

HOW I GET CREATIVE IN MY HOBBY

By Inna Kostyuchyk

All my life I have been creative. As a child, I made dolls from flowers. I organized a puppet theater and made puppets for the plays myself. I loved baking cookies and cakes, making clothes for dolls and later for myself.

I am an interior designer and I have been creative every day. During the pandemic, I have to stay at home for a long time. I have changed my country of residence and I miss my job.

How can I live without this?

I can't. And I found another way. I remembered my hobby of making desserts. My husband loves desserts so much and I cook for him and treat my friends. I decorate desserts, think over serving. My favorite dessert is tiramisu. I also baked gingerbread cookies and decorated the icing I made. I've made muffins, biscuits, New York cheesecake, crème brûlée, Catalonia creme, apple pie, sorbet. I collected organic strawberries myself to make sorbet and organic apples for apple pie. I had the pleasure of picking berries and apples in the beautiful places of Charlottesville.

Another hobby of mine, where I can be creative, is gardening. I like all plants without exception. There were no ornamental plants and bushes near my house when I moved in, and so I started to make this place more homey. I planted six different types of rose bushes. I am not going to stop and plan to do more. I also plant and tend daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, peonies, irises, daisies and many other flowers. I also planted some bushes and trees. It's interesting to see how they grow and change. Some of them bloomed in the first year and I hope that some will bloom in the following years. I expect when trees and bushes grow up hummingbirds will fly to them. This shows my hope for the future.

I live in a place where there are a lot of forest animals and I am going to create a protection for my plants. In winter, deer came and ate those plants that they do not usually eat. I was upset that they ate my winter camellia that was blooming outside my window. In the summer, I was very upset because the deer ate my roses.

I love animals and birds. I feed them and watch. Every morning I start by feeding squirrels and birds. Seven to twelve squirrels come to me. One day twenty came. I was delighted. At first, the squirrels did not trust me, but over time they got used to me and they came and knocked on windows and doors, so I put out sunflower seeds. They also come close and take peanuts from my hand. It's so cute and unusual because they are forest dwellers. I gave two of them the names, Luisi and Matilda. I can tell them apart from others. My cat loves to play with squirrels and will not hurt them. He is giving the squirrels a party! All the squirrels run away and he lets them do what they want and doesn't attack. Matilda is a very brave squirrel and she is the boss with my cat.

When the holidays came, I decorated my house. I made door wreaths from leaves and decorated the festive table. Once I wanted to make postcards and I made Christmas cards for my family and friends. I used leaves, gold paint, lace, spices. They were nice little gifts made of postcards and handmade gingerbread cookies.

The pandemic hasn't stopped me from getting creative. I feel happy when I do something special and creative in my life. I express myself in different ways and use my imagination and the resources around me the same way I did when I was young.