



Anita on:

CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION & REPURPOSING

I have always had a craft drawer or box, I love going to op shops and antique fairs also. I find more treasure in something that has been used - I wonder who wore the dress before me? I wonder what a piece of furniture held in its previous home? I wonder what I could use this box for? I love to repurpose and don't like that anything goes to waste. It could be from my days of going through the "oogatagomi" (Japanese for bulky waste, or the equivalent of hard rubbish). It was so much fun hopping in the van with dad and my brothers (or whoever was up to waking up at 4am to go searching for treasure)! Beanies and jackets on, a flashlight each and a map of the neighbourhood with some of the best spots for hard rubbish. Other people's junk was definitely my treasure! I would pretend that each location was a big house. Dad was maybe looking out for electrical appliances that we needed at home. My brothers might have been looking out for some games and whatever boys like! But I just found each location a different imagination experience. I would have to search slowly through all of the furniture and treasures and pretend it was my house. There were clothes there, makeup, furniture, cooking appliances, you name it! I would divide the sections into different rooms of a house or building and plan out a little scene and act in my imagination until Dad called us to hop in the van for our next stop. I would quickly grab a box of office stamps - I could pretend I was a banker when I got home. Before I hopped in the van Dad asked what we had in our hands, he gave me the ok to bring the stamps home.

Maybe it was watching my mother and grandmother make clothes or accessories from beautiful fabrics. Mum was often saving fabrics and things to repurpose later. My dad is clever with his hands (and imagination I reckon) and used to believe he could make everything out of anything! (I still do!) So as I have had this word "repurpose" on my mind a lot recently it has made me wonder if this influences my songwriting and visuals and imagination. It made me think a little deeper as well and also helped me realise how I am able to cope well through these times we are living now. Let me share a little more with you!

In March, 2020 we all found out our lives would have to be different. We have been asked to stay at home for lockdowns. We realise how important community is now and what we have available around us and in our homes. I have always created in my room both audio and visual. My imagination never stops running wild! I imagined it like summer vacation where we didn't have any plans to travel anywhere so I would go into my craft box and see what I could create. In this instance I dug into my songwriters folder and dug out an old demo I recorded in 2013. It was a song called 'Teasing'.

I hardly let any songs go to waste usually, that could be why some of my song forms may be interesting, for me it's exciting and it's like a walk in nature. Why not put this chorus in this song with this verse in the other song - sew it up like you would fabric and it could be really unique! But you do have to find the right way to patch it up so it feels natural.

Back to 'Teasing', I recorded all of the vocals from home, I even used some of the takes from years ago. I quite liked it and thought I would try to make it more than a demo so I sent them off to an engineer to see if he could "save" them! He is working on it now. But in the meantime I filmed a little clip at home during my suburb lockdown. What did I have around the house? Origami from my 'Follow My Paper Trail' series, something that resembled a sand bucket, I bought some balloons and a birthday candle at my local supermarket and started filming! All of the origami I had made a beautiful little story. A lot of the ideas came in the moment which I enjoy most.

I had such a fun day filming and creating this piece and repurposing the song and bringing it to life. It was colourful and exciting! I thought I need to do this more to help me get through these heavy times. Then it made me think a little deeper. About myself. About things I am not proud of, or my flaws and repurposing them! I guess that is why I always find hope in depression, or a student who feels they are no good at singing. But we can use that for good! Let's use that and create something beautiful and unexpected with it! The most random of things can create new opportunities. New things are happening and we can redirect our efforts in a way that is more energizing and meaningful - where we feel our purpose is. That is what I learned from this song.

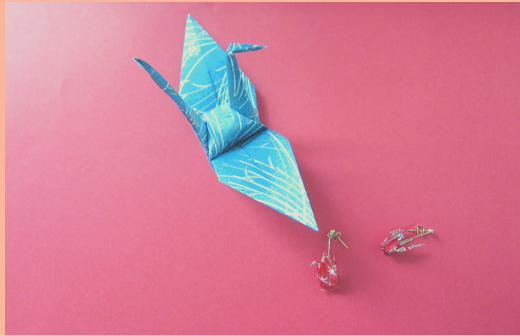
Find out what you might be able to get creative with at home! An old container? An old pair of colourful socks? An old unreleased song? Allow yourself to be repurposed!



This is me in my "garage". After moving in, I was told it was not allowed to be used as a garage but instead a storage space. I didn't have any storage, I didn't need any space. But this is where I repurposed the old garage and imagined it to be a barn in my song 'Cigarette Man'. Place me in any room and I will do something with it! To me this is more exciting than the more obvious and professional looking set.

My everyday "repurposing"

From top left - clockwise: Anita posing with her clutch purse she made from Japanese silk fabric - Searching for treasures at the antique fair in Japan - "Using what I have!" In terms of gear and not having an assistant shooter I am always looking for what I can use as a tripod or how I can get movement with the camera. Once I even used the fridge door closing to film a scene in "Heart of Abraham"! - Origami cranes turned into earrings



BEHIND THE SCENES

Come watch behind the scenes of my new song 'Teasing'. Stay tuned for more announcements on the release date! I can't wait to share it with you!

[Click here to watch](#)

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