



Fueling & Igniting Passion Within.

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Inspirational Stories



You Full Name: **Ana Mikic D'Apuzzo**

Occupation/Career: **Architect and artist**

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Where you were born?

I was born in Ex-Yugoslavia, in an ex medieval capital of the state, in the city called Krusevac.

What did you dream about becoming; when you were a young?

At the age of two; I started to use water colors and that's when I felt a strong desire to paint. My passion to paint evolved to a point where I wanted to paint any white surface that I would encounter in my house. My family and friends recognized the talent I had within me and believed I was gifted.

During school and further pursuit in a higher education; I was exposed to different forms of art, but I could never decided in what direction to pursue. All I knew was that I wanted to be an artist and that my talent in art should be applied and be useful.

Have you fulfilled your dreams? How so?

After many years of exploring, studying, traveling, searching, learning and working with others; I can affirm that today as independent "creator" I feel absolutely free and complete. This feeling of freedom and inner completeness did not come overnight. It was not an easy journey for me.

COMPANY MISSION:

Fueling & Igniting Passion within.
Conquering all that is feared.
To Amplifying Infinite Freedom & Success.

We provide the following Services:

Coaching Women on:

- Self-Esteem
- Interpersonal Skills
- Business Start-Ups
- Discover Your Passion

Mentoring Girls:

- Self-Esteem
- Interpersonal Skills
- Anxiety & Stress Management
- Discover & Strengthen Passion at an Early Stage

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Lynx theme created by Andrew Stichbury for Tumblr.

After high-school, I had more time to research and examine myself and the world around me. I was still not sure which direction to take... I knew deep within me that I was born as an artist, a painter, but somehow I did not see myself being in the commonalities of a typical artistic world. What I wanted to create was a balance between reality and imagination: the balance of art and life; the utopian way to make people's life harmonious and beautiful.

My life path brought me in Portugal where I started to attend courses in art academy. After some time there, I was exposed to the final exhibition of freshly graduated students; which represented the final results of 5 years studying in applied arts. Shortly after the exhibition, I realized art academy was definitely not for me and the world I had envisioned for myself to be in.

Once again I started to search deep within my soul to see what world I really wished to belong in. Finally after much reflection, I decided to study Architecture at a newly build and very modern university. The reason why I was keen on this university was solely due to two reasons. 1). A famous and charismatic professor with a strong personality was in charge of the Architecture Department & that sparked my interest. 2). I knew Art played an important role in Architecture.

In my first year, I just wanted to test myself to see if I had the capability and interest of studying architecture and if I can actually become an architect. I was aware of the complexity of this profession. I understood a good architect is also a good artist, however this profession also requires many additional skills; such as having the talent for mathematics, physics, mechanics, economy, deep knowledge of high technology, etc.

What drew my curiosity and desire to this profession was solely due to the understanding of the fundamental importance of architecture and how it influenced the people's life and lifestyle. Furthermore, I also understood that architecture was the queen of all arts; as it creates the people's life. As Le Corbusier once said, "*The house is a machine for living in*".

Was it a struggle?

My study of architecture at the university was very hard, but it was also full of joy and satisfying when I completed a great project I was assigned to do. I learned a lot and I can also affirm that it was a school of life. This journey was a big test for me. Once I conquered and embraced the joy in Architecture; there were no limitations for me anymore and many doors opened for me. I passed my exams with the maximum score. In my first year, I won the prize for the best student of the generation. This was an awakening for me and for the first time in my life I felt like I had finally found my path!

This period represents the decisions and starting point for my professional career. (I think that education is really important for everyone who wishes to realize his dreams as it represents the basis from where to start.)

After finishing my studies, my life took a new direction and a new challenge emerged from it. The emergence of reality is very different from the ideal academic world. I invested five intensive years of hard work for private companies within my country and abroad. I learned a lot about architecture in practice, but I felt again that I needed to change direction because 'technical matters' became more important than creativity.

I needed my adrenaline, inspiration & passion back. I needed awaken myself back to my ideal image of architecture I had envisioned for myself. I decided to cleanse my soul so I embraced the "road life", which eventually led me to London England. A new world opened right before my soul when I got here; I felt a strong connection between art and architecture. Once again, I felt the same excitement I had the first day at my university.

My soul immediately was reminded of its core purpose on earth. My soul was reminded that I belonged in a creative world without any limitations.

After many different experiences and many lessons learnt; I learned a lot about myself, my purpose and my capabilities. Acknowledging and listening to my soul; I embraced what I was passionate about and with the support of the people that love me; I decided to start my own business. This decision was not easy because of the uncertainty of my future and what would transpire before me, as I ventured into this difficult and unfamiliar project I decided to build. However deep down inside of me, my intuition...my soul reminded me of the beauty that awaits me. My soul reminded me for every challenging moment I shall experience; there shall be something beautiful to crystallize emotionally, mentally and spiritually. I felt that these lessons will somehow incorporate itself into the creative world I would build that entailed no limitations for me and those around me.

Today I live in Switzerland, and already I'm at my third year of working independently in my own studio and living my dream. My work embraces the synergy of various fields that I am interested in: art, architecture and fashion. I decided to use my theoretic and practical knowledge, my experience and my talent to create the foundation in whatever I decide to create. And for me this is what I have always wished and desired to do.

However, I always remind myself that that every day a new challenge will need to be conquered and that everything depends on me. Sometimes it can be hard, but knowing this is what I am passionate about reminds me to stay strong, stable and motivated.

Was it worth it?

There were endless nights without sleep and really amazing amount of work, but I learned how to move my borders and I realized that everything is possible if you just believe in yourself and if you love what you are doing. Positive energy and enthusiasm can produce amazing effects.

"Every step that I took, brought me here". I saw this sentence on the floor of the Milan airport and I can extend this sentence with *"and it was worth it"*..

How long did it take?

If I don't consider all the inner searching I did within me and only calculate from my academic time I had invested in, I would say it took me 17 years. Now, I have reached the point where I can use my experience and talent in an independent creative process. I believe it is important to underline that I am still learning and I am sure that this process shall never diminish.

I have also learned that no shortcuts are available in order to full fill your dreams. A strong vision and discipline are required together with the happiness of doing the things that you love to do.

Good and bad moments shall continuously be alternating, but it is important to always give your best and to never give up!.

If you had to do it all over again, would you?

Maybe I could achieve my goals earlier and in an easier way, but I am absolutely sure that all my forward and backward steps brought to me to the current situation that I am in, which reflects the final result. Thus; I would do it all over again without any hesitation!

I believe that everybody has a purpose in his life and that the lucky ones are the individuals who have discovered it. I can say that I was a lucky one.

We are not able to predict the future but we can see the purpose of our life by living each day filled with passion for the work that we like to do and the people we surround ourselves with.

What have you compromised in your life to be able to fulfill your dreams and goals?

The hardest moments were when I needed to leave the people that I loved and cared for; my family and my best friends. Emotions and affections are mostly important for me, but I realized that these individuals in my life can always be with me even when if we are not physically in each other's presences. The great advantages of this century are the technology that provides: rapid transportation, information, & communication. This resource makes everything much easier.

Today I think about myself as a citizen of Earth, not of a city or of a country.

What have you accomplished and learned by following your dreams and goals?

If you want to be happy and appreciate your future; it is very important to take the important decisions today. Every step needs to be taken with a thought about future goals and with an important question: "is this really what I want and wish for?".

You need to be honest, and strictly critical with yourself; you should always try to improve in your profession and in the everyday life. Education is endless, it is important to always be curious of life and to continue to learn, listen, and study.

I believe that family should have a priority role as well. Keeping a balance life between family and work is the best recipe for happiness and satisfaction. My plan for the future is to align both together and forever.

What would you tell other inspiring girls and women to do as far as following their dreams?

It is important to always try to pursue what you like, because life is too short for making compromises. We should also appreciate that we are living in a time of equal rights and liberation for women.

We are not able to control the luck and we cannot change the time, but all the rest depends on us individually: our ambitions, our visions and finally our actions.