirming your website with Pinterest is one of the best ways to track the effectiveness of your Pins; it will provide you data on which Pins led to the most traffic, as well as the activity of your Pinterest audience.

Luckily, such a crucial step is pretty simple. Pinterest will provide you with a meta-tag to place into the header of your website. If you designed your own website, you simply open your editor and copy & paste the tag into the <head> section. If you do not have access to your website code, contact your administrator or designer.

> Here are some examples of boards within a niche: I create: Handmade Body Cream with Essential Oils



Remember, this is a business account. What categories relate to your business? You want to make sure that

boards are relevant to your niche, but broad enough that you will attract an abundance of visitors and Pinners.

It is also important that you would be able to create at least one piece of content for each board. For example, as a business consultant, I could create content on a number of topics in which I have skills or education. As of now, I have a Mindful Business board, an MBA board, a Professional Women board and so on. But if you visit my Pinterest profile and also see that I also have several boards of random interest like my favorite bags and shoes, my purposeful positioning as a professional is diminished. However, my personal Pinterest is a great spot for all things eccentric; including a Pin for my dream 5-way rainfall shower.

- Natural Skincare
- Aromatherapy
- Body Care
- **Beauty Tips**

I create: Custom Abstract Paintings My Boards:

- Art that Inspires Me
- Creative Home decorations
- Small Apartment decorations
- Interior Design Principles

A breadth of intentional boards will keep Pinners with general interests in your niche engaged. Some specificity is great and helps you focus on your target market. However, remember that in a business to consumer model, you need to inspire and provoke the demand for your item. If you get too specific with your boards, you are missing out on Pinners that don't know about your niche yet.

continued next page Photo credit: © laszlolorik

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4. Create Content

I cannot emphasize the importance of creating your own content for some of your Pins, as original content makes up less than 20% of the material on Pinterest, meaning over 80% of Pins are Re-Pinned material (OhSoPinteresting.com). Creating your own content and linking it to your website is the key to driving more traffic, and ultimately more sales.

Creating content is the time to release your inhibition and inner creativity, but still following a few guidelines for creating the "Perfect Pin".

The formula for the "Perfect Pin" consists of:

- A Long, Vertically Oriented Image
- High Contrast Colors
- Teaser Text: "The Best Ingredients for Dry Skin"
- Overlay on the Image: text below the image is ineffective.
- Pin Description: Enhances SEO
- Tutorial or Guide-Related Content: "How to Make the Best Lotion for Dry Skin" or "6 Ways to Give Your Home a Cheap Facelift".

And no, this formula isn't based some pseudo-psychology or mere observation. An analytics company called Curalate studied over 500k Pins and, found that taller, medium light, high contrast Pins received about 17x more re-Pins than regular Pinterest Content.

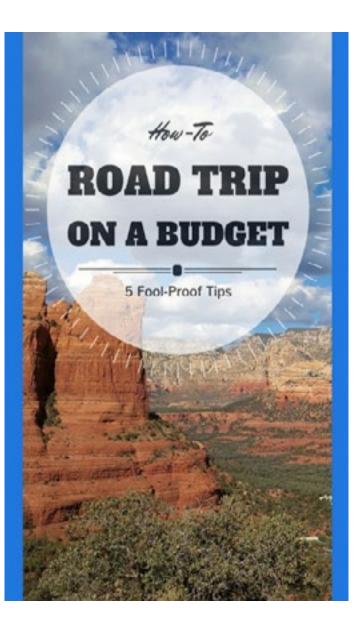
Am I making this sound like you need to be a graphic designer to be successful on Pinterest? That is definitely not the case! There are dozens of tools to help people with limited time, budget, and skill to create Pin-worthy graphics.

Of course, if you are skilled in Photoshop, by all means rock it. For the rest of us, we will use the shortcuts.

Here are some amazing websites to help you create Pin-worthy content:

- Canva.com
- Quozio
- Pinstamatic
- Easle.ly

The image below is a graphic I made in under 5 minutes on Canva.com. I used a picture that I took on my cell phone four years ago in Sedona, Arizona. I cropped it to roughly meet the desired dimensions, chose a background color, and used a free text overlay to include some catchy text. Using these resources means that you will be able to create content in a timely manner, not spending hours creating one Pin. Additionally, using your own photos is a great way to avoid the cost of purchasing stock photos.



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5. Strategize

Now you have created some content and are ready to get started Pinning! First, you want to find some people to follow. It is important to follow other businesses that are complimentary to your own instead of solely following non-business members. For example, if you create handmade jewelry, you might want to follow other businesses that make handbags, hair accessories, bead and jewel sourcing, and so on.

Next, it is important to schedule your pins. While you may only be creating content one day a week, avoid over-posting on only one day. It is important to be consistent, Pinning your own content every couple days, and Re-pinning something at least 5 days per week. The balance is between staying active, but not overbearing to your followers.

Lastly, when are your followers pinning? Data tells us the most popular time is between 2pm-4pm (ref), or 8pm-1am. Ultimately, your followers determine your peak times, so be sure to Pin your content for maximum exposure. Pay attention to their habits and when your feed is the busiest.

6. Make sure your Business Website is mobile-friendly.

Our whole guide is meant to increase the traffic to your website to increase sales. So, this step might seem obvious, but if you build your website yourself like I did, you appreciate the amount of effort needed to optimize it for mobile. 80% of Pinterest users making purchases are doing so via a mobile device (Shopify). If your customers are clicking a pin back to your landing page on their iPhone, and they see a complicated desktop-friendly website, how likely will they be to zoom and navigate through it? If you want to attract future customers to your website, it needs to be easy and seamless. Online shopping carts are abandoned more often than they aren't, so don't increase those odds by making the ecommerce challenging.

There are dozens of variables that need to be taken into consideration when optimizing your website for mobile. If you designed your own website, roll up your sleeves and get ready to work!

Otherwise, contact your web designer or consultant and find out what is needed.

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7. Build your Pinterest Empire

- Analyze

Now that you have your first Pin created, accounts to follow, and the magic formula for creating content, it is time to build your empire! Social Media Marketing on any platform takes time and consistency, the most important step is to never give up!

A crucial tip for social media success is to reuse popular content. Most professionals in Social Media Marketing reuse content anywhere from 2-5 times. So don't be afraid to Pin the popular post that generated 100 unique visitors!

The most important step for continued success is analyzing the effectiveness of your Pins. Use Pinterest Analytics to track what works, and more importantly, what doesn't. Popular content should be repeated, whereas Pins that barely generate traffic should be put on the shelf.

Finally, don't forget to stay active. Before you decide that Pinterest is not right for your business, give it a solid effort. Need help or advice? Feel free to email me, drop a note on my website, or schedule a 1:1 coaching call so we can work on your challenges together.

-Jacquelynne Holmes, MBA Owner of Luxom Consulting Group luxomgroup@gmail.com



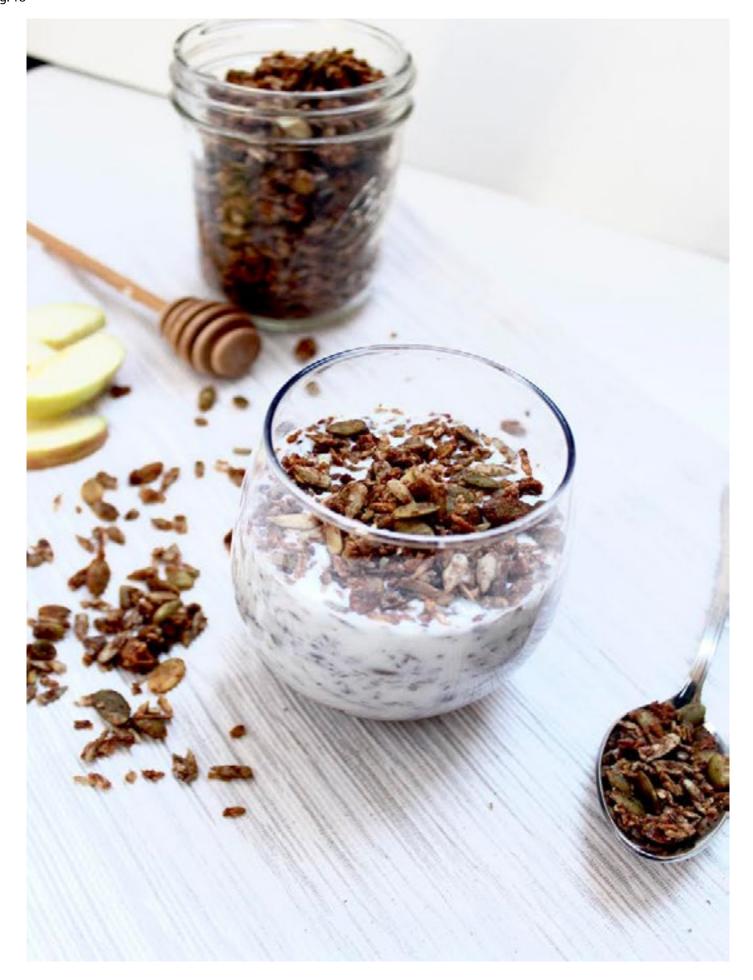
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motivating-pinterest-images





Blissful Eats

As the owner of two business and a podcast USING A SOCIAL MEDIA CALENDAR and a work at home mom of two girls, every- First let's talk social media calendar. I used to day is a juggle of working and family time. I've be the queen of flying by the seat of my pants. I learned that I have to be efficient and organ- would just post randomly and it never would ized in order to make the most of my working be super effective. I'm still not a social media time. I like to say I hustle between the hours of calendar pro, but I've gotten a lot better. 7-11 am.

been working for me in my business. I am constantly tweaking my schedule and systems anticipation and build up a release in order to to be even more efficient.

Here are 3 things I do to set my day and week What does that mean? up for success:

I also have realized and learned that I can't an-There are a couple of things that have really nounce things the DAY OF and expect there to be a huge buzz around it. You have to BUILD get people excited and prepped for it.

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Well, it means you have to start planning AT LEAST one month in advance. The best thing you can do is start with an overview.

Write down everything you want to do in each BATCH month of the year. Then back track. Think about what you need to do 8 weeks before, 6 weeks before, 4 weeks, 1 week, 3 days etc. and PLAN IT OUT. That's how you will be the most effective.

For example: I'm launching a podcast in February. I've been working on behind the scenes things for 4 weeks already. Next week I will start reaching out for interview appointments. I've been telling people about it also, which keeps me moving forward.

Just keep planning! Plan your lead generators for 2-3 times a week. The rest of the time focus on adding value and delivering GOOD, valuable content.

Plan out your blog posts, periscopes, tweets, Facebook etc. which bring me to my next tip.

If you make all of your own images for blog posts, instagram, Facebook, pinterest and twitter, make them in batches and take the pictures in batches. Yesterday I did a Blissful Eats photoshoot and took pictures I can use for the next few months.

Do the same with food, work out pictures, family pictures, etc. Then edit and create images at the same time. Staying focused on ONE TASK at a time will save you time because you're not switching between what you're doing.

I'll make about 10-15 images at a time for Instagram and twitter. It's SO much easier!

continued next page

SCHEDULING POSTS

I am a HUGE fan of planning things in advance weekly. It saves me SO much time. I use Hootsuite for twitter and instagram and schedule in Facebook as well.

When you plan things in advance you can refer to your social media calendar AND use your pre-made images. Are you seeing the time saving theme here? Let me know if you try any of these tools!

I promise you, it will save you time AND energy!



More places to find me!

Instagram @nicoleculver Twitter @nicoleculver Periscope @nicoleculver Check out my podcast! http://apple.co/1Km0vyw

Black Pearl Creations



It's been a long day of listening to music and hanging with friends at your favorite festival and now it's time to relax at the beach. Keep up the festival vibe and style with this throw made from 22 colorways. It's groovy have design is sure to keep you spellbound!

An oversized, lightweight kimono is sometimes all a girl needs. Coziness in front of a beach fire. Ward off a chill when the sun goes down. Throw on over a bikini. Available in solid colors as well.





Using a retro inspiring stitch and colorful fiber, a Black Pearl blanket scarf stands out from the sea of plaid! These scarves can be worn wrapped around the neck in a chunky boho style just like the plaid blanket scarves. Unlike those scarves, Black Pearl blanket scarves are made from wool and silk. This will pop against a tunic, leggings and boots!

This sweet scarf is just adorable! Guaranteed to draw attention, the wood heart buttons are made from maple trees in an environmentally friendly manner. This scarf is bold and not for the timid!





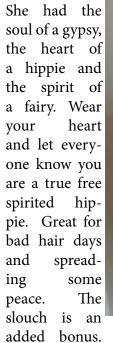
Original enough for you to have the only one at each and every festival you attend. Reminiscent of crochet hippie maxi skirts in the past, this skirt had a modern twist being created with cool, comfortable cotton. This is Black Pearl's exclusive design. You will not find it anywhere else.



If you're a true hippie, then you must have one psychedelic neon piece in your closet and this is it! This chunky scarf will look great with any black jacket! Wrap it once and let it hang or wrap it twice for a chunky, bohemian look!



Keep up the festival style long after you've made it home. This lightweight fringe necklace will keep the vibe with a tank top, shorts and booties. Let the music keep playing!





Maven Writings

by: koura

i have to be honest - it is hard for me to believe that this is actually a conversation...

but automated social media interaction to ols are actually a thing. and people seem to think they are a good thing.

while we are always so eager to jump in on the latest faster, easier, better bandwagon, let's take a good look at this one before we pass judgment in either direction. (i know this starts off sounding super judgy, but i promise, i am actually looking at the pros and cons)

so, pros: well of course, you don't have to actually do anything, really, once you set it up. it's that wonderfully popular "set it, and forget it." we do some research, find some great tags that get us lots of attention when we like those particular posts, we get it all set up and then we let it roll. and for those of us who are super busy, working a gillion jobs, trying to have our start up take off while we are working a 9-5, or raising kids or dealing with illness or, or, or, or, or, the element of time saving is fantastic. people get excited you liked their post, they follow you and see your posts and (the ones that are actual human beings and not return bots liking your posts and following you because programming) eventually, hopefully become customers or tell their friends about you and you get sales.

but like the 900 degree oven in the last scene of walt disney's carousel of progress, sometimes the "forgetit" as pect isn't as bright and beautiful as we would like to believe.



let's start with the fact that one of our most prized abilities as adult human beings is our ability to reason. we can look at situations and, when of sound mind and body, we can make logical decisions and adjust those decisions based on new information as it comes in. coupled with the ability to perceive new information, we are pretty awesome!

now let's look at an automated service, such as robolike or even archie. we set it all up, find our perfect hashtags, and our little computer program is off and running while we go clean up after our kids or focus on homework from night school or get in our car to our second shift at work or crawl into bed for a few hours of sleep...but our little computer program is just that, a computer program. and unlike a logical human being, it can't see when information changes or when it shouldn't follow perfectly programmed directions. such as when we set a hashtag to fit our target market demographic...and a pornography account that hasn't been taken down yet decides to use that same tag, and now we are happily liking graphic porn - from our business account. depending on what you are selling, that most likely doesn't make for happy customer relations! continued next page (ihave heard more than once of a business being contacted by a horrified now former customer that they were having porno show up in their feed thanks to following the business and that they were unfollowing and fast).

that brings me to the next point, which to me is the crux: how do you explain it? "oh i'm sorry, i actually use an app to like posts for me and i didn't realize there would be porn with that hashtag so the app liked the post, it wasn't me!"

totally bluntly - unless you are talking to someone with familiarity with such apps, you sound a bit pathetic, and like you are grasping at straws trying to come up with some sort of excuse for forgetting you were logged into your business account when you went on your sex-dive for the day. best case, you just sound, well, lame. you're telling your followers you don't actually interact with them and you're not actually interested in what they are saying or doing and you set up an app to make it look like you are when you actually are not.

and it sucks to be on the receiving end. i see so many posts in various entrepreneurial face-book groups where someone gets all excited because a famous person or famous company liked their instagram post...and then someone has to tell them that person uses an automated program and didn't actually see their post. it hurts to watch.

i will interject here quickly that i do understand the appeal of time saving. and i know there are many entrepreneurs who are overworked. i know it costs money to hire help, but the value of a human being running your account can not be over stated. and if you really, genuinely can't afford it, there is a fantastic children's book called "everybody poops." and if you haven't figured out where i am going with this, it takes 5-10 minutes to flip through instagram and like some actual photos. i will leave you to the math on that one.

back to my point. the whole point of social media is that it is supposed to be just that....social. what is the point if you're basically just posting your stuff and moving on, leaving an app to interact for you? let's take this to an extreme - eventually social media just becomes a bunch of robots talking to each other...which doesn't help anyone.

"the bottom line is, it's fake."

t just is.

and in the end, it's right up there with that feeling you get when you think someone is talking to you and you find out they are actually on their cell phone and didn't even realize you were standing there.

it takes a little bit more work to actually engage with your followers and it takes a little bit more time to build a following, but it is so much better when it is real!!

additionally, social media sites like instagram are supposed to be photo sharing sites where people spend lots of time trying to take the most perfect shot and share it. having a robot like a post because of the tag with no regard for the actual image defeats the purpose of the site.

i will tell you that an experiment was conducted whereby photos of black squares were posted (literally, no actual image, just a blank, black screen), with choice hashtags, and the response was ridiculous for lack of a better word. tons of likes, new followers...immediately on each post! it was clearly bots running the show and it made the accounts liking the test posts look foolish.

all jeering aside, social media is an amazing tool that has been born out of technology and progress. we have at our fingertips the capability of engaging in actual conversation with people all over the world in an instant, of reaching new potential clients the world over, seeing things as they unfold 15 time zones away. the whole point is to turn media from a monologue to a dialogue and engage fellow human beings. it shouldn't be degraded into just another auto-setting in our lives.

it takes a little more work, but nothing worth doing takes no effort. part of perusing an entrepreneurial enterprise is pushing through problems. if honest engagement with your followers is an issue, look for the root of that problem (time management, assistance needed, etc).

not to be cold! but the value of real human interaction should never be undervalued.

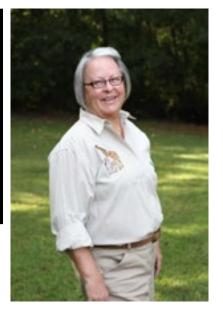
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Creations By Janice



Live Laugh Love: This 3-piece set of lighted glass blocks will bring inspiration into your home with this beautiful sentiment. The 8x4 blocks are etched and the design is done in durable outdoor vinyl with electric string lights.





Big Bucks coffee travel: You'll be the talk / envy of the office with this Big Bucks coffee travel mug! The Big Bucks travel mugs are a fun way to express your self, or give it as a gift to your husband, boyfriend, son or friend. Perfect for a groomsman gift for that country-themed wedding or to show your love of hunting! Ideal for use at the hunting camp or out in the field. Great not only for coffee but also those adult beverages!

You can have the words 'Big Bucks' changed to your name if you want to personalize the cup. Maximum of 9 letters. Please send me a message when you order if you would like to have a name instead. A name can be added to the back instead for an additional fee. Just drop me a message I can change up the invoice for you.

These mugs are 16oz double walled, BPA free plastic, the lettering is a outdoor sign quality vinyl, lids are a hard plastic that screw on.



Your wings dog: The words "Your Wings were Ready But my Heart Was Not" is a beautiful saying to remind us of our fur babies that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. This keepsake is the perfect tribute to have or to give as a gift.

This 6x6 lighted glass block is frosted on the front then has a vinyl design done in premium outdoor vinyl and has a bow on top.



Turbeville: This monogrammed cutting board is a versatile addition to your kitchen. It can also be used as a cheese board, hot plate, spoon rest or decor for your kitchen.

These cutting boards make the perfect gift for any occasion. This would make a wonderful bridal shower gift, first home gift, birthday or anniversary gift or kitchen shower gift.

Family Name blocks: Beautiful lighted glass block with a premium vinyl design depicting your family name topped with a bow in color of your choice.

item is: 8x4" etched, lighted glass block.

This would make a wonderful gift for your home, a friend or family member. It can be a great hostess gift. Also great for birthdays, wedding gifts or an anniversary.



This delightful bunny face cup will make every child smile! It is personalized to include your child's name. The glass is made of durable acrylic and has a silicon seal to keep it from leaking. The straw is designed so that it can't be pulled out of the cup. Surprise your child today with the wonderful gift from the 'Easter Bunny'.





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.

The block comes in either 6x6 or 8x8.

Cardinal in your yard: 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 light





Strange & Charmed

Alexis, I am so happy to be talking with you. I discovered you on YouTube; you were talking about spiral planners and it just caught my eye! I've been obsessed about planners since I was a kid. I always had one and still do. How long have you been making planner printables?

Thanks so much for having me, I'm always up for a nice discussion on planners and planning! I too have been obsessed with planners and productivity systems since I was in grade school so I can tell I'm in good company;) I first started making my own planner inserts after I purchased my first Kikki K planner (that got me back into planning on paper) in about February/March 2014. I wasn't really feeling the standard inserts and I had some specific needs that I couldn't find being met in the planner community, so I just went ahead and DIY'd my own! But I didn't start selling my inserts until the fall of that year after overwhelming requests poured in to make my inserts available for purchase.

It seems like the printable concept is going so well! Why do you think that is?

I think that the planner community is filled with people that also have that DIY spirit that I tend to have, and so I think the idea of printables works because people want that instant gratification of being able to use something immediately, and I also think that because we are talking about paper inserts, the idea of printables is novel because you can print and reprint the inserts as much as possible. If you make a mistake in your planner, or something gets ruined, just reprint the inserts- problem solved!

So, what's your must have insert in a planner that people might think is a little Strange & Charmed?

I think I would say that my project planning printables are pretty iconic to me. I have a whole project planning set and I can't really say I've seen anyone else create anything quite like it. I'm all about using project planning to get things done, so it really goes hand in hand with my brand.

It looks like you have an amazing following on YouTube too! What's your strategy?



Yes, I'm so proud of my growth on YouTube! I'm nearly at 50k which feels very surreal to me! My strategy for YouTube has always been to just share the things I love and want to talk about and hopefully that passion will radiate through to my audience. Once my passion turned to planners, I think it was the perfect storm of preparation and opportunity with a ready-made community who really wanted great planner content!

What other business platforms do you hang out on?

I'm also very into Instagram because I love photography- it's another of my true passions! Of course, my website gets a lot of my attention and actually probably has a better following than my YouTube channel which I am even more proud of- it's so hard to gain a large following in the blogosphere and my stats definitely rank me high there. www.StrangeCharmed.com

What do you love the most about what you do?

That would certainly be the fact that I get to wake up in the morning and do whatever the heck I want!



I've structured my business to give me a maximum amount of freedom, so although I do tend to wake up and do some work everyday, I can • do whatever I feel compelled to do that day. There is usually never anything that I absolutely must do, which makes my work feel so freeing!

Do you work from home?

Yep! But the great thing about my business is that I can work from anywhere with an internet connection. I just need my laptop and a camera and I'm able to create and execute! I've worked poolside in Las Vegas, from the Grand Canyon, on a beach in Aruba, and soon I'll be working from Disney World! It's really amazing to know that I can go and do anything • You Got This, eBook, for anyone who has trouble at any time and never need to worry about work.

Do you keep your work day pretty organized? I know a lot of entrepreneurs struggle with this.

I keep a pretty loose schedule for myself but I do have a system to keep me on track. For my planner I use what I call my "Charmed Life Planner" inserts that have a spot for the top 3 items I need to do each day. I generally fill these with work related items and from week to week my tasks stay pretty consistent so as long as I do those three things I'm on track! I also like to set a top 5 items for the week and those usually end up getting assigned to a top 3 spot to ensure I'm making progress.

I think it's so important to get the "shop handmade" awarenessoutthere. What's your number on etip for that?

I definitely think that thanks to sites like Etsy, handmade shops are really having their moment in the sun. Within the planner community, I'd even go as far to say that a majority of what people buy comes from a small business or a handmade shop, which is awesome! I think the best thing handmade shop owners can do to keep the handmade market blossoming, is to continue to innovate their craft quicker than any large business can. That's always the advantage of having a small business, you can innovate and execute new ideas so much quicker and as long as we keep that up, we will continue to grow the handmade community!

More about Alexis

Visit the <u>Strange & Charmed</u> shop.

•Alexis' recommended products:

- Empire Building for anyone interested in online business and learning more of my strategies.
- •• The Digital Styling Lightroom, for any business owner who wants to improve their styled stock pho-•tography skills for a shop or IG account.
- •setting and sticking to goals that will help move the needle in their life and business.

Find her Instagram and YouTube: @MissTrenchcoat!•



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Maven Writings

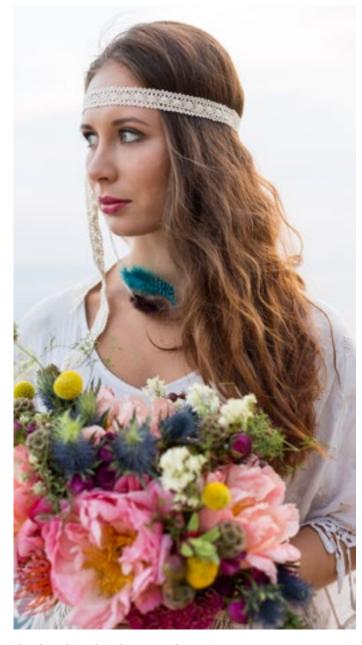
spring cleaning koura ship

it's almost spring cleaning season - that time when we start to relish in the sunshine and enjoy the longer days. encouraged by the brightness of the world, we look hopefully to the future.

traditionally, this is the time for deep cleaning - washing away the dust and grime that collected over the winter months, or even over the last year. but what does that mean for us and our business relationships? winter is known for being darker, both literally and mentally. there is a quote floating around about "before you diagnose yourself with depression, make sure you are not in fact surrounding yourself with jerks."

wisewordsifeverspoken, and there are a few things we can do, to do a little spring cleaning in our lives to keep us happier, mentally healthier and stronger business women!

1. set goals for yourself. tell your friends and associates. see how they react. do they listen intently or do they seem to care less? do they get enthusiastic and are they supportive or do they immediately tear your ideas down, be it obviously or subtly, with passive comments? do they offer constructive criticism, providing a solution or better direction, or do they just immediately point out all the problems or flaws in your plan, only bringing up how it can't happen or what will go wrong?



do they bombard you with questions insinuating you don't know what you're doing or are their replies supportive and respectful? while it is important to stay grounded and "real" - it is poison to closely associate with "friends" and particularly business partners who tear your ideas to shreds before they have the chance to see the light of day.

surround yourself with people who want to add to the conversation, not people who create rainstorms on your parade with confetti of what used to be your ideas.

continued next page

2. pay attention to how you feel during the day (this doesn't mean to over-analyze every headache or grumpy moment, sometimes we just have a headache or feel grumpy) - but pay attention. when you walk away from a conversation, how do you feel? are you happy or content or just ready for the next thing, or do you feel disgruntled and defensive, or even shot down, worried or stressed? remember who you were just talking to and see how they make you feel the next time you are talking to them. some people are great at peppering conversation with worrying statements, general concerns that just leave you feeling uneasy, or questioning your capabilities under the guise of "caring."

we all have had that "i am just saying this because we are friends...but you know you're never going to make it as a [fill in whatever your dream is]," even when not so obviously stated. real friends see your potential and work to bring it out. "real talk" should really just be ways to really grow and become stronger and better as a person and business woman.

3. this can carry through to your personal life beyond business - even just when going through facebook. ever been scrolling along and all of a sudden you feel like the weight of the world is on your shoulders, or we will never make it out alive, or even just a little frustrated or hopeless? scroll back a few posts and see what you were just reading. if you find someone constantly posting negativity, bad news, cynical or nasty comments that fall in the later category of the types of conversation delineated in #1 above, maybe it's time to unfollow them.

4. make to-do lists for your month/week/day. sometimes we can get overwhelmed with all we have planned or even just all we need to do, but by setting realistic deadlines and prioritizing tasks, designating times and days for each thing, it makes our to-do lists much easier to tackle. pay attention to the people who seem to just pile extra items onto your list or have you running around redoing tasks or having to correct their work repeatedly or leave you spinning your wheels with nothing actually done. good co-workers and friends help get things done, not burn time with wasted motion that leaves you exhausted and overworked with little or nothing to show for it.

5. remember that most people are good people and often times are genuinely trying to help, albeit in a misguided and not very helpful way. if you find someone you are friendly with or work with who is falling closer on the "jerk" side of the scale, you can always try talking to them. let them know you love working with them and really want to make things happen. maybe they can offer suggestions when they see a flaw in your plan? or maybe they need help or training for their job and that's why they end up piling their to-do list onto yours, or making so much double work for you? often times a simple, non-accusatory conversation as mature, decent human beings can resolve negative issues, and build stronger working relationships and friendships!

"a problem is just a solution that hasn't been found yet"

6. be a good friend and business partner yourself. pay attention when people tell you their ideas. if you see all the flaws and your first instinct is to point them out, find a way to bring up a solution in your response. while it is unrealistic to think nothing will ever go wrong, everything will always be smooth sailing and we should never mention negativity ever for any reason, that doesn't mean that we can't make an effort to focus on the positive, find solutions and work with other strong women to build each other up. a very wise person once said "a problem is just a solution that hasn't been found yet" - no problem can't be solved, it just takes the work and energy to solve it.

and with that, weed out the jerks from your life. if they are people you have to work with, keep your distance, but don't let them pull you down! you can (and should) always stay polite and kind in social interaction with people, but never feel obligated to interact beyond the surface social interaction, especially if someone is just toxic.

if someone is just always bringing you down and talking to them gets nothing beyond explanations about how they are trying to "help" you, well just remember that shel silverstein poem and don't forget that some kinds of help are the kind of help we all can do without!

happy spring cleaning!

Photo credit: bigguns

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Echocraftings



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

Knitted from woolen yarn consisting 75% Wool and 25%

Width 7-9 cm (2.76-3.54 inches). Length 17 cm (6.7 inch-



Hand knitted woolen lace leg warmers in moss green color. These stylish leg accessories give totally new and elegant look to any short boots. They look good with girly clothing like skirt and

Knitted from woolen yarn consisting 50% Wool and 50% Acrylic, furry edge in mohair

dress and why not with knee pants

Width 15,5 cm (6.1 inch), length 37 cm (14.6 inch), fits to calf circumference 35-38 cm (13.8-14.96 inches).



Hand knitted cotton wrist cuff bracelet in bold bright colors perfect for someone who is not afraid to distinguish. Casual cabled pattern and gender neutral colors makes it unisex. It looks so cool, that you can wear it as jewelry or as wrist warmer for example for mouse moving hand.

Bracelet has a handmade wooden toggle fastening.

Knitted from 100% cotton yarn. Width 7 cm (2.76 inch), fits wrist circumference 16 cm (6.3 inch).





Hand knitted soft lace scarf decorated with Indian beads. This beautiful, elegant and warm lace scarf hugs Your neck and protects from cold winds. Perfect accessory for spring and fall. Wear it with jeans and t-shirt for casual days or dress it up with blouse and skirt for special events.

Dimensions: width 20 cm/7.9", length 65 cm/25.6" Knitted from combination of angora wool and mohair yarns.



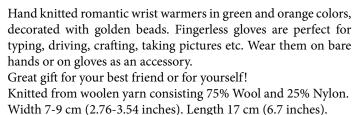


Hand knitted lace shoe spats in cherry red color. Beautiful ankle warmers decorated with elegant Victorian style buttons (no button holes).

These stylish leg accessories give totally new and elegant look to any high-heel shoes. They look good with any clothing you decide to wear: skirt, dress, jeans, trousers etc.

Knitted from woolen yarn consisting 70 % wool, 22% mohair, 8% polyamide

Width 13 cm (5.12 inch) Length from back 11 cm (4.33 inch) Length from front 15 cm (5.9 inch) Fits to ankle circumference 26 cm (10.24 inches)





Hand knitted soft lace scarf in bright red color, decorated with transparent flower button. This beautiful, elegant and warm lace scarf hugs Your neck and protects from cold winds.Perfect accessory for spring and fall. Wear it with jeans and t-shirt for casual days or dress it up with blouse and skirt for special events. Dimensions: width 20 cm/7.9", length 65 cm/25.6"

Knitted from luxurious combination of merino wool and mohair/silk varns.



These fabulous multicolor Dara Celtic Knot earrings are hand knotted of cotton cord and this cord is hand braided using finger cord technique (only fingers, no crochet hook). Earrings are starched so they would keep in form. Perfect jewelry for women and girls who love bright colors and like to shine with unique decorations.

Diameter: 4 cm

Materials: cotton cord, silver colored hooks



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Raise Them Well

products are safe for our children. It seems that every week we see another article revealing that trusted brands are using toxic chemicals in their products or a new study showing a correlation between toxins and health and behavior issues in babies and children.

I'm Emily Saunders and together with my husband Wiggy, a medical doctor who focuses on integrative medicine, we created Raise Them Well, a line of toxic-free products for children and families. We have a son named Adler who recently turned 3 and a baby boy expected any day now. When Adler was born we realized quickly that almost all of the products that claimed to be clean and free of harmful chemicals were not being truly honest. Labeling rules in the United States are flimsy at best, and unfortunately organic, non-toxic, and natural don't mean much of anything. We have to dig deeper.

Today's parents are busy. We live in a fast-paced society where time is of the essence. We need convenience, but we also need quality and unfortunately one is usually sacrificed for the other. When we created Raise

As a parent it can be SO confusing to figure out which Them Well it was out of commitment to both. We do the research so parents don't have to. We make simple, easy to use and effective products with the highest quality ingredients and free of chemicals, toxins, and known hormone disruptors.

> We make a great team as we combine our skills and qualities to best serve our customers. Wiggy is very knowledgeable about both toxins and common deficiencies often seen in patients of all ages. I am an integrative nutrition coach and personal trainer who works primarily with Moms and I stay busy running 3 businesses. I understand both the value of a healthy body and the need for things to be easy for Moms. The journey has been so fun and exciting already and we're just getting started.

> The other big piece of our WHY at Raise Them Well is family values. Unfortunately, it seems that the traditional family unit is slowly dying. Family values continue to fall by the way side. We love Jesus and use God's Word as the ultimate guide for our family when it comes to raising children and how to love one another. We are certainly NOT parenting nor marriage experts, but we love to offer tid bits of wisdom and encouragement to our customers and followers.



Our best seller is our roll on Kids Magnesium Oil. Almost EVERYONE is deficient in magnesium (you can read more on our website by scrolling our blogs) even young children. One of the biggest problems- disrupted sleep. We have received many RAVE reviews from parents who swear by our product which not only assists with sleep, but also calming, constipation, growing pains and more!

Our newest product is our Toxic-Free Certified Baby Foaming Wash and Shampoo. We use just five ingredients that create a lovely foam that is perfect for the entire family. Babies don't need to be submerged into water for bath time and the foam is gentle on both the eyes and even the most sensitive skin. It's also a great shaving cream, facial cleanser and hand-sanitizer for the entire family.





We've recently released two new products for expecting Moms and those with younger children and babies. First is our Belly Balm for expecting and new Moms which helps to prevent and heal stretch marks. This product is also magnesium oil based. Magnesium helps tissue to relax so it's wonderful for stretching skin. It also works for healing any dry/cracked skin and contains other powerful moisturizers like jojoba oil, aloe vera, coconut oil, and beeswax.

The Jewels of Kingwood

The Jewels of Kingwood are a mother-daughter creative team who operate their design business from their home studio northeast of Houston, Texas. With degrees in art & graphic design, owner Kathy Valunas also teaches web design at a local college. Her daughter, Kristin, has been working side by side with Kathy since summary that supports our design choices as these childhood when she would help set up and sell hand- relate to the person's life we are showcasing in the made items at craft shows on the weekends. According print. to Kathy, who has been creating since the age of two, "Art has been a passion for both of us since childhood. We love to make art... we love to inspire others... and we love to create artistic keepsakes for people." Making "meaning through art" was the catalyst for how The Jewels of Kingwood blossomed into being in 2013.

Ok... so who are we anyway?

You may be asking yourself... who is the "we or us" that call themselves the Jewels Of Kingwood? We are retired teachers- taking early retirement due to health issues, who both have fine art degrees and K-12 teaching credentials. We wanted to take those skills and continue "making art" that would have meaning for others. As artists and designers we not only wanted to inspire others and add meaning to special memories, we also wanted to take our love of multi-media and art to a new level. So here we are... creating handmade, custom designed high resolution art prints, home decor, greeting cards and gifts that incorporate decorative and distressed papers, stamped designs, archival prints, and various embossed and embellished elements.

The process, for developing our ideas into the artwork that eventually becomes the images for our various retro, vintage and dictionary art prints, includes research, photo editing and incorporates various techniques to create the best images to deliver a specific visual message to the viewer.



Kathy Valunas and Kristin Metzger

One of our most popular collections - Troubled Souls - is a series of dictionary art prints that includes a short bio of the person in the print. This process can sometimes be lengthy because we want to provide a

Each day is a blessing to be able to take our God given talents and turn our creative abilities into memorable and inspirational jewels. Each jewel shared with someone special helps the recipient to realize the lasting memories to be treasured from life's precious jewels we like to call memorable keepsake moments. Our children's prints and the inspirational wall art are constantly changing with additional prints listed every month.

We're sure you will discover the perfect way to celebrate the jewels and nuggets in your life when you visit our shop and purchase a one-of-a-kind keepsake design for your spouse, kids, parents, a special teacher, friend, neighbor, co-worker, BFF, nurse, boss, secretary, loved one, or significant other. Shop with us for ready to ship gifts or place a custom order for a birthday, anniversary, wedding, bridal or baby shower, holiday gift, a celebration or special event, or just for yourself from The Jewels of Kingwood. To make sure you don't miss any of our new listings, stay connected with The Jewels of Kingwood by following them on Social Media.

Visit our Facebook page and share some love with a like, a comment and then share us with others: https://www.facebook.com/ The Jewels Of Kingwood/

Follow us on Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/kvalunas/ Join in the conversation as we "Tweet" news and links on Twitter: https://twitter.com/KingwoodJewels



Inspirational

Prints "Keep the Faith", will make a wonderful addition to artwork for your home or office decor. This unframed digital print, that is available in three (3) sizes, was created using a Subway Art style of typography. Its eclectic style would look perfect hung with photos of family and friends, or grouped with other pieces of inspirational artwork. The motivational sentiment, "Keep the faith. The most amazing things in life tend to happen right at the MOMENT you're about to give up HOPE," has been layered on top of a hand designed background that is a high resolution digital print, and will provide years of sharp, crisp details while maintaining the beautiful color tones.



Collection Woman The Power of a Woman is extremely strong and ever present. In our Retro Woman series of prints and collages, each piece delivers a powerful message to the viewer. Each print is READY TO SHIP, showcases a different sentiment about Life, and is designed using layers of various graphically manipulated images to provide a retro and vintage look. This particular print showcases a sexy and seemingly innocent looking Betty Boop, whose first appearance, in August 1930, was part of Max Fleischer's cartoon Talkartoon series. A caricature of singer Helen Kane, she was "one of the first and most famous sex symbols on the animated screen," and would make the perfect addition for any collector of Hollywood memorabilia.

Troubled Souls Collection Marilyn Each Dictionary Art Print, in our Troubled Souls Collection, has been thoughtfully researched before the design process begins. It is our intention to provide a print with biographical facts along with a relevant dictionary page that corresponds to the life of the celebrity pictured. This Dictionary Page Art keepsake prints can be displayed to pay homage to a celebrity who has led a troubled life but yet, who has touched our lives with their comedic, acting, or musical contributions. The collection includes various Marilyn Monroe prints, some rare, and each unframed print is available in three (3) sizes and includes a biographical card.



Sesame Street The Muppet and Sesame Street characters are the key features in this collection of Dictionary Page Art Prints that are READY TO SHIP. These prints make great gifts for anyone who collects memorabilia from the Muppets or Sesame Street movies and programs. Each print will make a unique conversation piece to the decor in any room and would be a perfect addition to a child's room. This print showcases Super Hero Grover, dressed in his iconic hero costume, from the original Sesame Street, in a high resolution, digital print, that will provide sharp, crisp details for years to come without fading or degradation of the print image. The background features a symbolic Dictionary book page replica with words that relate to the character and compliment Grover's fun-loving personality.



Childhood Memories Collection - Under the Circus Big Top Recalling colorful and entertaining circus performers such as clowns, acrobats, trained animals, trapeze acts, musicians, tightrope walkers, and jugglers, bring back many wonderful recollections in our Childhood Memories Collection in this "Under the Big Top" series of Circus themed prints. These designs by The Jewels of Kingwood focus on the performers from the 'traditional' center-ring circus format, and each print features a different act. The era depicted in our series of prints is reminiscent of circus performances developed in the latter part of 19th century, and features various memorable icons. The unframed print showcases a vintage clown popping though a sign that reads, "Only to say how do you do, And introduce myself to you", is ready to ship in three (3) sizes including a large 13 x 19 inch poster.

The Jewels of Kingwood



Supporting a Cause

Showing your support for Breast Cancer Awareness is the main theme of this vintage style collage that is READY TO SHIP. Save the Ta-Tas delivers a powerful message that showcases the Power of Women. This print is designed using layers of various graphically manipulated images to provide a vintage look, and is available in 3 different sizes- 8 x 8, 10 x 10 and 12 x 12 inches, professionally printed on archival paper with pigment inks that will last a lifetime.





Teachable Memories Collection

From our Teachable Memories Collection, any teacher would appreciate the imagery on each collage print that is sure to add a touch of whimsical memorabilia to their classroom or home decor. As designers, who are both retired teachers, we know other teachers will see the humor in our Teacher Appreciation prints that are READY TO SHIP. Each art piece is designed using layers of various graphically manipulated images against colorful iconic backgrounds and eclectic elements. Visually comical, the imagery and colors on the Teachable Memory Print enhances the focal statement, "Johnny, where's your homework?." This whimsical print is available in 3 different sizes and would be a perfect accent for a wall grouping, standing on a teacher's desk, or even as a focal point on a classroom or office door.



Super Heroes & Villains Collection Every kid has a hero at one time or another in their life, and what's a hero without an opposing villain? In our Super Heroes & Villains Collection you're sure to find one of your favorites from the Marvel and DC comics you had as a child or the Saturday Morning Cartoon shows you watched. The Dictionary Page Art designs by The Jewels of Kingwood focus on the famous icons from both the written comic books and the TV series characters that played the memorable and historical icons.

Our collection of READY TO SHIP, Comic Heroes Dictionary Page Art Prints are carefully researched and designed, and would make a perfect, affordable gift for a parent, son, daughter, teachers, loved ones, sisters, brothers, grandparents, friends, extended family for any occasion, and of course, a little something special for yourself! Also makes a great birthday gift for anyone who loves Super Heroes or collects Marvel and DC Comics memorabilia. The prints in this collection are available in three (3) sizes including a large, 13 x 19 inch poster.



Maven Writings

Reignite Your Passion!

Christy Winfrey

So you've had your online business for a while now. You've dealt with not-so-nice customers, failed shipping, and slumps. You cringe when you see a new order. Why does it have to be so hard? When you opened your handmade store, you were giddy, excited, anxious and reaching for the sky – waiting for that first Cha-Ching! You marketed, joined teams and groups, and your sales started to rise. What changed?

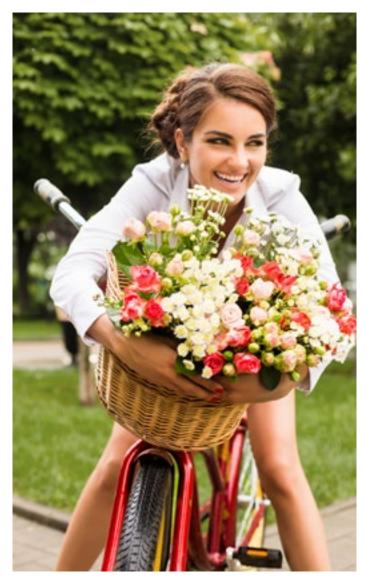
Passion.

'Plain and simple. If you are not excited about your business, no one else will be either.'

For some, an online store is just a hobby. For others, it is their livelihood. I have seen shop owners who have had their shops open for months with no sales. I look at their site and they have 3 items with bad pictures and sparse descriptions. Some have no tags at all. And they get on the group pages and complain because they have no sales. This. Is. A. Job.

Successful stores work hard at making their shop an experience for the visitor. Shop stories, well lit pictures, beautiful and enticing descriptions. Behind the scenes, they are marketing, revitalizing their shop on a weekly or monthly basis, consistently adding product, learning more about how to run a small business and networking.

Yes, it's time consuming. But it's worth it. If owning your own business is important to you – if you want to be able to only work for yourself – you have to work really hard to get there. Owning any kind of successful business is not for the lazy or faint of heart. guts, gumption and determination. Getting back up when you are knocked down. But you can do this.



There is a wealth of information out there for us! There are professionals that can teach you and give you that excited, giddy feeling again about your business. Use those resources! Get excited again about the product you work so very hard to create. There are consultants who can give you professional feedback on your shop and help you make it more appealing, or seen by more people. There are people who can help you write descriptions if that's not your thing. Help is there if you want it.

You can also do your own research. Google items that you sell, and see where they come up in searches. Type them into Etsy and see where you land. Then look at those top shops and learn from what they are doing. But make it your own - Your dream. Your shop. Your product. It's why you started in the first place. Spring is a time for renewal. What better time to take a deep breath and reignite your passion?

Photo credit: Oleg Shelomentsey

About Christy:





Ever since I was small, I have loved making things beautiful. I remodeled homes, (5 to be exact), refinished furniture and repurposed home decor. I am also a full time decorator.

My husband Philip and I met in our 40's, both with a gift for singing and music.

I was from Illinois, he was from Alabama, and we met at a studio just outside of Nashville.

Only God could have put us together!

With our shared love of Christ, we decided to work together to create a way to witness through something beautiful.

We hand craft each piece from reclaimed wood in our home workshop. He is the muscle, and I am the artist. We make a great team!

Lots of love and care are put into each sign that we make. We are happy to do custom work as well, just send us a message:)

We hope you love and enjoy our calling as much as we do!

winfreyhomedesigns.etsy.com facebook.com/winfreydesigns Pg. 44 Pg. 45

Winfrey Home Designs



I Pray for You Everyday 6x20 shelf sitter or wall hanging. Brackets for hanging available in request. All of our signs are handcrafted out of reclaimed wood and hand painted (no vinyl). Because each wood plank has different character (knots, cracks, holes, grain, etc) and each sign is hand stained, painted or distressed, your sign may not be identical to the one pictured. This means every piece is one-of-a-kind! Designed by Winfrey Designs.



11x12 handcrafted, hand painted scripture verse on natural reclaimed wood. Colors may vary depending on the wood we have, or you can request a stain color. All of our signs are handcrafted out of reclaimed wood and hand painted (no vinyl). Because each wood plank has different character (knots, cracks, holes, grain, etc) and each sign is hand stained, painted or distressed, your sign will not be identical to the one pictured. This means every piece is one-of-a-kind! Designed by Winfrey Designs



Rustic Distressed Reclaimed Wood Wall Decor - All Of Me Loves All Of You - the perfect sentiment for that someone special in your life! Makes a great wedding or anniversary gift! 11x12 or 11x17 sizes available. Sign can be made with our without the hearts. All of our signs are handcrafted out of reclaimed wood and hand painted (no vinyl). Because each wood plank has different character (knots, cracks, holes, grain, etc) and each sign is hand stained, painted or distressed, your sign may not be identical to the one pictured. This means every piece is one-of-a-kind!

Praise Him in the Storm, handcrafted, hand painted sign made from reclaimed wood, colors are indigo and cream. 6x12, Great for a shelf sitter or can be hung on the wall. Hanging brackets available on request. Designed by Winfrey Designs.





Arise My Darling, My Beautiful One, and Come With Me - Song of Solomon 2:10 - this beautiful scripture is so full of love. Perfect for a Wedding or Anniversary gift. Indigo with light gray letting, 11x12. Handcrafted, hand painted on reclaimed wood. Designed by Winfrey Designs

What a great inspiring quote! Handcrafted, hand painted on reclaimed wood. Because each wood plank has different character (knots, cracks, holes, grain, etc) and each sign is hand stained, painted or distressed, your sign may not be identical to the one pictured. This means every piece is one-of-a-kind! Designed by Winfrey Designs.



ready pecta hand Becar holes tresse mean

I love this scripture so I made one for us! This custom sign is perfect to decorate your home or give as a wedding, anniversary or housewarming gift. 18" wide and 14" tall it is perfect on a large shelf or as wall decor! If you prefer a different scripture please let me know. Designed by Winfrey Designs

This was one of my first designs! 11x12 reclaimed wood wall art, ready to hang. From Psalm 130:5 I Will Wait for the Lord, I Expectantly Wait, and in His Word do I Hope. All of our signs are handcrafted out of reclaimed wood and hand painted (no vinyl). Because each wood plank has different character (knots, cracks, holes, grain, etc) and each sign is hand stained, painted or distressed, your sign will not be identical to the one pictured. This means every piece is one-of-a-kind! Designed by Winfrey Designs



Pa. 46

Blu Kat Design





Cute as a button pendants! Each is oneof-a-kind, made with a variety of buttons including vintage. These make the perfect inexpensive gifts and they are so fun to wear! Start your collection of these unique pendants today!



Minty green necklace statement with vintage buttons, beads and vintage jewelry remade into a gorgeous button necklace in shades of green. It looks like it came out of grandma's jewelry or button box but remade for today's style! This repurposed mint green necklace looks great dressed up for a mint wedding or casual with modern or retro fashions, a versatile piece of wearable art for a unique look that will get you noticed!



Repurposed flower necklace featuring a vintage pink coral flower; the perfect color for spring! The flower is wire wrapped with matching coral colored cherry quartz gemstone beads and a gold plated vintage chain to make this the sweetest one-of-a-kind flower necklace.

Colourful Gifts



This beautiful handmade cream multi-photo holder is perfect for displaying your family snaps. The frame has 20 pegs, 3 that face inwards and the rest facing outwards, for optimum photo display capacity. Its neutral colour makes it a perfect gift for all and a great item for any room of your house. It can be customized with heart accents and one of 17 choices of ribbon – more details in the Etsy listing. It is approximately 38cm x 38cm x 3cm without photos. My photo holders also come in a variety of other colours so please check out my shop for more information.





This gorgeous handmade pastel multi-photo holder is the perfect gift for a mother to be. The soft pastel colours make it the ideal décor for a nursery room wall. The frame has 20 pegs, 3 facing inwards and the rest facing outwards, so there'll be plenty of room to display your beautiful baby's photos. This photo holder however isn't just great for nursery décor but anyone who loves a soft but bright fee that pastels give. The item can be customized with heart accents and one of 17 choices of ribbon – more details in the Etsy listing. It is approximately 38cm x 38cm x 3cm without photos.



This beautiful handmade Easter card holder is a unique way to display your Easter cards and stop them cluttering up your mantelpiece and windowsill. The pastel chicks and white buttons give it a wonderful bright and Spring like feel. This item has 20 pegs, 3 facing inwards and the rest facing outwards, so plenty of capacity to display your cards large and small. This item can be customized with one of 17 choices of ribbon. If chicks aren't your cup of tea I sell other card holders adorned with eggs and bunnies too. Please check out my shop for more details.

Maven Writings

Detimodou

Carol Laguerre ENGLISH TEXTE

Hello,

My name is Carol and I live in Guadeloupe, a beautiful island of French West Indies, close to Miami.

Here, the winter does not exist and we often have parties. Under the sun, the invitations are numerous and the children play often together.

I have two girls, and the last one often invites her friends to play or have dinner at home, and I often observed her cutting small invitation cards for her little friends.

For my part, i have always been passionate by drawings and especially comic strips. I had the idea to work with the professionalism of two French friends, Amélie and Noemie, with whom I developed the project to propose to the children and to all their friends to download attractive designs of party cards (with our French touch), and to be printed,

Birthday parties, Pajamas Party, Pizza Party, Pasta Party ... the children often ask their parents to organize funny parties.

The first step, and probably the most important, is to prepare and to send attractive invitations and give the theme of the party to all the little guests. I then created Detimodou who, in the French West Indies means "some sweet messages".

Detimodou thinks of everything and becomes the ally of the Mom organized and Dad cunning, by proposing, in IMMEDIATE DOWN-LOAD, original and colored invitations to print.



The principle is very simple:

To realize the small invitation cards, you just have to download the model of your choice, in French or in English, to print this card on a classic paper, or bound for a beautiful effect. You can print it as often as you wish it. Cut then the cards. (There is two by file) and personalize them by filling the name of the child, the address and the hour of the party.

That' all! The only thing to do now is sending your invitations ...and have fun!

My daughter inspires me and tests each card. I cook a lot at the moment!

Many more creations are going to appear, from party opportunities, as Easter egg hunt, BBQ party, Beach and Pool parties....

I began the Etsy adventure two months ago and I add new items regularly in my shop. I propose two versions (English and French) of my items to communicate more easily with the parents of the whole world. I hope that they will be appreciated by all.

Maven Writings

Detimodou

Carol Laguerre FRENCH TEXTE

Bonjour,

Je m'appelle Carol et je vis en Guadeloupe, une magnifique île des Antilles françaises, proche de Miami.

Ici l'hiver n'existe pas et tout est prétexte à faire la fête. Sous le soleil, les invitations sont nombreuses et les enfants jouent souvent ensemble.

J'aideuxfilles, et la dernière invite souvent se samis à jouer ou à manger à la maison et je l'ai souvent observée qui découpait des petits cartons d'invitations pour ses amis.

De mon côté, j'ai toujours été passionnée de graphisme et surtout de bandes dessinées. Mon métier est très loin de cet univers alors j'ai eu envie de m'entourer du professionnalisme de deux amies françaises, Amélie et Noémie, avec qui j'ai élaboré le projet de proposer aux enfants et à tous leurs amis de télécharger de jolis designs de cartes à imprimer.

Goûters d'Anniversaire, Pyjama Party, Pizza Party, Pasta Party...les enfants demandent souvent à leurs parents d'organiser de magnifiques fêtes.

La première étape, et donc la plus importante, est de préparer et d'envoyer de jolies invitations pour donner un avant-goût de la fête à tous les petits invités. J'ai alors créé Detimodou qui, aux Antilles signifie "les doux petits messages".

Detimodou pense à tout et devient l'alliée des Maman organisées et des Papa malins, en proposant, en TELECHARGEMENT IMMEDIAT, des invitations originales et colorées à imprimer.



Le principe est très simple :

Pour réaliser les petites cartes d'invitation, il suffit de télécharger le modèle d'invitation de votre choix en français ou en anglais, d'imprimer l'invitation sur du papier classique, ou cartonné pour un bel effet. Vous pouvez l'imprimer autant de fois que vous le souhaitez. Découper ensuite les cartes (il y en a deux par fichier) et les personnaliser en remplissant le nom de l'enfant, l'adresse et l'heure de la fête.

Et voilà! il n'y a plus qu'à lancer vos invitations.

Ma fille m'inspire et teste chaque petite carte. Je cuisine beaucoup en ce moment ! Lol.

De nombreuses autres créations vont apparaitre à l'occasion des fêtes de pâques et de l'été qui annonce les bbq, plage et piscine party.

J'ai commencé l'aventure Etsy il y a deux mois et j'ajoute des nouveautés régulièrement dans ma boutique. Je propose deux versions (anglaise et française) de mes articles afin de communiquer plus facilement avec les parents du monde entier. J'espère que mes articles seront appréciés de tous.

Photo credit: © lola1960

Detimodou



Cup cake Birthday card

A birthday in preparation? Your little boy or girl will be so happy to invite his friends with this cupcake invitation card to download. A quite cute card which announces that the greed will join the party too.





The Burger restaurant's card Aaaah!! The FAMOUS Restaurant that our children adore!!

What enjoyment to find friends around the small red box burger-nuggets and French fries. Your little boy or girl will be so proud to invite his friends with this attractive invitation card to download and who announces games, surprises, and fun!!



The Pasta Party card

An evening pastas, are you ok? Friends, friends, it's at home !!!!

Here is a nice and festive invitation card to download on the occasion of Pasta Party of your child. A lovely and colored card on the Theme Pasta, which will delight all the dinner guests.



Dragonfly Jewelry





Wire wrapped black and white dragonfly pendant set on black necklace chain.



Wire wrapped red and black hot air balloon

pendant set on antique colour necklace chain.



Wire wrapped copper spider pendant, made with Boulder Opal stones.

Good Common Sense



This scrub isn't your usual variety sugar scrub This scrub has been activated with skin loving grains to nourish and put vitamins back into your skin. Made with the purest of plant essential Lemon, Peppermint, and Marjoram oils. In our house this is our hand wash and its used to clean up the messiest of hands. (Lucas loves to work on cars and Wendy paints on her free time) This all over body scrub leaves your skin moisturized and smooth. Why grains? Because micro beads in commercial products are damaging to our planet and do nothing for your skin, they also tend to be harsher. (Did you know? Micro beads have recently been banned in the US!) Exorcise that dead skin and feel bright and lively again!





This is our best selling product! We all have places that go OUCH! This is our amazing cooling massage bar with Adzuki beans imbedded inside the bar to help wintergreen, camphor, peppermint, blue tansy, blue chamomile, helichrysum, and osmanthus essential oils dig deep. Rich in Cocoa and Shea Butters this bar leaves skin moisturized and 100% free of chemicals and any synthetic muscle relaxants. Ice Ice baby has a wonderful scent and is great for post work outs and comes in an easy to carry metal tin.



This started as just one variety, a mixture with many essential oils to bath in. Today out bath bombs have grown to be a lifesaver for some. A "me time" date or a relaxation getaway from day to day life; Grab some wine and a partner this is a sharable occasion! Bath bombs are low cost and luxurious way to treat yourself. Simply drop into the bath and the sphere releases skin loving butters and essential oils that rejuvenates and calms any buzzing mind. Moms rave about this product for themselves and their for their kids we make gentle bath bombs with oatmeal and milk. We never use artificial colors or micas, colors you do see are made with natural fruits and vegetables making this is a truly vegan indulgence.

Gypsy Junk Clothing





Take a sip of coffee with this beautiful Gypsy Soul Coffee Mug. Decorated with a black flourish and beautiful font this mug is sure to make your gypsy soul shine! Hand crafted thru a dye sublimation process this mug will last for years to come. This 11 oz Ceramic Coffee Mug is both dishwasher and microwave safe and available in several color options.

This is a long sleeve gypsy princess baby girl bodysuit. This infant long sleeve onesie has a girl quote in turquoise on the front that states Gypsy Princess adorned by a delicate little moon. This bodysuit is made from a wonderful 100% ring spun cotton that is ever so soft to the touch.





This is a beautiful black and white soul sisters tank top available in a cotton fitted blend and racerback style tank top. This tank top is super soft and made from some of the best blend of materials ever.

Lifestyle By Diana



Neroli Kiss Lip Balm is perfect for use underneath lipstick or alone for a natural makeup. Moisturize your lips, keeping them in a good shape. Perfect for every season, will enhance your lips color with a delicate red shade. Exquisite organic formula will enchant you with a neroli aroma. Suitable for vegans. All Bio Cosmetics Artemi Rose® are tested on family members & human friends - never on animals! Made in Romania, E.U.





Artemi Lip Balm is perfect for use underneath lipstick or alone for a natural makeup. Moisturize your lips, keeping them in a good shape. Perfect for every season, will enhance naturally your lips color. Exquisite organic formula will enchant you with a tuberose & jasmine aroma. Suitable for vegans. All Bio Cosmetics Artemi Rose® are tested on family members & human friends - never on animals! Made in Romania, E.U.



Blossom Lip Balm is perfect for use alone. It moisturize your lips and keep them in a very good shape. Perfect for every season. Our 2015 best seller for winter season. Heeling properties. Exquisite organic formula will enchant you with a tuberose & jasmine aroma. Suitable for vegans. All Bio Cosmetics Artemi Rose® are tested on family members & human friends - never on animals! Made in Romania, E.U.

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Sara The Tick Lady



Military Wife Planner Stickers — Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, or Marines — Pick Your Military Branch!

Brighten up your planner and keep organized with these carefully crafted, colorful military planner stickers!

Choose from the following:

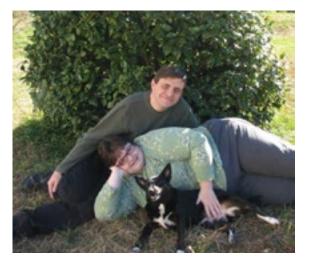
- 1. Air Force
- 2. Army
- 3. Coast Guard4. Marines
- 5. Navy
- WHAT YOU RECEIVE

12 (3/4") Planner Stickers which are circular vector images, printed on high quality white paper. Made in the USA.

SHIPPING & TURN AROUND [U.S.]

I can fit 18 dozen stickers in one cardboard mailer! Shipping is within 24 to 48 hours of purchase via 1st Class Mail. (Priority shipping also available).





Pay Electricity Bill Planner Stickers — Blue, Green, Orange, Pink, Purple, Red, Rainbow Stripes, Turquoise, or Yellow

Brighten up your planner and keep organized with these carefully crafted, colorful Pay Electricity Bill planner stickers! This is only one of the many bill planner stickers I have in my shop for all categories in your budget.

Choose from the following:

- 1. Blue
- 2. Green
- 3. Orange
- 4. Pink
- 5. Purple
- 6. Red
- 7. Rainbow Stripes
- 8. Turquoise
- 9. Yellow

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

12 (3/4") Planner Stickers which are circular vector images, printed on high quality white paper. Made in the USA.



Custom Pet Portrait Planner Stickers

Brighten up your planner and keep organized with these carefully crafted, colorful custom pet stickers! Just send me a picture of your pet after check out.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE

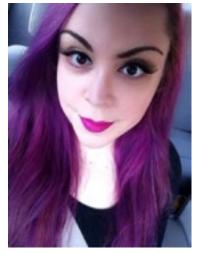
12 (3/4") Planner Stickers which are circular vector images, printed on high quality white paper. Made in the USA.

The Fancy Lady Cupcakes



Snail mail revolution postcard set Set of 6 standard size(5.47 x 4.21 in) postcards in a fun floral design. Professionally printed. Glossy finish with a blank matte back so you have plenty of space for writing.





Pastel wedding invitation suite

This pastel whimsical floral design was hand painted and turned into a printed invitation perfect for your special event. You will receive one 5x7 inch invitation printed on high quality 80lb matte card stock paper and one mint green luxury finished envelope.



Pineapple stationery writing set

This fun pineapple stationery set was made from a hand painted design done in watercolors.

Each set includes:

You will receive 12 sheets of thick recycled card stock paper A2 , 5.4x 4.2 inch in size and 6 matching Kraft brown envelopes.

The Ladies Crafty Craft





amid real sea shells and hand-woven cotton nautical "rope" is the crowning piece - a water color painting of the sailing ship 'stars,' navigating through the waves under a clear blue sky brightened with the softest white clouds. this brave ship serves as a constant reminder that as we make our way through life, our ripples spread like waves in the sea as we interact with those who's paths cross ours



this small wooden box has been hand painted with a one-of-a-kind under the sea/mermaid theme!

perfect for jewelry or storing small items or just as a pretty piece of creative art to have as a conversation piece on a dresser, shelf or coffee table!



his small wooden trunk is a perfect gift for the elephant lover in your life! hand sanded, then carefully painted with a parent and baby elephant silhouetted against the setting sun, this box was carefully crafted and finished with zebra paper lining and grey felt.

The RollyS



This colorful necklace is included in the collection "Sounds of Africa". I'm painting the cardboard using Copic Markers and then I'm treating it with glue and a brilliant fixing varnish. This make the paper pendant very sturdy but it's keeping its lightweight. The choker is made using an electrical cable. ABOUT THE NECKLACE - The cardboard part of the necklace is made by 4 separated pieces and then assembled together. The back is monochromatic red, painted using acrylic colour .- Back side (the part behind the neck) : it's made using an electric cable .- Hooks : metal - Measures : the cable is about 16 inches , the paper pendant is about 5 x 3.5 inches. I'm shipping the necklace with a very nice packaging made by me too. Some advisement to better keep your necklace: The pendant is protected by varnish but as it's paper it would be better do not wear it when you're putting on perfume or hair spray . Do not use water on it. Image and other contents are © Roberta Ponte for ArteRo.





Independent, strong, mysterious, cryptic and moody ...these are some peculiarity of the Cat. Well I think that they're women's peculiarity as well ...(mine for sure!)

I could not escape from creating a RollyS representing a perfect union between a cat and a woman, both mysterious, both so fascinating. This pendant is part of the collection "Beauty of Beasts." Sturdy and light at the same time, the pendant is created using recycled cardboard. I've painted directly on it using Copic Markers and Acrlic paint. It's a perfect gift for a woman that loves animals and like to wear unique jewelry. Item details-Pendant measures: approximately 4x 1,7 inches. Chocker measures: approximately 15 inches. The chocker is in black lycra with two metal bolts to make it adjustable to better fit your neck. Bead material: plastic. To better keep it during time please do not wear it when you're putting on your perfume or hair spray. Avoid using water on it. The same design is also available as dangling earrings.



A beautiful necklace dedicated to fairies world. It's an easy way to bring your personal fairy always with you. This necklace is included in my collection "Enchanting Creatures. "I've created this necklace using recycled cardboard from food boxes and an electrical cable. I'm drawing directly on the cardboard using copic markers. Then I'm fixing the drawing with glue and protecting it with a transparent brilliant varnish. After this treatment the cardboard is getting very sturdy but is keeping its lightweight. SPECIFIC DETAILS The painted side is made by 5 different pieces and then assembled together. On the back is monochromatic violet, painted using acrylic colors - Back side (behind the neck): black electrical cable - Hooks: metal - Measures: the cable is about 16 inches, the paper pendant is about 5 x 3.5 inches. I'm shipping the necklace in a handmade packaging, ready to be gifted. The Rolly's are my original creations and I'm personally drawing and coloring each piece so there could be some little differences from one to another. Image and other contents are @ Roberta Ponte for ArteRo . Some advisement to better keep your necklace: The pendant is protected by varnish but as it's paper it would be better do not wear it when you're putting on perfume or hair spray. Do not use water on it. The RollyS are made especially for you, a woman that pretend to be unique in any occasion. The RollyS are wearable art, original designed and realized using eco - friendly materials . To realize a RollyS I'm using recycled cardboard from any kind of box I'm finding at home but mainly, I'm using corn flaxes boxes.

Veselunka



"Retro"
Original design by Veselunka.
100% Handmade crochet beanie.
A beanie made of pure cotton yarn.
Comfortable, elegant and soft!

I made this tiny beanie of 100% cotton, so it is pleasant in touch and does not cause excess warm to your skin in summer. Non-allergic!

If this lacy beanie will motivate you to get for a walk and enjoy the sun or wind, I'd be happy to realize my tiny role in making your world a little warmer and brighter.





Original design by Veselunka. 100% Handmade crochet handbag.

Spring is a time for brilliant ideas, happiness and excellent mood! Freeform-style of this crochet bag reflects the diversity of women's mood for the whole day.

Handbag "Primroses" is very feminine, made in delicate violet tones with yellow accents with fresh herbs presence.

However, it is quite solid, assembled in double lining fabric: the tulle netting prevents deformation of knitted items during both wearing and washing. The high density compacted lining inside the bag makes it more hardwearing. Rigilene boned handles retain the shape too. Neutral in style, bag will be appropriate in different situations, and is suitable for everyday wear.

"Primroses" - a great gift for women on Mother's Day, or birth-day. Blossom mood is guaranteed!

MEASUREMENTS

Width: 11.75 in (30 cm) Height: 8.5 in (22 cm)

Handle Length: 16.5 in (42 cm)

Size: S

Weight: $\approx 300 \text{ g}$



Original design by Veselunka. 100% Handmade crochet handbag. A bag made of premium 100% linen yarn. Magnetic clasp closure.

Crochet clutch "Green coffee" at Irish lace-style complement the evening as well as a casual garb. The cross-body clutch is roomy, to take all you need. And stay elegant! Just like coffee, clutch has an invigorating effect!

MEASUREMENTS Width: 10 in (25 cm) Depth: 3 in (8 cm)

Height: 7 in (18 cm)

Strap: 42 in (107 cm)

Size: S

Weight: $\approx 350 \text{ g}$

