

# ANNA 1

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1500 x 1500 mm

Acrylic, ink, spray paint on canvas

2018

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Photography: Cécile Armand (Anna's Sister-in-law)

*Anna and I became good friends when we were both living in China. Both young, Australian creatives. She has such an infectious energy. She is supportive and encouraging. She is eternally happy and calm. She is creative and gorgeous.*

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## AGE

34 (and a half)

## WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Earth. I come from my parents, mum's dutch and dad is Australian. I was born in Melbourne.

## WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

I \*currently\* live in Melbourne

## WHERE IS HOME?

Home is where my husband Josh and my three daughters are.... we currently live in Huntingdale, about 5 mins from Chadstone, 30 from the city, in Melbourne

## WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE ON EARTH?

Simple answer is home. Hmm...where I feel energised and inspired and connected... prob not my current location but then i couldn't name

just one place. I've loved places for different reasons. Remote parts of Thailand were beautiful and peaceful, trips to Holland, Paris, Prague, Cesky Krumlov and Vienna were very cool. A big trip over when i was pregnant with Maris (our first) to Josh's home in New Jersey was pretty amazing. I loved New York. My time in Shanghai opened up my eyes, my heart, crushed my heart and made me fall deeper in love with investigating my inner self through creating art, eating food and connecting with people. I didn't much like all the concrete, big city living though. .... I don't think i have a favourite place. I just like having connected experiences in different spots...more to come soon...

## WHAT LANGUAGES DO YOU SPEAK?

I understand a fair bit of dutch and german and can speak a little of each. I can count to 10 in a few languages and do the simple stuff in a few but nothing fluently unfortunately. French or Spanish would be the ones I'd love to know...or Italian...ha ha ha so passionate and rich!

## WHAT ARE YOUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS?

I believe in the magic connectedness and intelligence or the natural world. I reckon there is extraterrestrial life and I see myself as a pretty spiritual person but I don't pray to a god or practice a religion aside from happiness and kindness and connecting deeply and honestly with people...and animals and nature.

## WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON/PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE?

My husband Josh. And our two girls, Maris and Marley and our little girl Florence who died in utero at 26 weeks and 6 days... funnily enough 6 had always been my favourite number... it still is.

## HOW DO YOU FEEL TODAY?

calm, energised, strong, creative, excited and hungry.

## WHAT ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH IN LIFE AT THE MOMENT?

Remaining patient. I'm ready for a big change overseas somewhere probably but we have specific constraints on our timeline and lots of how questions. We know the why but now we have to sort through the logistics. I'm also moving towards a crossroad roads vocation wise. I'm an primary school art teacher and i love parts of what i do but i'm ready for change there too... i don't know the 'what' in this situation... i have to sort that out first before i can get to the how....maybe i need to think of the why clearly first then that will get me to the what?....

I think part of the why is that i want to create more myself... I create through my style each day and through my interactions with people (I'm a happy, bubbly sort of person who likes to get to the depths of relationships with people rather than sit on the surface...i find that a little boring or stagnating I think when people can't open up much)... but i want to make more things that's where my energy flows and where i get to explore the inner self and outer world the most. I want to manifest expressions more frequently again.

**WHAT IS THE WORST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE?**

Hmmmm... i don't think i'd say that anything has been the worst thing. They've all been life experiences. If you asked someone else they'd say Florence dying was the worst thing I guess. But then, although it was heart wrenching and deeply sad for a time there, there's also been so much depth and happiness and gratitude I've received from that particular experience. Break ups are pretty shit too. Hurting really badly to the point of feeling utter hopelessness and exhaustion from emotion...utter longing, that's really hard stuff. I had that with Florence only for a short while really because there was a sort of mutual understanding between her and I somehow. From feeling really deeply low, I found other highs and created what I'd say is a new sort of middle ground for being... probably higher than the previous middle ground. And that's because of relationships really. My relationship with my husband and my family and close friends. And my relationship with myself.

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST FEAR?**

Probably not taking big enough risks and jumps where, when I'm real I'd look back and go, yeah, i didn't really try 'that' or i could have pushed 'that' much further or explored 'that' a whole lot more.

**WHAT ARE YOU CELEBRATING AT THE MOMENT?  
WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?**

What Josh and I have created together in the past 9 years. I'm grateful for a whole lot of stuff but that's the big theme right now in this new phase we are about to move in to.

**WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR?**

Deep love, deep connection, deep creativity, deep contentment, good challenges to test and push and try new things. Not just for me but for everyone i guess.

**WHAT IS YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT?**

Giving birth to my 3 girls. Literally guiding (with great force! ha ha) them out of my body, unassisted aside from words of encouragement and directions from our 2 private midwives. Marley (our third) was a homebirth (finally got 1!). On top of that i feel most proud when I see Maris and Marley having their own moments of pride in something or other. That expression across their faces is wonderful.

**WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF PEOPLE KNOWING ABOUT YOU?**

Hmmm..that's a hard one. I'm probably happiest when I'm being really open and vulnerable and connecting with people so i don't think im really scared of anything. I guess I'd never want to be called boring.

**WHAT IS YOUR SUPERPOWER?**

Maybe helping people open up and telling me their 'stuff'. I'd like to think juggling a whole heap of life elements im getting pretty good at but i reckon i could still do better and 'achieve more'.

**WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE ON EARTH?**

Geez...to create and to connect deeply with things.

**WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?**

I'm passionate about people exploring life and pushing the boundaries of ideas.

I'm passionate about kids exploring their self expression through the arts.

I'm passionate about good food, growing food, enjoying food and sharing food.

I'm passionate about deep love.

I'm passionate about nature.

I'm passionate about clothes. Particularly ones bought at second hand markets.

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU WANT TO SHARE?**

Love. Connect. Express. Eat great food.

