

Interview Kelly Casanova

Hi Kelly, you live on the other side of the world in Australia, is weaving a big deal there?

It is definitely becoming more popular and it is easier than ever before to buy supplies, which is great.

How come weaving is YOUR super power?

To be honest, I'm not really sure! I have indulged in so many arty and crafty pursuits over the years, but weaving is the one that has resonated with me the most. I have always loved to be as involved in a project as much as possible from start to finish and to use as many skills as possible. With weaving, if you want to, you can begin with a raw fibre, spin it, dye it, weave it and then sew with it. It is such an authentic process, I just love the possibilities it presents.

What do you like more, rigid heddle, tapestry, inkle or floor loom, and why?

That is a very hard question! It usually depends on which project and loom I'm using at any given time. If I'm weaving a tapestry, I will feel that the tapestry loom is my favourite. If I'm weaving an 8 shaft scarf, I will feel that the floor loom is my favourite. Each loom is different and just as exciting as the other.

Is there a project you liked more than others and why?

I am a very practical person, so I like to weave things that will be used often. So, I would say that something like kitchen towels or a blanket for one of my kids would be a favourite sort of project.

Is there a special yarn you love to work with?

Silk is amazing. It just is! But, I do love wool, cotton and linen as well. Natural fibres, I don't tend to use synthetics at all.

What's your inspiration? Books, nature, your children, art?

Yes, all of the above! And my faith inspires me to want to make objects of beauty and share them with the world.

What does your working day look like?

It's all over the place. I don't have a very good schedule because of the variety of activities I do in one day. If I am to give a simple answer, it would be that mornings are for homeschooling and afternoons are for working on my business or taking kids out to classes/activities.

Is there a special project, a big one perhaps, that you're dreaming of?

Yes!!! I think about it all the time! A quilt. A handwoven, pieced quilt. Bed sized. I'm not sure how it will look or how I will every get time to firstly weave it and then to sew it, but I'm sure it's going to happen one day!

You're very successful on YouTube and with your Online Weaving School. How did you decide that this is the perfect way teaching?

I didn't decide it, everything just came about that way. I uploaded 2 videos to Youtube, just wanting to share my love of weaving and not expecting anything at all in return. I never dreamed that any of this would happen! Online teaching is perfect for me. As a homeschooling Mum it has always been difficult to do anything away from home, I always have children with me. So, it's the best possible fit as my entire business is run from home.

Most of your pupils live on the northern hemisphere, so while winter is coming to Australia, we're expecting summer. How do you deal this, do you adapt your projects to the different seasons?

I try to offer projects that will appeal to those in the opposite season to me. I don't mind this at all. But, if I want to make something warm and cosy because Winter is coming here, students in another part of the world will still be interested, thankfully. The beauty of online classes is the students can take them whenever they wish, so can choose projects that suit their mood and climate at the time.

You have a house, four children who you're home schooling and you're a weaving entrepreneur with an etsy shop, you tube and your weaving school – does your day really have 24 hours like mine?

Ha ha! Well, when you put it like that, it does seem like a lot to do. I do work really hard, but I have a very supportive family and my husband is just wonderful. It's really a team effort. And it helps if you love what you do, it doesn't feel so much like work then!

Is there a craft you'd like to learn if your day had more hours?

At this point, I think I would be happy just to have a bit more time to practice the crafts I already do. Having said that, I have long harboured a secret desire to learn pottery. I love music and singing too, it would be great to have more time to indulge in those.

What are your next plans or what's the next big step?

As quickly as I make classes, there are requests for more. I always have something on the go. My creative brain does not let me rest, I am positively overloaded with ideas. So, I just choose the next project or class or design and go with it.

I'm working really hard on my blog at the moment as I want to build that up to be a great online resource for weavers.

My next huge project this year will be the "Journey through Japan" class. I am very excited about this! It will be my largest class to undertake yet and will cover at least 4 projects and a myriad of

techniques for adventurous weavers and fibre artists. The idea is to take a virtual trip to Japan through weaving without having to leave your home. I can't wait to start on this one!

Thank you so much for taking the time! I'm very happy to have you as my weaving teacher!!!

Thank you so much for the invitation to be interviewed on your blog and for all the support you have given to me!