Being an art restorer for 15 years and running my own business for the past seven years, it seems like a monumental change of careers to become a software engineer. Those two fields don't seem to have a lot in common. However art restorers and programmers share the same interest in creating something of value: Attention to detail and focus, holding their work to a high standard, working independently as well as in teams, documenting each step, and managing oneself are requirements to thrive. Many tasks are about trial and error, the only difference is that in coding you get feedback within seconds - it either works or it doesn’t.

Running my own business, I have learned patience, as well as not to get discouraged when a thought up solution doesn’t bring the expected outcome, but instead correcting course. Being persistent and seeing a challenge instead of a problem are my strength.

I am an independent and experienced creator that takes bias towards action, and takes ownership when things go wrong. As a strong leader I empower all team members and put an emphasis on clear, open and respectful communication.

Starting to teach myself coding, my first backend language was Python which immediately grew on me. I was in awe of HTML and CSS, that I actually wrote something that would then appear on a website *- localhost, sure, but still*. After finishing a coding bootcamp at LeWagon, I started building my own projects to advance my skillset. I chose to build a visa calculator with pure JavaScript, a colleague wrote the front-end designs. Currently I am teaming up with a UX-Designer to build out her idea of a flashcard app for vocabulary training.

I am thrilled to now be part of the developer community and create new usable products with others so we can advance in our endeavours together.

I find GitLab’s mission compelling. It encourages developers worldwide to contribute in an open and inclusive manner, and plays a part in making the open source community accessible and inviting to all. It makes it possible for me and everyone else to enter the developer world to learn and advance and contribute.

Working in teams is hard - even more so in remote circumstances. Respect towards every member makes them feel encouraged to bring in new ideas. Communication needs to be clear, open and unemotional to lead to fruitful discussions.

For asynchronous communication to work, GitLab empowers its employees by trusting them to manage themselves, divide their time and workload in an individual fashion that makes them most efficient. Encouraging a sensible work-life-balance ensures physical and mental health. Remote work allows employees to be where they want to be or where they might be needed most. Putting these values as a priority in GitLab is unusual and important.

Developers use GitLab because they value their privacy and GitLab is not just an open source product but also completely transparent. It is known what is going on behind usually closed doors and encouraging discussions and criticism is not just an empty phrase - as could be recently be seen when the implementation of telemetry services was debated. Being this transparent - especially in this day and age - is exemplary, but bring problems. It hold the company to a higher standard. This is however the best compliment, since GitLab truly follow their values.

I would like to work at a company, that values diversity of background, invests in new talent with room for growth and improvement, and commits to code to solve important problems. It would be an honor to contribute to the open source community following these values that I share and become part of the back end developer team at GitLab.