



A Passion FOR ALL THINGS Beautiful

BY CATHY PENTON

Raised on a dairy farm 20 minutes from the beach, I spent countless hours as a little girl sketching and painting in the long grass surrounded by cows. Luckily for me, my primary school teacher taught me how to love art in all its differing forms, from marbling paper to cover our books, to screen printing our school uniforms, to painting the backdrops for the school play. Life then took a few twists and turns, and it was not until I had my two beautiful children that my creativity returned.

I have had a creative business for over 20 years now, including stitchery design, creating projects for magazines, and owning a brick-and-mortar space. My online business, Cathy Penton Atelier, is where I create bespoke soft furnishings and jewelry, and sell curated items for you and your home. My days are filled with beautiful linens, a 4b pencil, my favorite quotes, a sewing machine, and, most days, a soldering iron.

It is early morning as I walk the short distance to my studio. A large vintage key opens the 1900s courthouse building, and the large door makes a thud as it opens. I never tire of the view of the beautiful original hoop pine beams against the white paint of the weatherboards. Blackboards with quotes are wiped clean for a new quote this week, and my favorite Spotify playlist is turned on. The old metal drafting drawers that we rescued from being thrown away now hold packaging supplies so I can start my day filling orders; but first, I pop the kettle on for a nice cup of tea. It has been three years since we renovated this once run-down old building into an apartment for my daughter. Now that my daughter owns her own tiny cottage, I get to spend my days here. >

I would say I am quite a sentimental soul and love to surround myself with little bits of whimsy, texture, and things with character that tell a story. There are fresh flowers or clippings from the garden, old glass jars, and my favorite handmade pottery on a recycled pine shelf in the little kitchen area. I have a church pew from my sister-in-law, a table that is made of an old door from my Nan's house, and a bed made of timber palettes (the bed is mostly used for photoshoots). Artwork collected from around the world from my favorite places, from the streets of Paris to boutiques in Kingscliff, fills my walls. >



My 3 Favorite *Inspiring Quotes*

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment"
— Emerson

"There is still a little child running around inside that heart of hers and she never leaves, she will never leave."
— Wilder

"To create one's own world takes courage."
— Georgia O'Keeffe

With the exposed timber beams, beautiful restored timber floors, and old long double-hung windows that we worked hard to restore to their former beauty, the courthouse still takes my breath away every time I walk in. *As a studio, it provides me with one open space for designing, creating, and taking photos.* Words are everywhere: on the walls in artwork and quotes, on the linen cushions I create, and on blackboards that are changed every time I see another quote that inspires me. >





It is so important to love what you do and be driven by it. I have always lived in small cottages with small spaces, so it's important to surround myself with the most inspiring pieces relevant to my work at the time. Living in small spaces has also made me extremely good at getting creative with storage and only keeping those things which are essential — no clutter, no keeping things for the sake of keeping them, and using old drawers, wire baskets, and glass jars to store everything from paper for packaging to the wares I sell. To keep my space inspiring, I am constantly rearranging — “She rearranges recklessly.” My space never stays the same for long, and I would say that this not only helps with my creativity but also with my downtime, my procrastination, and my time with my daughter.

Cathy Penton is the designer, maker, and owner of Cathy Penton Atelier, a soft furnishings and soldered jewelry online business. Cathy creates bespoke pieces that feature inspirational quotes and words, and sells to individuals and business around the world. Through her online business, Cathy collaborates with other designers to sell beautifully curated items as well as designs and customizes pieces of her own making. To learn more, visit cathypentonatelier.com and Instagram (@cathypentonatelier).

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