

EXPATRIATES

DECEMBER 2013

MAGAZINE

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN PARIS

THE GLOBAL TALENT CHALLENGE : HOW DOES FRANCE MEASURE UP?

THE FORGOTTEN PART OF AN EXPATRIATION CYCLE-RETURNING HOME

OFFICE INSIDER : 5 LAWS OF A PARISIAN OFFICE

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CONTENTS



10 UNDERSTANDING MOBILITY AT BOASCH FRANCE



16 CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO TAKE BACK HOME



21 TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR SINGLE EXPATS KEEPING THEM SINGLE



34 HOW TO START A BUSINESS IN FRANCE

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WORKPLACE	04	DOES TRANSFERRING TO THE UNITED STATES TEMPORARY VISA OPTIONS FOR THE TRANSFEREE AND THEIR FAMILY	
	05	THE GLOBAL TALENT CHALLENGE : HOW DOES FRANCE MEASURE UP?	
	06	BEYOND "WIN-WIN" : WHEN BUSINESS NEGOTIATING GETS ROUGH	
	07	INTERVIEW WITH LUCIEN SEOUD : MANAGING DIRECTOR AT ETACC	
	08	THE FORGOTTEN PART OF AN EXPATRIATION CYCLE - RETURNING HOME	
	08	THE HIDDEN SECRET TO DEVELOP OUR EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE SKILLS IN A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT	
	09	REPATRIATION IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY	
	10	UNDERSTANDING MOBILITY AT BOSCH FRANCE WITH VALÉRIE KURZ AND EMELIE BENARD	
	CULTURE	11	DINER À LA FRANÇAISE
		12	A TALE OF TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS
14		OFFICE INSIDER : 5 LAWS OF A PARISIAN OFFICE	
15		IT'S ALL IN THE NAME	
15		MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN PARIS	
XMAS	16	FRENCH CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO TAKE BACK HOME	
	16	TOASTING ACROSS CULTURES	
LIVING	17	COULD IT BE MAGIC?	
	18	AN EXPAT RETURNS HOME	
	20	HOW TO INTEGRATE INTO THE PARISIAN LIFESTYLE	
	20	EXPATRICAT CHAT, FOR EXPATRIATES WHO LOVE CATS - CAT FLAP	
FAMILY	21	TOP 3 CHALLENGES FOR SINGLE EXPATS KEEPING THEM SINGLE	
	22	BUILDING A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR AUPAIR	
	22	PARIS, THE PERSUIT OF HAPPINESS	
HEALTH	23	WHEN YOUR PARTNER MOVES AWAY	
	24	LEARNING ABOUT SCHOOL	
	26	SURVIVING FRANCE IF YOU DON'T EAT ANIMALS	
	26	MEDITATION AND THE BRAIN	
	27	COOKING YOUR SECRET SAUCE	
	28	GRIEF, THE UNINVITED EMOTION	
	28	CHRISTMAS ALONE IN THE CITY OF LIGHTS	
	29	FACING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN PARIS?	
	29	STAYING SAFE IN PARIS	
	OUT	30	VAUX LE VICOMTE
30		THREE SUGGESTIONS FOR BREAKING OUT OF THE EXPAT NIGHTLIFE COMFORT ZONE	
	32	EXPATRIATE SERVICE DIRECTORY	
	34	HOW TO START A BUSINESS IN FRANCE	



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A TALE OF TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS



Carla Coulson

Carla Coulson is a portrait, art and fashion photographer. As seems to be the case for many expats in Paris, she is quite international – born and raised in Australia, now living in Paris. By way of Italy, she works around the world and is married to an Italian. Carla found her passion for photography later in life. At the age of 35, she swapped a small business for a camera and Sydney for Florence, where she took off to study photography before settling in Paris. Six photographic books and numerous magazine features later, Carla has made photography her career and her life.

Why Paris? What drew you here?

My first stop in Europe, when I moved from my home in Australia, was Florence where I went to study photography. Life then took me to Paris where I was eventually able to develop my portraiture with a fashion twist. I think one of the wonderful things about living in Paris is that here people aren't judged by what they have; your success isn't judged by your bank account. Success here is more about how you live and how you do the art you do.

Do you feel somewhat French now or will you always be an expat at heart?

I arrived in Paris on a cold morning in December 2004 without a word of French. I remember wandering around Paris excited to be in such a beautiful city and full of hope. The next few months proved the most difficult of my life, language locked and in a city where I knew no one I thought I would die of loneliness. It took me a long time to get going in Paris and thanks to working on my book "Paris Tango" it connected me to incredible people and places in Paris. It was the beginning of a slow burning love affair with this incredible town.

Has it been easier to do your art here than if you had stayed at home?

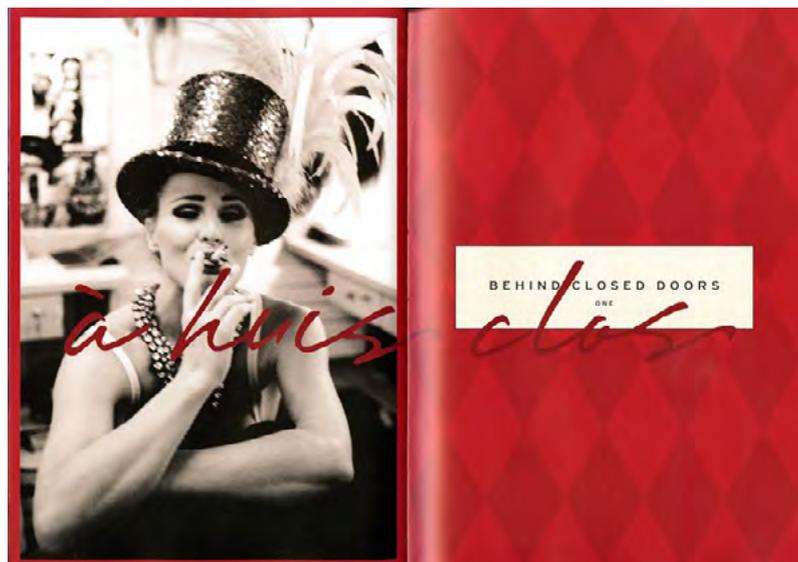
I am not sure that it is a question of easier. It's difficult for anyone starting out, to have the confidence to believe in themselves and that this will go somewhere and how to actually make it happen. It's so easy to get negative and fearful and just forget it because of the fear. I think I was fortunate in that I really disliked my old life (as a successful business owner in Australia) so passionately that I didn't want to go back to it. I would do anything to make this new thing happen because I just fell in love with my life in Italy and with photography. I felt like I was 16 again. I found this whole new way of living and I didn't want to go back to sitting in an office and doing something I didn't care about so I was going to go down fighting, you know, because I just wanted this new life so badly.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to create art here in the City of Light as an expatriate? Is there an essential first step?

Do what you love in life. Don't waste the years doing what you think you should do. Follow your heart if you know what that is, and if you don't know what it is, just take the time to find what it is in life that you feel passionate about.

How can people see more of your work and/or work with you?

On my website (www.carlacoulson.com) you can see samples of my work, read about my upcoming workshops and learn more about private photo shoots.



Interviewed by Dawn Z Bournand.

Dawn is the founder of Fabulously Successful and "The Paris Women of Success" and is a business and life strategist. Though she enjoys consulting with anyone who wants to live a more fulfilling life, she specializes in working with expat entrepreneurs who are ready to take their business and life to the next level. To learn more about Dawn and her consulting/coaching services visit www.fabulouslysuccessful.com

Paris is one of the most celebrated cities in the world for photography, both for the images that have been taken here and the photographers who have created their art here. The dream of the perfect image has brought more than one shutterbug to the City of Light hoping to create his or her fame from the moments they have captured here.

Miki uses her art to share deeply powerful and important messages about what it is to be human. A Japanese artist born in 1971, she moved to different countries throughout her childhood (Thailand, Hawaii and Europe). Miki decided to begin her art training at Parsons School of Design, Paris. She then obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Paris American Academy, and went on to earn a certificate of professional training from Speos Photographic Institute. In addition to her talents as a photographer, Miki is also a devoted mother and a proponent for human rights.

Why Paris? What drew you here?

Initially I came to Paris to study because the school I wanted to go to was here (Parsons school of design). I like Paris for where it is located as it is easy to access other European countries and there are many diverse countries around with train access.

Do you feel somewhat French now or will you always be an expat at heart?

I feel at home in Paris and I think in my subconscious there are many things I have adapted to in France and in many ways become French. But, I like the stance of being the outsider somewhere to keep my position to observe and interact. I choose to put value on being an expat.

Has it been easier to do your art here than if you had stayed at home?

Yes, France is very supportive of art and artists. France has a system where artists are respected and financially paid for their work. There is a much more solid system here than in Japan. In France there are grants and also the opportunity to exhibit. In Japan, many galleries are rental galleries and the artists have to rent the space and do everything by themselves. As a foreigner here, I have been very lucky to show my work often as people are interested in other cultures.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to create art here in the City of Light as an expatriate? Is there an essential first step?

I think the first step is work, work well. Think of something that can only be made by you at your stage of life and here in France. Create your best work and do not compromise in your efforts.

Then, do not wait to show your work as there is very little chance that someone will come to you to see it. Contact the professionals who interest you to ask about participating in exhibitions.

Always remember to see the person in front of you and not to be blinded by the fact you want your work to be seen. Many people are professional but choosing to collaborate does not only come from the people who will exhibit your art but also from you.

How can people see more of your work and/or work with you?

You are welcome to see my work online: www.mikinitadori.com or to contact me via the contact page of my site. My next exhibition will be on the other side of the earth at the Honolulu Museum of Art at First Hawaiian Center from November 20 2013 to March 31, 2014.



Miki Nitadori



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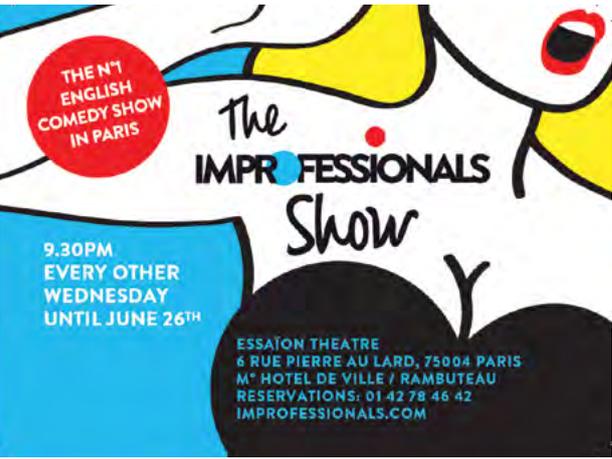
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