

EPISODE 98

KAT DRISCOLL



CREATIVITY WITH BLING



Kat Driscoll 00:03

One thing I learned about creativity is once you start somewhere it's amazing how it unlocks things. What I say to people is you didn't draw and that doesn't work. Try something else. It could be crocheting. It could be, I don't know, building boats. Try something. Keep trying, you will find something. Just stop. Don't overthink it. Don't worry about it being perfect. Enjoy the process as you go along. Hello, and welcome to the Common Creative Podcast. I'm Paul Fairweather.

Chris Meredith 00:38

And I'm Chris Meredith. We're on a mission to unveil the secrets of creativity in work and beyond through the lenses of ideas, stories and visual cognition.

Kat Driscoll 00:49

Yes, Chris. And we certainly had a very visual person today. Our guest today is Kat Driscoll. Kat is a jewelry maker, for the want of a better word, has a very interesting story about how she came into that. But as you describe her work, it's full of joy, happiness, brightness, and is very uplifting.

Chris Meredith 01:14

It is and we want you to know what it's like to be a practical creative, somebody who gets on and runs a business that turns out a beautiful creative product, not too much of a highbrow philosophy. And it was fascinating how the themes she mentioned, mirrored some of the themes we've got from the great thinkers and philosopher creativity, yet it's a standby for lessons about note taking lessons about having an open mind, Paul what else?

Kat Driscoll 01:38

One of the things that she said right up front was when she first started really almost art therapy because she was ill a friend of her said drawer. And this friend was a really beautiful drawer. And she was embarrassed. She said I can't draw yet she can Vinci she told us that she doesn't think she kept from her childhood were her Drawer pencils because she loved to draw as a child. So look at you know, that lesson about creativity is not relative. It was one of the many that we got from her, as you say from this very practical application of building a small business. It was absolutely fantastic. A lovely person. Very,veryopenandgreatinsights.Lovely.Let'sgetherin.

Paul Fairweather 01:50

Kat Driscoll Welcome to The Common Creative podcast.

Kat Driscoll 01:59

Thank you so much. I'm very, very honored to be here.

Paul Fairweather 02:01

We're honored that you've joined us. Thank you so much. We can't wait to hear more about your story. And of course, jewelry Bobbi Frances.

Kat Driscoll 02:36

Yes.



Paul Fairweather 02:37

So could you get started off by giving us not so much a part of history, but the highlights or moments in your life that have had an impact that have changed direction and got you from where you were to where you are?

Kat Driscoll 02:50

Yeah, um, I think to start with before I head down where the earring business came from. I have one thing that I've kept from my childhood. And that is my Derwent pencils. So I have kept nothing else except that and I still love them today as much as I did back then. So my school holidays were always drawing and paper and mom always used to say it was just constantly going to the news agency to buy more paper and pencils. But I guess life gets in the way when you get busy, you start work. And then I think a little bit of self doubt creeps in. So you just don't pursue anything. Then, at one point, probably about seven or eight years ago, I came down with some pretty significant health issues that they would touch and go. We didn't know what was gonna happen or which way it was gonna go. So it was a pretty devastating time in our whole life. So I had a lot of downtime in that period of time. And I was feeling pretty low. And I have a dear dear friend of mine who is a very amazing artist. And she is a big believer that everybody can draw. So she used to say to me, why don't you start drawing? And I was like, Well, I couldn't draw. And I guess my current draw is because I wanted to like her. But I had to realize that's not the case. So I had a decision to make. Do I sit around and be sad about the fact that I'm sick or do I try and do something. So to cut a very long story short, my husband and I went and house sat for a friend in Tweed Heads. And my husband loves sports. So he sat with about four different screens watching football, cricket. He had hot dogs, and he was happy as a pig and rod. And that is so many screens going on. And yes, I like sports too, but not that much. So I looked at some paper and got some pencils. And I started drawing. And from that I started with a little greeting card business and it kind of evolved into earrings and the businesses today.

Paul Fairweather 04:48

Well that's fantastic. Now you were a hairdresser before, is that correct?

Kat Driscoll 04:53

Yes. Yeah. And I guess there is in that too. Isn't there like with hairdressing?

Paul Fairweather 04:57

Yes, but it's very much You're the master servant. We're here your your own your own master

Chris Meredith 05:05

Kat there's a bit more about Bobby Francis, which is your jewelry range of hair and Senate. Right?

Kat Driscoll 05:10

Yeah, I, as I say, like this business has really evolved and learned from the drawing. There were so many moments when I started drawing and I was like, ridiculous, I can't draw and I'd screw up the piece of paper and I wouldn't pay. But eventually, I just got my mind groove, I suppose you could say. And I think I stopped trying to be this amazing artist straight away and just recognize I have to start



somewhere. They were greeting cards. Initially, those drawings became greeting cards, and then I self taught myself a vector, Adobe Illustrator. And that took a long time too. So again, I would start using Adobe Illustrator, and then I would get incredibly frustrated and think I can't do this hard. And then I'd go, no, no, no, go back. You can do this. Stop the self doubt, and just keep trying. So then I would start doing those illustrations. And I thought, Oh, this kind of sweet as earrings. So the first lot of earrings I did was actually printed on plastic. And then it was shrink plastic, actually. I know it's crazy, right? So I would print them onto this plastic, cut them out with the machine, shrink them and then resume so that was my first lot of earrings. I did. So then I went through the finders keepers market and I saw this world of acrylic out there. Oh, really like this. There's so much more options with this. It's like putting a puzzle together, which is so cool. So I thought I'm gonna give it a go. And I started throwing files that have been really theories made.

Paul Fairweather 06:39

So how did you then cut someone? Obviously? Yeah. But since then, your father has joined the business.

Kat Driscoll 06:47

Yeah. And this is one thing I've got to say. Just on that note is the support from my mom and dad and my husband has been amazing. A lot of people, I think when they say you want to start a creative business, they're like, oh, in how's this gonna go. But the whole way along, we've been incredibly supportive to the point where mom and dad came up one time I had a finders keepers market. And it is all systems go when you've got a three day market, it's making earrings, earrings, earrings and migraines. So they came up and we set up our one bedroom apartment at the time, which was where I was running the business from and we had all set up, David set any tables we could find. And we work to wait. So my dad has very big hands. So his nickname is buckets, because his hands are so big. So watch him help me make earrings, refines given the market was pretty sweet. He actually went home from that experience. And he rang me up one day and said, I've got an idea. And I said, Oh, I love ideas. And he said, "Why don't I buy a laser machine and do all your laser cutting?" And I was like, wow, that's an amazing idea, really. And at the time, he was building cool fences and denting and all that kind of stuff. So he bought a laser machine, it cost him about \$10,000 . Not only that, he actually built a whole room for the laser machine. So he built this room, he made it soundproof. All the proper air ducting and stuff like that for the laser machine is all good. And he now does all my laser cutting. He's actually been working full time for the last month. I've had him really, really going through pretty smart.

Chris Meredith 08:26

He's gonna get a management appraisal at some point, give them some feedback, they're gonna know to cut your jewelry away. I've had a look at it online. And it's full of joy. It's bright colors, it's happy shapes. It's how important that theme is to you. It just oozes to everything you've produced that I've seen. Anyway,

Kat Driscoll 08:46

I love that you say that. And I can't tell you how happy that makes me because that actually was a very big moment for me even in my drawing. I thought of one of them when I was doing lots of funny little drawings, and I threw them away, but eventually I finally got my groove. I drew an ostrich on a unicycle

and a drop in the bar. This is just an example. It made me laugh and I thought you know, I don't, I don't have to paint. It's amazing. It's maybe I might do that down the track. But if my drawings can make someone smile, then rat, I'm happy. That's my job. So I guess you saying that is a very big compliment because that's what I saw in the box and, and having that emotion is delightful for me.

Chris Meredith 09:29

We all need a bit of a smile in our lives. So we Yeah, so it wasn't a hard pick that others lovely. Either one of the cats one of the themes that we're exploring amongst art and creatives we speak to is how they get things done. Because one of the great flaws of creatives as they get easily distracted, they have new ideas. They go Oh, what about this? What about that? What about when you're running a business? Clearly, you've got stuff to do it you mentioned, I think finance keeps markets coming up and down. How do you balance the desire to be creative to explore new ideas with a need to be organized and run a business? How do you do that?

Kat Driscoll 10:10

Really good question. And I would say it is still something that I do battle with, I get so excited about new ideas, my husband is actually very good, he will from time to time when I'm getting a bit carried away, he's like, you know, just this stop per second, think about the collection you're currently doing. So you kind of rein them in a little bit. So he's very helpful, but not to the point where it ruins my creativity, it's actually been very helpful in the business side of things. But one thing that I have found profoundly helpful is actually using a push journal. And a push journal is where you write down your top three things you want to accomplish for that day. And then you write perhaps 10 Other things that you'd like to get done, but it doesn't really matter. And then on the other side, there's a timeframe and filling in that timeframe a little bit. Now, I try my best to stick to it, but not where it disrupts my flow. So there's a balance in that. But I definitely have found writing things down. Really important in running the business as well as being creative.

Paul Fairweather 11:12

So Kate, you mentioned there when you're working on collections, so I'm assuming you, you do a collection, and then it runs its time and then you move on to something else? Is that right? So? So you get the inspiration variety there, because you're not just producing the same thing. Once they're done, they're done. Is that right? Yeah, so

Kat Driscoll 11:30

I do a little bit of both, I like to do something new. Because obviously, when she is creative, it gets a bit boring if you're doing the same thing. So I like to do something new. However, what I've learned just to take a little bit of that pressure off, because it is pretty constant, I'll do maybe three new collections. And then in between the next lot of new collections, I will do a restock of some of the favorites. That just gives me a little bit of break in between those busy periods, to just catch my breath, and restock some favorites, for those who missed out are really happy, because often they sell out really quickly. Sometimes in the first three minutes.

Paul Fairweather 12:07

Wow



Chris Meredith 12:08

Kat, What's coming up? What are the collections that you're working on now? And where do the ideas come from? How do you know to pursue this or that as a collection?

Kat Driscoll 12:18

Yes, that's very again, I love your question. So I find this part hard because my brains are always pinging. So I'm gonna do this and I want to do that. So actually, stopping and thinking of the collection idea has helped just again, rein me in a little bit. So it's a little bit more productive than just all these crazy ideas going. So for example, the last few collections I did was a Japanese inspired Kyoto call. that way I could just explore the internet with anything Japanese, and then look at it and see if that would make a great entry. I had a unique friend with the Bobby Francis stamp on it. But in saying that too, I am always looking so if I'm out and about it could be a patent on a dress and just thinking about that actually mom and dad once were at an Airbnb, and I went to visit them the couch and I looked up at the wallpaper and I was like that would make a spectacular earring. But hold that and you know it was one of my best sellers and that came from a wallpaper so I'm always looking at having a collection that has been helpful in just reining in those ideas a little bit and having a story to tell along with those collections. I know that's something you wise and speak about a lot is storytelling and that's something I'm working on moving forward is having a lot more of that storytelling,

Paul Fairweather 13:35

Yeah, let's go bull but she that shows up in your Instagram posts a little stories of how you do them and stuff like that. So that's great. I can see behind you. Your new logo of bling Hound is sort of changing around but I love the story you told me about it that you people have been wanting you to do dogs do dogs do pets and you're going No no, no. I'm sticking to what I do. You know, you're not the hairdresser anymore. You're doing what you want to do. But eventually you did. But tell us about the bling hound.

Kat Driscoll 14:06

Okay, so bling hound. A funny story: when I went to my very first finders keepers, I was doing all my flowers and the birds and all those kinds of things. Now a very dear friend of mine actually lost her dog, CoCo and CoCo was a Westie dog. So I thought I'm going to make her a pair of waste acrylic earrings because it's just a nice little keepsake and they were ridiculously cute. So I thought I should make some up and take them to the finders keepers. So I think I got dad to make about 50 of these Westies up and I just made 10 to the first day and they sold out within the first hour. So I took the next 10. The next day they sold out. That day I took the next 10 And I got down to the last one and I thought ah so I kept just one I said sorry. This one's not for sale. But if you follow Bobby Francis you'll already be restocking unfit and then I kept getting emails wanting these Westies, or we should be doing dogs but I don't want to so I didn't I did have a few dogs here and near my collections but then it just dawned on me that as I'm walking around the area of Tenerife people love their dogs and I've got beautiful memories with my dogs they're very synonymous with memories and life and love that always beautiful things and I thought you know what, I'm actually going to do this so I thought I'm going to do dogs and actually grant my husband came up with the name blink out and so he's very very happy with that

Paul Fairweather 15:34



well that's great because if it doesn't if the name doesn't worry, you can blame him exactly how it will look? I just had a look at any Western earrings he chewed but obviously you know they don't suit me. I'm gonna do any Westie cufflinks, my God that the black and white western cufflinks would be fantastic.

Kat Driscoll 15:55

You know what I love the way you think? Well, that's awesome, because currently keyrings brooches earrings stud and dangles, but I think I'm definitely going to add that to the list. Yeah, great.

Paul Fairweather 16:05

Well, let me know. And I'll get some, although at worst a Labrador will be perfect.

Chris Meredith 16:11

There's a fashion gap because I think everyone loves the idea of cufflinks. Les Paul and I are currently both wearing a t-shirt on the air. Paul's wearing a common creative t-shirt. So I'm thinking about how you would need to find a t-shirt that needs cufflinks or something. I think people love to wear cufflinks. But there are very few men anyway, wearing shirts that accommodate cufflinks. There's a gap that I need to work at LSR? Well,

Kat Driscoll 16:33

That is true if there's a problem.

Chris Meredith 16:36

I was gonna ask you about note taking. You said, I'm always looking. And I personally think that's a real teacher of creatives and got this idea. And they're looking for inspiration and that you're building up these ideas to us in some way down the track. And is there a way you capture those? Or is it just a mental thing I've spotted that fabric has spotted on me? Do you have a way of synthesizing it and compiling them so that they don't get lost?

Kat Driscoll 17:04

Absolutely. And again, not initially. But minutes went by, and I saw the business world. And now I'm like there's so much I've got so many photos of so many things, so many things written down, I've started cataloging things. So even with my photos, I might take a photo or the pattern that I see on a friend's dress or a wallpaper or a bird when I'm out. And I've got some albums on my iPad. So I can quickly access things I'm not scrolling through like 76,000 photos and all that is currently a while good. Yes, it definitely catalogs things. And if I sometimes wake up at two or three in the morning and habit, do this or do this. And I always have a pen and paper beside my bed. So I can write it down. And therefore I can get back to sleep. Otherwise, I will just write about worrying over this new idea.

Chris Meredith 17:52

We've got a guest coming up shortly, who I heard tell the story. I think it was Edison, Thomas Edison, the light bulb, inventor, and he would sleep with us. We'd go to sleep with ball bearings in his hand. And that meant that as he fell asleep, he would drop the ball bearings and wake him up so that he could then record what was in his mind at that exact time. Yeah, have a pen and paper by bed that makes

perfect sense. The brain does lots and lots of work when you're asleep. So you need to know what it's doing.

Paul Fairweather 18:23

Kat, I'm interested in this journey, you know, you started almost drawing his therapy. And I do love the thing that you say that you couldn't draw because he was comparing yourself to your friend. And there's something that Chris and I both teach creativity is not relative. It doesn't matter how creative someone else's, it doesn't affect your own creative strength. So you started, then you started doing some greeting cards at that stage, you probably had an idea that you're going to do a greeting card business and then it morphed into Bobby Francis and now Bobby, Francis and bling hound. Do you have a vision for the future? Like you know, you're very busy working in the business? Do you have a vision? Or are you just happy to see where it goes?

Kat Driscoll 19:08

Yeah, no, no, I definitely do. Actually a couple of things. I would say that. So one, I love how Bobby Francis evolved. And if someone had said to me, I'd be running this business the way it was, you know, seven or eight years ago, I just would have thought up anything that was possible to see that just slowly evolved has been a beautiful experience. One thing I'm excited about with Ring Hound is I'm taking a little bit of that experience. I've still got what's the word, but I'm taking a little bit of that experience and putting that into this business. I'm intrigued to see how this business goes, taking some of that and starting this new business. But I have got other things in the pipeline, too. That like even starting a little business that is a bit more of a passive income. I will always do hands-on thing. I love it. That is my joy and my happy place but because I've loved one running the business side of things, I want to challenge myself a little bit more than that.

Paul Fairweather 20:05

Because I was thinking that, you know, if the demand keeps growing, and the pleasure is in the doing, there's only so much you can do. And you know, so you're looking at a baby, another business that is more passive so you can continue. So this doesn't get bigger than a certain thing or whether you outsource. But I know you do have a helper that comes in occasionally. What's your think there?

Kat Driscoll 20:27

Yeah, no, that's a good question. And I think it ends up taking off, I'm definitely happy to outsource. And yeah, I'd love to see it grow that way. And I think I was a little bit Bobby Francis, I was a bit apprehensive. You know, they always do hear that expression to start something and then scale it down, like, Okay, I'm just happy I started something. Putting it and now as time has gone on, I'm like, Oh, actually, I don't mind the idea of that challenge of stagnant happening. So if it was to get to that point, absolutely. The girl that I've got, actually, funnily enough, I've got a friend at the moment. She's in the other room, making stuff for the markets. But I've also got another young girl who's about 14, and she's just come on board, and she's resilient. She puts things together. So that's the thing, when it's something to love, you want it to be put together nicely. And she, you know, Andy, and I also love having her on board because she's young. And I'm hoping that in some way, this experience with me will help her move forward to not being afraid to give something go.



Paul Fairweather 21:27

Hmm. So it's what you've just said, it is very in keeping with the fears. They're a little, little mini season here on our productivity and doing one of the guests that we had on a little bit earlier, Nick Jaffe, from Jaffe from Tasmania, and he's a real doer, and he makes beautiful leather and Canvas goods, as well as other things that he does. But he said something and Chris asked him the question, he said, I did on a whim. And Chris said, Is it okay to do things on a whim? And he said, Yes, it is, as long as you follow through, and I think this is the thing and what you've done is, you've done on a whim pretty well, a women of prayer, well, so we're gonna pray about it, let's say a women pray or your case, a woman a plan, but he you know, your follow through so. So I think that's a really interesting thing. And what I find also fascinating is that, you know, you are busy doing, and you're looking for more inspiration to keep those ranges and collections going, and then something similar, but in the dog range, but you're also looking more broader and saying, like, what have I learned about business? And how can I grow that into something that's more you know, passive income? It's very simple and you know, great for our listeners. Is there any couple of things that you've learned that some of our listeners could go Yeah, okay, you know, pitfalls can be went wrong, or something that you did so well, that was really gave me great leverage. Yeah, absolutely.

Kat Driscoll 22:47

I think one of the biggest things is not not looking looking, is to be perfect. I think if you're going into that perfectionism thing, I like to all run perfectly. You're looking at the end result you're not enjoying the process. And I think enjoying the process is a beautiful thing. I think you had Charlie Marcus, they something like, if they make a mistake, fit it into something. Yeah, that's so inspiring. And I love and I would absolutely 100% agree that was a big thing for me. Rather than seeing it as a mistake thing is an opportunity. Finding it is something I can learn from just start. Don't overthink it. Don't worry about it being perfect. Enjoy the process as you go along. It's a beautiful thing. And even those moments where like I made one earring I remember and I loved it loved it so much. And I think I sold to so gorgeous.

Chris Meredith 23:39

Kat let me interrupt you for people who don't know who Charlie marker is, Charlie is our youngest ever guest is he was then seven years old. I think he must be eight by now. And he gave us so many insights about creativity, a seven year old, a child prodigy, I think you'd say at least one of his tips in his seven year old voices. If you make a mistake, turn into something, don't worry about it. So it's great that you got inspiration or led to cackle is still a bit about people that have influenced you because it strikes me there's some key figures have really helped shape what you do. I mean, you mentioned this friend that said, why not try drawing? You mentioned the way your father's got involved in the business. You mentioned your partner, who kind of keeps you on the straight and narrow it sounds like how does a creative like you know when to take inspiration from a person around you, like try drawing? And when do you go? Well, let's just talk at a cafe and yeah, thanks. But no, say how do you study? Choose your friends, I suppose is what I'm asking.

Kat Driscoll 24:37

How do I choose my friend?

Chris Meredith 24:38



Yeah, come from a courageous point of view. How can a creative learn to listen to and get inspiration from the people around them? I think that's what's behind the question. Yes.

Kat Driscoll 24:48

I think being open is a big one. So initially, when my friends said to me, like everybody can draw, I did the initial reaction to like, Ah, I just don't think that's possible. I think there's some people I actually think a lot. The people I talk to actually, if I said to them, Are you creative? Well, I think everybody's creative. But I will ask them that question. And they will say, I'd like to be, but I don't think I am. I think that's most people's anthem. But then they're shut off. So it's a good question. How do you actually inspire someone to push past that and give something a go? And I think what I say to people is don't if you draw on that doesn't work, try something else. It could be it could be crocheting. It could be a new building boats, whatever it is, just try something. Keep trying, because you will find something. I tried lots of things honestly, for my husband, how many creative ventures I've gone down in this room been married, but I stumbled on something where I just picked up pencils out. Does that answer your question?

Chris Meredith 25:43

It absolutely does. This sense of adventure, I tell you, what went through my mind is, is when he said a lot of people say come up I'd like to be creative. I think creativity is an act of bravery of putting something out into the world that wasn't there before. And the risk, of course, is that the world goes all that was rubbish. And if you're not careful, bold, brave, a bit good. If you're not careful, you get you pull the horns and you said, I'm not going to do that again. Because it backfires. Because people around you judge you and pick it apart. And so every time you're doing something new, you're being brave. So do you identify with that idea of being a brave person, because people are brave people's was

Kat Driscoll 26:23

absolutely 100%. And my mom has many amazing sayings. I love that for it. You said to me, even whenever I come in her suggestions of things I'd like to do she always say to me, nothing ventured, nothing gained, either to go. And I live by that. What's the point of looking back and thinking I wished I had given her a go? What's the worst that can happen? Okay, so it doesn't quite work, then what do you do? You just pivot? Try something else? That's okay. That's all part of the learning process and growth and not being afraid of that.

Chris Meredith 26:55

What have you noticed about creativity Kat?

Kat Driscoll 26:58

Yeah, interestingly, thinking about how the brain to retain longer tends to kind of pass on and it's and I found it fascinating. Because one way I explain being creative to people is like going to gym. So for example, if I was to go and want to do five chin ups, I'm not gonna be able to go gym and do five chin ups, it's gonna take time, but you have to start somewhere. And one thing I learned about creativity is the same thing. You just once you start somewhere, it's amazing how it unlocks. So you know, what, in one week's time you're doing this work, and then in four weeks time, and all of a sudden, it's likely it, I wouldn't use the expression and unlock and start doing things you never realized you could do. And

funnily enough, that just makes me think, too. I was learning the piano is a 30 year old. And I was getting taught by a girl who was 14 had been playing since she was four. Oh, my goodness. And there was one piece that I wanted to play. It's just the getting to the point of the brain. how amazing this. So I was playing it, trying to play it trying to play trying to play I was getting so frustrated. And I'd say to Chiara, I can't I can't do it. I can't do it. I cannot get her hands dirty. She's like, just keep practicing. And you'll get there. I got so frustrated one day that I thought you know what, I'm done. I can't do it. And I didn't touch the piano for about a week. And this is no word of a lie. I woke up one day, after a week, I set both the piano and I played it. I played it. And I ran Chiara and I said I played it. I played it. So I went round there. And I played it for her. And I think again, that taught me how incredible the brain was. All that practice was going in. Yeah, perhaps a little bit that frustration was washing it. But everything you're doing does add up to something at the end, just like exercise.

Chris Meredith 28:41

There is the experiments of people being taught to play darts, throwing darts at a dartboard and they forget, I think 20 minutes to try it out, see how they go. And then they're told to practice for 20 minutes a day. With the caveat, they get no darts and no dartboard. They can only do it internally. In other words, you got to practice throwing those darts in your mind. Two weeks later, here's a dart have a go. And it's as if they'd had a dartboard every day you can you can do it in your mind is stored. Now.

Paul Fairweather 29:14

I have to tell you a sad flipside to your story about learning the piano. When my kids were really little, and they started learning. I said, I learned wisdom because my mom was a piano teacher and she failed to teach me because, you know, I didn't want to be taught by my mom. So I basically, you know, I do the lessons after they so we all had lessons. So kids are only like five and six. And I was the only one who practiced. I practice all the time. And the piano isn't the end of the living dining kitchen room. It's in the one room. And this young piano teacher came along. And, you know, after a couple years, she said, Paul, you've got to practice. And I went, I do practice all the time and She went, No, no, you can't go ahead and everyone's going, Yes, he does practice. She goes, she goes, while Paul, you're not good plated? That's terrible. It was That was my piano piano like the other career. Anyway. So what I what I love about about the answers that Chris has questions and I've been listening is because Chris and I, I suppose teach this. And while we don't teach it, you know, in a purely academic sense, and not sort of a theoretical sense, because we do get people to do practical things, you're living it, you're epitomizing it. And then you know, when when you do meet people, you know, you're you're also then teaching it by example. And by your, by your own experience, I think I love that there's sort of a certain amount of bit of serendipity in a way in your story about, you know, what you what you went through to get where you are. And Chris was asking me before we started, you know, how I knew you? And I say, well, cats, the window cleaners wife. And he went, he said, Sorry, I said, Well, you know, that cafe that I took you to when you were up in Brisbane, I said, Well, Grant used to clean the windows there and very efficiently, but always have a little very short chat and barely spoke. So we started talking, and then we started having coffee. And I found out he was a writer, and he sent me some writing, I gave him some criticism, he didn't send me any role, more writing. So I think next time he came, he bought will on cat, he said, all that you should meet my wife. She's creative. And so but I didn't give cat any criticism. So she turned I could get. But yeah, so it's been, it's been absolutely wonderful. And now grant has also

moved on and doing something differently. He's now working for a large training organization, I'm getting a chance to speak to people too, which is his passion, as well. So I'm

Kat Driscoll 31:56

very good with people. And he's very good at it. And he's very creative. So I haven't went down to his office recently. And his boss said, He's creative ideas have been so helpful. And he's thriving, I think, because he's getting this opportunity to be creative, even in the work environment. I think that's what you guys have spoken all that to even in a corporate environment. Yeah. Yeah. Pretty involved in so I think when he was window cleaning, he needed that creative outlet in writing and stuff like that, which he will still do on holidays. But now he's in a job where there's so many creative elements that he's got there, and he's absolutely loving it.

Paul Fairweather 32:32

So that's saying is one when window closes the other one, there's always enough. There's always another one to wash. You said how it goes, I'm quite sure. But yeah, so I just wanted to do that a little bit tell that hat nod to to Grant who did introduce us and, and, and his connection,

Chris Meredith 32:53

we're gonna have to find a way of weaving that into the show is titled, The window cleaners, what it sounds like a book a movie, it's a story that's got to be told that it's brilliant story.

Kat Driscoll 33:03

It really does sound like a book title doesn't have the window.

Paul Fairweather 33:07

So can we know that you're incredibly busy, because we've got the Tenerife fair coming up, which is enormous for us. So sadly, and we could go on. For ages, we will put all the links in the show notes to your to your stuff and your products. And again, looks thanks a lot for taking the time out of your very busy day to talk to a couple of our blogs about creativity.

Kat Driscoll 33:33

I'd really, as I say, I really appreciate coming on. And I think if I can inspire even just one other person in a small way to get the creative word I have then I feel completely honored to have had this opportunity. So thank you very, very much.

Chris Meredith 33:48

Thank you, Kat. It's been a great pleasure to meet you. Can't wait to see the brand Bling Hound and on Bobby Francis going from strength to strength.

Kat Driscoll 33:56

Thank you. Thank you so much, guys.

Paul Fairweather 34:00



Chris, we're gonna have to link up kit with our previous guests, Caroline Weaver, who was the pencil person, given the story of the her keeping her dough and pencils, and we didn't ask her about that. We'll have to go back and ask her what happened to those pencils?

Chris Meredith 34:14

Yeah, I think the message everybody there is to kind of appreciate drawing. It seems that's a humble craft. I think Caroline Weaver showed us that there's so much more to humble pencil than you might think. And Kat has shown us how just the act of starting to draw even though she thought she couldn't draw has led her to a successful and exciting jewelry business. I think there's something very powerful in picking up a pencil, putting other people's piece of paper and drawing it it brings up new parts of the brain.

Paul Fairweather 34:44

Yeah, Chris without a doubt, and the fact that she embraced that and then see also then embrace learning a new way of drawing using Adobe products to be able to draw a file so it could be cut out the CNC cutter. So look a great a great story. A lovely to be a beautiful person. So if you enjoyed it, please give us a rating five gold stars made out of acrylic jewelry, if you will. Give us a review.

Chris Meredith 35:14

Yes and pop any comments in the chat box at the bottom. We'd love to hear your comments, feedback. Maybe you're thinking of starting your own creative business. Maybe you think you don't have a great firepower that's needed. Give us your feedback. And of course, tell your friends about the show. Tell them about the concrete podcast. We'd love to get the message out there. It helps us and helps our guests too. And hope to you'll join us for next week's episode as well.

Paul Fairweather 35:37

Cheers for now.





KAT DRISCOLL (Special Guest)



Paul Fairweather - Co-host



Chris Meredith - Co-host



Two Common Creatives

