



## Interview

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Art-events in Andorra is a new format of cultural recreation. Each event provides guests an opportunity to disconnect from everyday worries, focus on themselves and their feelings, and immerse themselves in the atmosphere of art. At the end of the happening, guests are pleasantly surprised, leaving with a picture created by their own hands, regardless of whether or not they have previously tried to paint. One of the authors of this project, artist Yulia Shilkina, told us about how her master classes in fine arts take place.

**–Are you a professional artist? Where did your experience in the field of event organisation begin?**

–We are running this project together with a realist artist, Katya, who is a professional art designer and a practising teacher in this field. She has her own methodology, which is based not on superficial teaching of design and painting, but on drawing attention to some important details that guarantee a good result for each guest.

As for me, I studied in an art school, where I was always confused by the boundaries that are set for students in such institutions. I agree that creating a work of art, by analysing mistakes, refining nuances, is necessary for the growth of the artist's personality. But art, for me, first of all, is a special way to relax, to switch my attention from everyday routine to inner harmony.

A little over three years ago, we had our first art-event, which I organised, for my friends and their friends, in my parent's restaurant.

The atmosphere was magical, even though some of the guests didn't know each other. It became a tradition, and more and more guests started to find out about us and come to the events. So, that's how the story began.

**–Who are your guests? Which master classes can you call the most memorable?**

–We don't have a specific category of guests, which once again confirms that art is accessible to everyone. Both children and adults come to the events. Our goals vary from one to another, such as a birthday party, a hen party or even a date.

We offer an unforgettable experience in a pleasant atmosphere; we prepare all the necessary materials to create a painting. During the 2.5 hours, the artist – who is always ready to help and give advice – works with the guests. Also, for each artwork, we choose an individual painting technique.

The atmosphere is so pleasant that we always part as friends with each of our guests.

Meetings are by appointment, regardless of the number of people, at a convenient time for guests.



## Yulia Shilkina

Professional artist

“Our mission is to show our guests that anyone can create a painting”



Each event is unique. But I would single out one where we, in a group of 12 people, painted a picture with splashes. It was very spectacular and fun.

Our mission is to show our guests that anyone can create a painting.

**-When did you realise it was a success, and you should keep doing it?**

-After the first meeting I had, I wanted to develop this type of event in Andorra, as we were the only ones doing it at the time.

I realised it was gaining popularity when I noticed new companies with the same theme and restaurants diversifying their services with this type of meeting, which I am truly happy about, because it's great when more and more people become interested in art.

**-They say that if you don't know what to give your special one, you should create something lovely with your own hands. This is especially true on the eve of Christmas holidays. However, what if someone is not very good at drawing (or can't draw at all)? How do you help him/her realise his/her vision into a beautiful drawing?**

-We are neither an art school nor a drawing course, but we take an individual approach to each guest, offer examples of paintings that he or she will definitely be able to realise, show the basics and guide him/her (if necessary) throughout the event. We do not limit our guests in their ideas; in this way, they surprise themselves. This magic happens for every guest.

We are always full of new ideas, both in terms of methods of painting and materials for creating a painting. For example, now we offer our guests the option to paint a picture on a toy bear or hare. This will be a unique interior element in every home, interesting for both a child and an adult.

**-Various types of creativity, including drawing, are also one of the areas of practical psychology. Art therapy is often used to help with personal problems. Have you had any such cases?**

-An art therapist requires quite a lot of knowledge and must be appropriately trained. I would not dare say that, at our meetings, we are engaged in therapy, but the fact that the process of creating a picture helps guests forget about problems for a while, and immerses them in a light state of



meditation, is absolutely certain. I think that each of our guests experience this feeling, as many of them note it at the end of the event and in their words of gratitude for the experience.

**-Your master classes for adults take place in a wine cellar. How compatible are wine and fine art?**

-It's a great combination that helps some guests who are stressed out about learning something new. But wine is not at all a necessary part of our meetings. We also have a great time with a cup of tea, and, sometimes, we forget about drinks and snacks because we are so engrossed in the process.

**-What advice would you give to aspiring artists - both children and adults?**

-Don't be afraid to start or make a mistake. Nothing is irreparable, at least in art. And if there is still fear - don't hesitate to write to us! We will always support, show and accompany you in your endeavour.☺

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