

Inspiration Interview #19, Artist Kim Piotrowski!

I've decided to offer up
to all of my blog-readers

an **Inspiration Interview Series!**

Some fabulous interviews with some of the people in my tribe
that I feel so blessed to call **my friends,**
my heroes, my mentors.

People whom I truly admire!

Here is **#19 - An Interview**

With Creative Soul, Kim Piotrowski!



I so admire this girl!

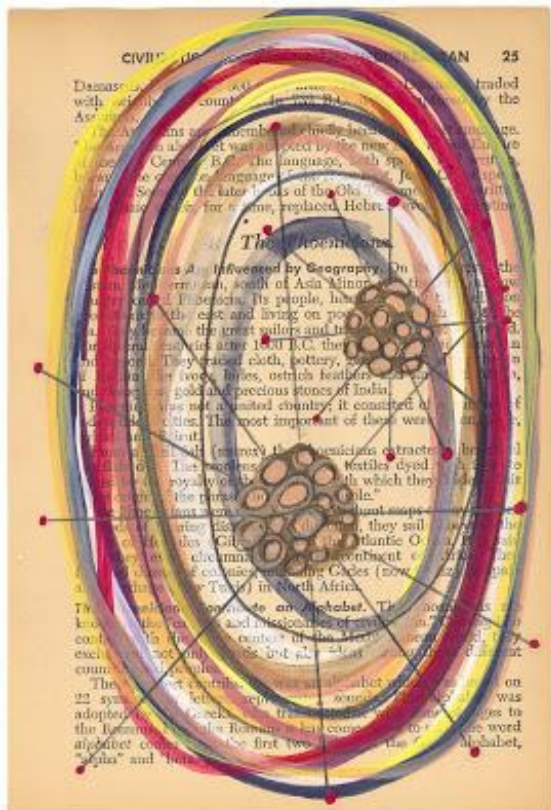
Enjoy the interview!

I admire you so much for living out your passions and your dreams. What advice can you give me and my readers about pursuing their passions and their dreams? What few steps can you suggest to us that will make that decision and/or the transition easier?

Thank you! You have to make a lot of sacrifices....large and small. Since I have a very corporate day job, I constantly have to make time to do what I love to do. It's really not easy, and you have to be disciplined and even stingy about your free time. Often, other people don't understand that you have to make time for your craft, your first love.

Were you always artistic/creative?

Yes, I can remember cutting construction paper at my little craft table when I was about four or five years old. I made holiday decorations for the front door out of construction paper, markers, pipe cleaners, glitter, and glue. In our house, nothing was hung on the refrigerator, but where the neighbors and passers-by could see it too. My art was on display. I felt a rivalry with the decorations my mom bought at the local five and dime for any given occasion -- Halloween, Christmas, you name it. Mine always had to be better.



Let's talk about COMMUNITY. What do your 'communities' mean to you? And which ones are you a part of and couldn't live without?

I've been part of the NY "art scene" since I moved here in 1995. Going to art openings regularly and meeting with other artists both established and more on a peer level is very important. I do get tired of some of the schmoozing aspect from time to time, but it's a game that must be played. Recently, I've gotten more involved with following the art of street artists who now seem to be getting noticed by art galleries as a valid art form. Somehow, it feels less pretentious and more like I'm hanging out with friends. In either case, it's important to keep going- you'll eventually start to see the same people over and over again making the experience less awkward the next time.

As far as online, I have been selling on Etsy for a number of years now. I have some favorite shops, and people that I've asked for advice etc. I'm also lucky to live close enough to Etsy's offices that I can go there for meetings and events. I always meet great people and in the end, we're all doing the same thing so we help each other. Everyone is always so nice and helpful. Within Etsy, I'm on the NYC area team called The New new.

Besides your own e-courses you offer now or plan to in the future, (if you will do that at all?) what are some of your other favorites that you know of or have been a part of, that can help us further clarify our purpose and our plans for our creative lives here on earth? Which ones inspire you? What good things out there inspire you?

I don't offer any courses, but like the previous question, I've been to Etsy's offices to attend a Google analytics how-to session, and a seminar on blogging. Both were enormously useful since I have trouble knowing everything there is to know about technology. I started my blog last January as my New Year's Resolution as a way to showcase all of the things I'm interested in and inspired by. So far, it's the only Resolution that I've ever stuck to.



Share your favorite holiday memory or favorite memory ever.

In the summer of 1997, I spent a summer abroad in Venice, Italy while I was in art school. It was a magical three months where I met a lot of friends, and some of us remain in touch to this day. Once we were in the swing of our courses, I remember painting on the Grand Canal one perfect afternoon. Even though my work leans towards the abstract, these were some of the best works that I've ever done. Painting above is an experience that can't be duplicated, especially in Italy. There's nothing like painting outside, al fresco, especially in a place like Italy (particularly Venice)

What are some of your favorite art supplies to work with and why? What are a few of your go-to supplies every time?

I've always loved paint and paper as separate items. I used to paint on large canvases, but have completely run out of room in my apartment/studio where I work. I've had to scale everything down which translates to my small gouache works on altered books.

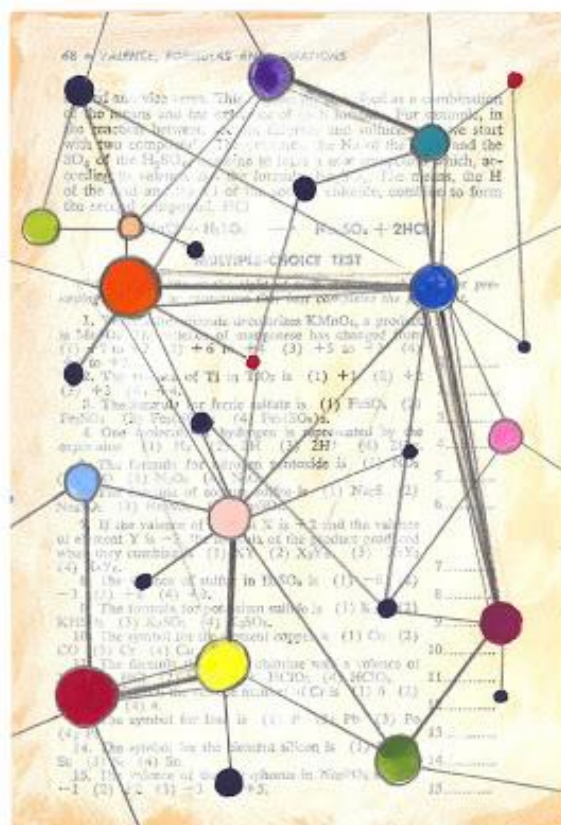
Who are some of the other artists/creative souls out there that continue to inspire you day after day? If you can please share their names, blogs, and links to the readers here.

I consistently read a lot of art, design, fashion, and food blogs- (excerpt from list: Apartment Therapy, Brooklyn Street Art, Smitten Kitchen, 20 x 200....)

.....and I continue to find new ones all the time.

What is one technique you have learned and mastered as an artist, that at one time, you were afraid to start or to try? What helped you get over your fears?

Painting or drawing freehand....I once thought that everything had to look perfect and realistic like a photograph. When I was really small, the only art I knew about was Norman Rockwell because my mom had a coffee table book about his work. I thought that my drawings weren't nearly as perfect and realistic, so what hope did I have to be an artist? I either wanted to trace something or project it and trace it to make it look 'perfect'. Now, I realize how beautiful little "mistakes" are when they are done freely and without constraint- the "happy accident" as it's sometimes called.



What is your favorite technique you do time and time again? Why do you love it so much?

I like painting...

I haven't figured out yet why it's such a draw for me. I guess it's the enjoyment of having a solitary experience and being able to focus on the act of creation. The sense of accomplishment when you finally get a painting twisted and molded into what you want it to look like and into something that pleases you is like nothing else in the world.

Let's talk about your creative space. What is it like? How large of a space do you work in? Share any organizational tips you may have for artists/creatives that of course, have always way too many supplies! What works for you?

I use one of the rooms of my railroad style apartment in Brooklyn as my studio. It's very narrow but has really high ceilings so there is the illusion of a lot of space. It's now grown into more of a storage space rather than somewhere I can work. I have industrial metal shelves that are good to get stuff off of the floor. Many things can be piled as high as my ceilings. I like drawers and filing cabinets too. The more stuff out of sight, the better, I just have to remember where I put things. It's also nice to clean out the space every so often and come across supplies that I forgot that I had stashed away, and then find a new use for it. Lately, I've been using my kitchen table as my work space. Someday, I hope to have a real studio where I can make large works again.

Links:

-etsy shop:

www.kipi.etsy.com

-blog:

www.kipiboo.blogspot.com

-facebook fan page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kim-Piotrowski-Art-Fan-Page/294639227179>

-larger paintings:

www.kipiski.com



Thank you

Kim!

Please see Kim's links above!

Posted 23rd April 2011 by [Bonita Rose](#)

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1.

Anonymous [April 25, 2011 at 12:45 PM](#)

What a wonderful series. I will have to add this to my must read again links page.

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