

# The Green Velvet Chair

*Sometimes Inspiration Comes from the Most Unlikely Places*

When we become acutely aware of the surroundings of our life, we discover that art is not only found in museums—it also appears in food, music, nature, and so much more. Beyond what the eye can see, this book is a collection of stories told from the viewpoint of a seasoned artist.

Laura Ballerini is a designer who started much of her creative journey at *The Calgary Herald*. She now owns her own digital design boutique and seamlessly weaves together an unlikely array of stories about her inspiring mother, museum visits, online shopping, designing in the dirt, and many other adventures (*including a visit to Graceland*).



Some of these essays are funny, some poignant—all are memorable snippets of universal experiences meant to spark our awareness and awaken us to the rich fields of design all around us. Ballerini's stories encourage the reader to embrace the following:

**Appreciate art and design around you.** It's everywhere including how we dress, talk and interact with the world. It's not just a painting hanging in a gallery, it's also the leaves hanging on a tree and the necklace around our neck. It's arts and crafts, music, dance and so much more.

**Find your own creative outlet.** We are all gifted. Albert Einstein was a brilliant musician; Louis Pasteur a talented painter. But they were known for their skills in math, physics and chemistry. Sharpening our creative thinking makes us better in all aspects of our life.

**Nuture our own inner badass.** You don't have to ride a motorcycle with leathers and a bandana to be a badass—instead, stand up to the bullies, have the confidence to say “*Yes, I can*” when the world says “*I don't think so,*” and lose your inhibitions on the dancefloor at the family wedding! Life is short and we need to bravely embrace all aspects of our creativity.

## About the Author

Described as a Perspective Shifter, Laura Ballerini is an accomplished artist who has been running a thriving design boutique for over 25 years.

She is the author of *The Green Velvet Chair*. This book is a collection of heartfelt stories depicting how art and design influence our lives. The essays span over Laura's 40+ years in the design industry and are viewed through her unique creative lens.

Her discovery: We are all artists in our own unique way.

Laura has a degree in Visual Communications from The Alberta University of the Arts (*formerly the Alberta College of Art*) and is a recipient of numerous awards. Her passion for continuous learning has been entrenched in her long career—embedded with humbleness and empathy. While she's a quiet and introverted creative, Laura has recently found her inner badass and radiates her “quietly fierce” disposition in her work and her life. Laura lives in Calgary, Alberta, with her husband, two daughters, one son-in-law, a granddaughter, and a pretentious cat named Goopy.

*The Green Velvet Chair* is Laura's first book, now in its Second Edition.



**Badass**

Ballerini  
QUIETLY FIERCE

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