



Tamara Stopinski

Tamara Stopinski is a mixed-media jewelry designer and educator living in the Finger Lakes Region of New York state. Nicknamed Talulah years ago, combined with her flair for fancy, she conjured up the name, Talulah's Fancy. This launched her original line of women's jewelry designs and accessories in 2002. Tamara and her longtime friend expanded on the name in 2010 and opened Talulah's Fancy and Friends. Her work can also be found at select artisan boutiques, and she has recently joined the faculty of ART IS YOU.

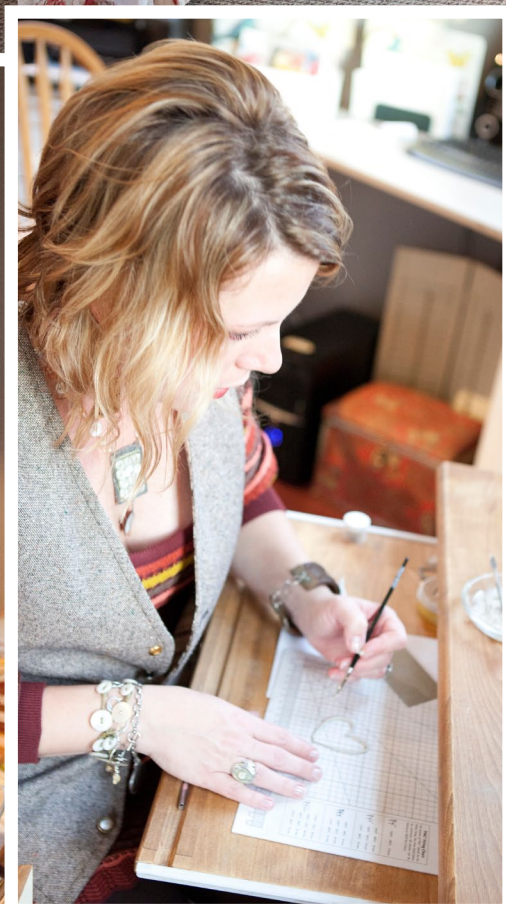
QUOTE
"Dream your dream,
believe and nurture
that dream, then
create it!"
= Tamara Stopinski

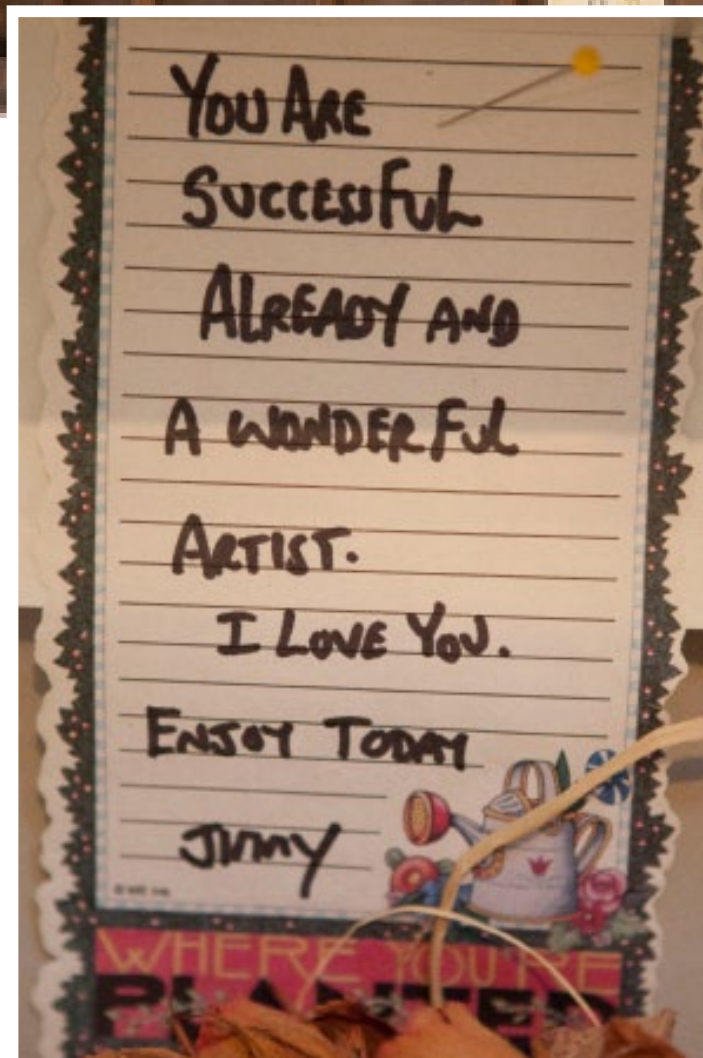


From the time I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be an artist. Any creative thing I could do with my hands gave me the most satisfaction. Summers and holidays spent on my grandparents' farm was when I learned about hard work, making do, and being creative. I learned how to sew, cook, garden, and make things with what we had on hand, because running to the store was not always an option. One year, I recall making Christmas ornaments with my grandma. We tore sheets of embossed velvet paper from wallpaper sample books and created cone shapes and little envelopes. We then filled them with candy and hung them on the tree; they were so beautiful! I still collect wallpaper sample books to this day and use them for all kinds of projects. Utilizing what is available turned out to be one of my life's most valuable lessons ... they say necessity is the mother of invention, but for me it proved to be the spirit of my creativity.

As a student I struggled in most of my classes, but not in art. In junior high school I joined the art club and designed jewelry from leather and feathers to sell in the bookstore. What a thrill it was when my friends bought and wore my jewelry. Although I would go on to work in many mediums, it was always jewelry design that I came back to.

At an early age, art school was not an option on my own, so I took a job as a pottery studio assistant. I enjoyed working with clay and designing new products like pendants and ornaments made from leaves pressed into clay. But being a studio assistant was not a very lucrative career, and I had my own dreams to pursue. I also needed a way to support myself, so from there I went to beauty school. I was able to make a living while making jewelry



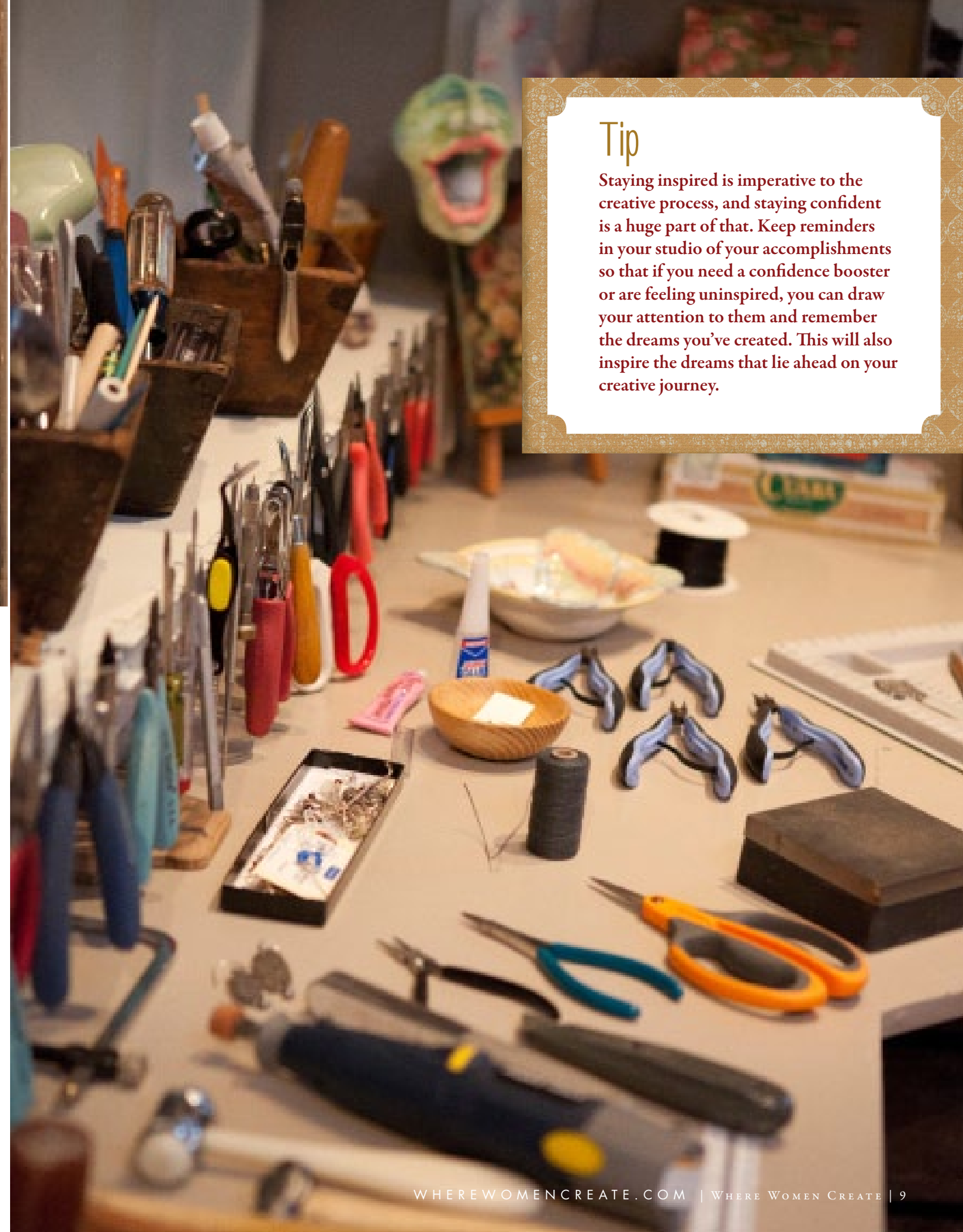


and doing trunk shows on the side, but I again realized that being a hairstylist was not my life's dream.

I was working and supporting myself but I knew I had more that I wanted to do, and I also intuitively knew that there was more in store for me. I had so many ideas, things I wanted to create and share ... I just didn't know how to go about getting to that place where I could live my dream full time. Of course there were bills to pay, other commitments in the way, and a whole list of reasons why I couldn't put my whole heart into what I truly wanted to do. I was hearing all those things in my head instead of listening to my intuition. It was then that I realized that I had everything I always needed to create my destiny ... my creative spirit and my imagination had always been there, and if I believed in them, they would take me there.

So I began to cultivate my dream like a garden. Just as a seed becomes a flower, I envisioned becoming a full time artist. I taught myself to see my dreams as the end result, not something to merely do on the side or in the meantime. I believed in them and spent every waking moment daydreaming about what I truly wanted to do. I woke up in the middle of the night and made sketches and lists to support all that I wanted to accomplish. I talked about my plans to my friends and verbally sent them out to the universe. I learned to believe in my dreams, myself, and my abilities.

Tip
Staying inspired is imperative to the creative process, and staying confident is a huge part of that. Keep reminders in your studio of your accomplishments so that if you need a confidence booster or are feeling uninspired, you can draw your attention to them and remember the dreams you've created. This will also inspire the dreams that lie ahead on your creative journey.





Now as I look around my studio, I'm reminded of these lessons. My studio is the outcome of hard work, my loving husband's faith in me, the courage to believe in myself, and the creativity to utilize what I have. To this day, I would rather create with what I have than purchase something new. I love to use repurposed furniture for displays and flea market finds to store my supplies. When I look at my work today, I realize that my design aesthetic is reflective of my personal creative journey; my goals are to share this knowledge and to inspire others through teaching.



WHERE WOMEN CREATE would like to thank Tamara Stopinski for her involvement in our Autumn Issue. To learn more about Tamara, visit tamarastopinski.com.