

FASHIONNEXT

Diverse Designs interviews mentor Mel Muoio



Dorothea

Q: What inspired you to do what you do today?

A: Daily: driven by trying to make creative impact; any chance; uniforms. To transform ordinary into something extraordinary.

Q: Random: If you were a superhero what would be your super power?

A: Fly; save time; teleport to project locations... always on the go

Jasmine

Q: What is your favorite part about your job?

A: The ability to have wild creativity—no boundaries—abstract concepts.

Q: Favorite traveling place?

A: Los Angeles or a vacation in Europe . Two weeks to unwind & get inspired: Italy for food, fashion, flavors. For cultural inspiration, Mexico or South America.

Q: How do you find personal time?

A: Friday nights are devoted to my dogs & my boyfriend. We usually go out eat. On Thursdays, it's laundry and gym, and I'll meet up with friends on Sunday. It's a tight schedule balance personal life with a career.

Q: What would you describe your style as?

A: Personal uniform would be black pants & a chambray shirt (always on the go). When not something bohemian with a 70s vibe (flowy).

Q: How would you describe a typical day?

A: Wake up, respond to texts & emails. Then to the office: prepping with assistant, agenda, mood boards, packaging and purchasing meetings, project manager meetings, further check up on all details to make sure everything looks good. Back to office to prep FedEx / UPS, make sure arrival dates, lots of future planning & prepping, always different and multitasking .

Jessie

Q: Throughout your diverse career, what are some of your most memorable highlights and lowlights?

A: Lowlights: big presentations, last minute overnight struggles, delivery anxiety, dependence on arrivals, explain and improvise in the moment, stressful coping explanations, strict timelines, multiple people, moving parts & timelines, clients, job position requirements, project management, deadlines
Highlights: Collaborating with unique people, Disney imaginaires, finest set of creatives in the world

Salary expectations: entry level job , depending on location \$40 to 60k. You have to work your way up.

Q: If you could also collaborate / style anyone or any brand, who would it be?

A: Creative director (Gucci) ; aesthetic vibe, bohemian vibe, 70s, vintage. It's real style inspiration & we share a similar aesthetic taste.

Mia

Q: Did your career require special training or specific education?

A: I studied communications—the course wasn't exactly directly related. Requires attention to detail—think outside of personal and understand public, broad thinking, accommodate to public / media, train yourself to think that way

Q: Has anyone in particular helped or inspired you to get where you are today?

A: Yes : lots of people , boss & mentor . I'm inspired by vintage clothing, talented people, creative directors. My biggest mentor is my boss who is cool, but also business-minded.

Uche

Q: What are your go-to articles of clothing?

A: Accessories, scarves, shoes, necklaces. Start basic, add in fun.

Esho

Q: Do you find your inspiration for your designs within yourself or do you look up to other big designers?

A: I fall into a usual sense of fashion and am always drawn to usual aesthetics such as Rachel Zoe, that 70s glam, California, Gucci, that sort of vintage aesthetic

Q: Do you consider yourself an artist? If so, what sort of artist do you define yourself as?

A: Art & creativity comes in many creative channels. I'm not a traditional sense of artist, more like visual form of creativity / communication.

Eli

Q: What's the most rewarding part of your job?

A: I get to see places and spaces. When a look is finalized, with every detail you've worked on, the final result is astonishing. All of your effort that goes into it is worth it at the end.