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“Creation is an act as violent as it is beautiful. I could not live without my art, it is my balance.”

Finding out who we are and what we want to become and achieve, is never an easy journey. In some cases the road is even more twisting and the obstacles more difficult to overcome. Véronique Dalla Favera was born in Beaune, in a more "scientific than literary family."

After a childhood without any particular worries, a disease struck when she was still a little girl. Even before fully understanding an event or situation, she is already seeking to express it and to write.

From a family that regards artistic expression as unnecessary, she quickly forged her own path.

"Not feeling supported to express my feelings, I was silent but I never ceased to cogitate, reflect, question myself," recalls Veronica Dalla Favera.

Despite health problems that did not leave her for many years, she was able to complete her school programs along with the other children.

At age 18, she met the man who would become her husband.

He is a chef. The day after obtaining her Bachelor's degree, she decided to follow him in the difficult and time-consuming restaurant business.

She learned the business at the Hostellerie Levernois alongside Christiane and Jean Crotet; and a few years later, the young couple, married since then, bought the Côte d'Or, the restaurant owned by Jean Crotet in Nuits Saint Georges. The adventure lasted five years, during which time her son Matthew was born in 1991.

The couple eventually split. "1995 to 2005 were ten years of daily struggle against the disease," says Véronique Dalla quickly, without dwelling too much.

The veil of sadness clouding her face briefly allows us to guess how these years have profoundly affected her. Professionally, Véronique Dalla feels lost.

She seeks what she wants to do, hesitates, prevaricates and finally, by some fatality, following the logic of an entrepreneurial family, decides in 2003 to pursue a higher degree in business in Dijon; she obtains her Master's in

company management.

I ran a restaurant for a few years; I knew the business. It seemed natural to ratify my years of experience with a degree," she explains.

This path was needed in that it allowed her to discover that she couldn't be fulfilled in the careers that were open to her.

"At 35, it is not easy to be once again at the crossroads, not knowing where to go..." she admits.

And, one evening in June 2005, a rather unusual encounter suddenly opened within her a window to a new world...

A poppy, a small and fragile flower, on the roadside, the only small red dot in a monochrome nature, catches her eye, arouses her attention.

During several days, she passes by the poppy on this road of Bouze-lès-Beaune without understanding why this little flower obsesses her so much.

She decides to see it as a sign, plucks the flower, takes it home, and, immediately, shapes it with a material made of fiber, cellulose and chalk, which she had purchased without knowing why a few months earlier.

Then sprang up an incredible creative energy in her, a wellspring of ideas, which, to this date, has not dried up.

"I decided to follow this urge to create, to finally become what I wanted to be and to accept to be different from what everyone wanted me to be. "A rebirth!" she still marvels.

Curiously, as if life once again had the upper hand, the disease regresses.

The first feedback of her relatives is rather positive and they encourage her to continue. I finally found myself in agreement with my desires. This vital urge to create, to give a form to my crazy ideas was irrepressible. But I was totally new at this.

I learned gradually that I came up against my artistic incompetence.

"Financially, too, I had to face a situation that had become precarious; I had to put forth the money for this new endeavor," she added.

"The unwavering support of Serge, my husband since 2000, was indispensable to the establishment of this new life."

From testing to training, she honed her technical knowledge, took up interest in painting, and enrolled in several internships, including a few with the painter Yves Desvaux-Veeska, who reinforces in her the work of creating.

"I am very fortunate in my atypical and chaotic journey to have met amazing people, who make me move forward and progress," smiles Véronique Dalla, touched by the thought of her mentors and friends.

In a parallel way, in October 2009, a funny little character was born: neither

white nor black, unisex, smooth in appearance and expressive in its posture, a real signature of the artist: LivenLuLu.

A small and benevolent human being, LivenLuLu embodies a range of emotions as a reflection of each of us.

Each buyer of my sculptures invests a little in their story. It touches me greatly," says Véronique Dalla. A first exhibition, organized in their small Burgundian village of Culêtre is an opportunity to face critique from the general public.

Great success, which will not ever contradict, at the mercy of events collectively or personally in Lyon, Monaco, Paris, Lille, Venice, Verona, Saulon-La-Rue, Pommard, Chassagne-Montrachet...

Until this unlikely phone call from Ubifrance, who organized a trip together with artists, craftsmen, and buyers, and sought to promote a French artist.

Veronique Dalla, without much hope, fills out her application... and is accepted within two weeks! "Three months to prepare everything, from creating the first opus of the series called "Inner Journey," which took 26 hours of nonstop work, to the practicalities of sending the paintings, setting the prices, and a... horror." Serge laughs today.

But, after the anguish of a first start, there was the shock of discovering New York, decisive encounters and a huge success, which neither Véronique nor Serge had dared to imagine.

Since then, Véronique has a showroom in Manhattan, lives between two continents, collaborates with the biggest names in design and works on major projects.

"I am very lucky; I can't deny it," she says almost shyly.

Yet the facts are there, heralding new adventures "as beautiful as difficult," according to the formula that Véronique Dalla likes to repeat, so as to avert a fate that has not always been kind.

An exhibit in Burgundy? "Soon, when my projects overseas are finalized," she ensures. I can't wait for it!

1970: Birth in Beaune on July 4.

2003: She starts a Master's degree in business management in Dijon and she graduates the same year.

2005: She meets a strange little flower that will change her life.

2009: She creates LivenLuLu, iconic statuettes of her own design.

2010: she exhibits for the first time in New York.

2011: She launches an online store exclusively dedicated to the LivenLuLu.