

# The **urge** to create

**Get creative or lose your job. Creative pursuits are worth more than money, they are the lifeblood of our existence.**

**How do we express ourselves?** There are probably as many methods as there are people. Some sing; others paint; writing is a rewarding outlet, be it a novel or a Post-it note; and a few decide to mount fluorescent lighting underneath their cars, turn the bass up to seismic levels, and lap Norton Street on a Friday night.

In a sense, the form self-expression takes is largely unimportant. Whether the ultimate aim is creativity or simply a means of anger-clearing catharsis, the vital point is that self-expression provides an excellent route to **stress relief and contentment**, and is a sure-fire way of asserting individuality.

Certain individuals find themselves the target of bitter jealousy in the wider working community because they have the **so-called dream job**. They've turned their talent for self-expression into a career, and the rest of us tend to resent them for it.

These people actually receive a salary for turning up and doing the sorts of things about which most of us have only ever dreamt. They broadcast their personal opinions on the morning radio, they design amazing clothing for the catwalk, they travel the world making movies, and all the while, they're racking up **impressive amounts of cash** for their creative and expressive efforts. For some of us, though, the only available creative outlet at work is setting a holiday snap as the background wallpaper on the office PC. The reality is that most people derive their creative satisfaction from sources other than work.

We used to cry into our diaries, but today's Web 2.0 generation seems to prefer full public disclosure. The internet provides a sea of faceless readers to whom we can broadcast our grievances, and it also provides a plethora of ways in which to express them. **Starting a blog** (that's a web log, for the uninitiated) can facilitate an ongoing experience of cathartic expression. One word of caution, though; don't succumb to the temptation of including **actual names** in your online spleen venting.

It might be true that not everybody has a fully formed creative project burning inside them, urging and straining to be realised. However; this is not to say that ideas cannot be derived from, or inspired by, somebody else's creativity. Here in the Inner West, we are extremely fortunate to find ourselves situated amidst a hive of creative self-expression.



**"Art is a personal need and want, a must in my own life"** SOOJOO YOO

We are surrounded by actors, musicians, artists and writers, all expressing themselves in the most creative ways possible. Exposed as we are to so much self-expression, it'd be amazing if a little bit didn't rub off on the rest of us!

**Benjamin Dodds**

## Dynamic duo

**Wendy Arnold (below) and Soojoo Yoo (left) are both part of the Inner West artistic community. They share studio space at 1+2 Studios in Balmain and Rozelle. We took five with them to ask – what art thou?**

**How long have you been at the studio for?**

**Wendy:** I started at the studio 13 years ago and have helped to grow it.  
**Soojoo:** 2 years

**Why did you get involved in this studio?**

**W:** Being an artist can be quite lonely at times and surrounding yourself with fellow artists that share your passion keeps your spirit lifted.

**S:** I got involved because I needed a studio for my art and it was the perfect place

**What do you love about art?**

**W:** After doing many different things in life i have settled with art. I love art as I believe it is a privilege to be creative and it enriches my life. It makes my life more spiritual.

**S:** I have been taking art classes since highschool. I fell in love with it and also took it up at University.

**How does art fulfill you?**

**W:** It nurtures my soul and opens my eyes. I feel so happy that the world allows me to do something I love.

**S:** Art makes me feel very excited. It's not easy though allows me to be myself and express myself individually. For me it is a personal need and want, a must in my own life.

**Is it your full time work?**

**W:** Yes, for over 13 years

**S:** Yes

**Does it support you financially?**

**W:** Yes, I am fortunate my work is commercially buyable.

**S:** At times it does.



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