

Notable Minnesota Moms: Creative Moms and Their 'Stuff'

This article is the first in MomTalk's new occasional series, 'Notable Minnesota Moms,' which will look at the interesting, inspiring achievements of women right here in the Twin Cities and the region. Some you may have heard of, some perhaps not (yet). But all are finding ways to use their talents and pursue a dream while being 'Mom' at home.

Robin Taple--Momento--Adornment for the Home

By Julie Burton

Robin Taple is a wife and a mother to 2 daughters, 14 and 10, and a 5-year old son. Robin Taple is also an artist, and founder of Momento, a company that creates fine art accessories for the home. Robin grew up surrounded by art as her father and brother are both professional photographers, and she went on to pursue an interior design degree with an art minor in college. Robin worked in the interior design field for over 20 years, and for several of those years studied successful women entrepreneurs in the art industry.



Three and a half years ago, Robin started experimenting with images on fabric and the idea for Momento was born. "I feel like I have found a medium/product that incorporates all of my loves," Robin says. Her 'loves' include photography, collage art, and interior design which she combines with words/poetry to create such unique art accessories for the home as mixed media collage, sachets, fine linens, and other elegant art. Her work aims "to express life and universal feeling and memory through art." Robin recently started a new line entitled: "Your Scrapbook:" Personalized Pillows, in which family photos, mementos and/or kids' art are professionally printed onto special fabrics to create hand-crafted, fine-art pillows. Robin is artistically inspired by artists she admires like Romare Bearden and Gauguin, as well as by the memory evoked by fine photograph, and images from vintage advertising from the 40's and 50's. Her creativity is also sparked by traditional women's hand work/crafts, such as needlework, sewing and knitting; and by working with vintage fabrics, buttons and beads.

Robin contracts Sara Langworthy (artist, owner of Sown in the Heartland, and mother of two children) to do her sewing, but does her own designing, printing, and sales and marketing, and distribution, which usually keeps her working at least 40 hours a week. Robin is able to balance her work life and her home life, and often finds that they are somewhat intertwined. "The artistic process begins with ideas," Robin explains. "And ideas can happen in your dreams, in the shower, or in the car as you are taking your kids to their next activity. Interactions with my children give me many ideas. So I try not to get frustrated by lack of time, and know that even when I am not in my studio working, and I am being a mom, I am 'creating' as ideas are forming in my head."

Robin does her work in her in-home art studio (which was just added on two years ago), and collaborates weekly with Sara at her (above-garage) studio. Working from

home affords Robin a great deal of flexibility. “I can pick my kids up at school or from activities, and work around their schedules as much as possible,” Robin explains. “I also work evenings when my husband is home and available for the kids.” Robin also volunteers at her kids’ schools on a weekly basis and tries to involve herself (or they involve her) in creative projects. Furthermore, Robin does art residencies for kids. “Kids give me a lot of inspiration,” Robin says. “My own kids, as well as the kids I teach of all ages.”



You will find Momento items in 20 stores in MN and WI, including Artful Belongings and Lisan Gallery in St. Paul; Gallery 360 and Paper Rock Scissor in Minneapolis; Give My Regards To in St. Louis Park; The Good Life and Bella Pear in Wayzata; and Three Rooms Up at the Galleria Shops in Edina. And Robin is looking to expand into other areas of the country as well.

Robin lives and works in St. Paul with her husband and three children. You can learn more about her work at Momento-Adornment for the Home, www.momentoinc.com.