



CRAZY WINDOW

An artist and a writer - tale of two talented women

MEET POOJA AJMERA

Q. When and why did you start teekhii chhurii?

I started Teekhii Chhurii as I always wanted to do something of my own. Something which will give me the freedom to take big decisions and also appropriate actions.

I was always keen on arts, crafts and handicrafts. So I started paper cutting in 2012 and finally launched Teekhii Chhurii in Jan 2013.

Pooja is an Indian Papercutting artist based in Dubai who is MBA by qualification and is working hard to revive the dying art form of India called Sanjhi.

She crafts all her designs from a single sheet of paper and make people's story come alive.

Q. Was it easy to leave a financially secure job and start your own business?

Since I wanted more freedom in my work, job could never satisfy me. Hence it was not very difficult to quit work to start with something I love.

Q. How did you find your passion?

It actually happened by accident. I just had to gift something unique to my sis in law for her birthday and then I thought why not a paper cut.

I made one for her and realized this is so much fun and the rest is history. I am still hooked on it and don't mind slogging hours for it.

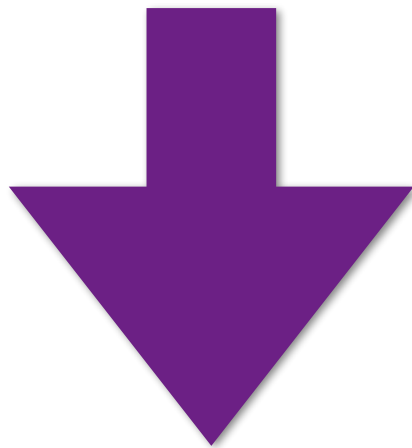
Q. What is your biggest source of inspiration and motivation?

I take inspiration from things around me, things that make me happy. I don't work on a particular subject and showcase various themes in my art hence whatever catches my eye, inspires and motivates me.

Q. One advice to our readers on why they should listen to their heart.

You can touch the sky, if you can dare to dream. Just work hard and rest will follow.

MEET AARSHA ABHILASH



Q. How did you find your passion?

As far as I'm concerned I was always passionate about writing , I used to write poems from the schooldays, made a blog in 2008 when it was difficult for me to carry around the 'secret notebook'.

That was the time I started writing pros along with poems. but from 2011 to 2012 I was completely away from the cyber world and blog enjoying my motherhood.

Its like a second innings for me now , successful re-entry and that happened only because of our relocation and the free time I got here . About the 'Radio' part , I'm very talkative -my friends call me chatterbox.

I always wanted to do a radio show when I was in india , but somehow it was just a dream back in those days. When I got the opportunity I was so sure to go for it .

Q. How do you define success based on your own journey so far ?

I wont say I'm satisfied the way I'm as a writer , RJ , sub-editor or mom , I always feel there is still room for improvement, But Success doesn't have a one line definition for me . Seriously , When I get a note about my write up – I feel Success, When I get an appreciation mail about my show from listeners – I taste Success . Whenever I hear my 4 year old screaming “Mom ,I love you ” I cry Success.

So for me Success is the way you smile to 'Yourself', Success is the way you feel good about yourself, Success is just around the corner , but make sure to take the turn.



Aarsha Abhilash is RJ and News Editor of 1st Malayalam Radio & Lifestyle Magazine from USA.

She is a regular columnist on malayalam vartha, info malayali and many other magazine's.

Q. One advice to people on H4 to spend their time effectively?

Everybody is talented, everybody has their passion, everybody is creative. Its just that we all are so busy that we don't get enough time to think about that special things. My advice or my tip would be , be a kid and do whatever brings you happiness.

If its cooking – explore different methods, start a blog, youtube channel go for it. If you are passionate on DIY's there are lots and lots of path for you, just take one which is comfortable for you to walk. If you are a people's person , there are lot of voluntary works that need you . There are lot of things to do , and you only know what suits you the best.

Q: You are an RJ, Writer and Editor, would you like adding more hats? –

I'm a lazy woman , I enjoy being at home , lazing around. At the same time I'm a very enthusiastic person. I would try whatever comes to me. I really love to cook different cuisines , and thinking about a cooking blog for a long time.

I do crochet (just the basic hats stuff, nothing much) & I enjoy it. So , if there are more hats for me I would definitely try on if it fits my head.

Q: What inspired you to take up so many roles when you knew you will not be paid for it?

Its a really tricky question. For me , writing has always paid me in terms of feedback & my own mental satisfaction.

When I got the opportunity to show my creative work to a new set of readers I was thrilled , excited & happy – be it for the printing magazine 'Malayali', or my blog or FB page or online papers such as Infomalayali, MalayalamVartha or online magazines like emashi, vettam, gulmohar, jalakam I feel the same – I am getting a new set of readers. The feel of 'being read' is my inspiration .

About the radio , I wanted to speak, I wanted to be heard -even though its not giving any economical benefit it gives a whole new approach to the world , it gives a different kind of perspective , and I really enjoy the "RJ AARSHA" identity .

When the sun sets I ask a question to myself , "did you do something good today , did you use your talents ? " I hate to hear my reply as "I didn't , because I was not getting money as reward