



“Everything is inspiration.”

— Unknown

# All the Luck in the World

## Jane Schouten



In Rhenen, a small town south of Amsterdam, lives Jane Schouten — a graphic designer, artist, crafter, and mother. As a single mother, Jane was used to working long hours to support her family, but as her daughters grew older, she saw the opportunity to do something for herself. She cut back her job as a graphic designer to three days a week in order to do what she loved most — make things that bring luck and love and happiness to others. Now Jane has enough time to run her online shop, All the Luck in the World, an endeavor that has brought her the happiness that comes with creating with her own two hands.

When I was 12 years old my family moved from Australia to Holland, a huge transition that left me feeling lost and terribly out of place. Without the Internet to help me keep in touch with my friends (this was the 1970s), I became a bit of a hermit, spending my time locked away in my room making things. My mum made many of our clothes when we were children, and my dad is a draftsman, so creativity was always nurtured in our home. My love for creating only grew, and I eventually moved to Amsterdam to study at the art academy.





Tip for success:  
+ Do what you  
love doing.



I have always been an avid visitor of flea markets and thrift shops, and I think that the combination of handmade, re-styled, and vintage goods works quite well. I am a collector, and my online shop, All the Luck in the World, allows me to use my many collections, because I can't keep it all, right? My love for recycling materials means I typically use pre-loved or pre-hated articles, and very rarely purchase anything new. Whether it is old paper, vintage frames, old fabric or blankets, or even furniture, I can always see something new in an object that has been discarded.

I often feel like I have too many ideas but not enough time to create, so I am definitely not prone to creative blocks. I also fill my time with inspirational activities, like reading blogs, visiting interesting cities, museums, and art exhibitions. If you look through the right glasses, inspiration is all around you.

The mediums I choose to work with reflect my many sources of inspiration in that there are no real limits or boundaries. I use everything from paint to collage to embroidery, and create everything from jewelry to re-styled furniture. If I had to describe





my artistic style, “eclectic” would probably be the best word to use.

One great thing about living alone is that my entire house is my studio — I work all over the place. My home is a huge source of

inspiration for me because it is filled with things that I love and that are personal to me. While I don’t limit where I create in my home, I do have a studio where I keep all of my supplies and my computer for graphic design. Considering the fact that I have been repurposing objects in my artwork for at least 20 years, you can imagine how large my collection of “supplies” is. I have to admit that I’m not well organized, so I sometimes have a hard time finding what I need. My studio is filled with a million tins and they all have treasures hiding inside of them, but while it may look organized, I don’t always know what is tucked inside each tin.

For as long as I can remember, my hands have been busy creating, and the future will be no different. I am currently recovering some chairs, making pillows, designing postcards, creating an illustration for a magazine, and





painting a watercolor that will incorporate mixed-media — among other projects. My inspiration is never-ending, and so are my plans and hopes for the future. My dream is to open a shop and café with my daughters, Robin and Nina, and my friends, where we can make and sell our artwork, fill people's souls with a passion for creating, and feed their stomachs with good coffee and homemade cakes.

*Where Women Create would like to thank Jane Schouten for her involvement in our Winter Issue. To learn more about Jane, visit [www.alltheluckintheworld.nl](http://www.alltheluckintheworld.nl), or [blog.alltheluckintheworld](http://blog.alltheluckintheworld)*