

## Danielle Brustman - set designer

By [artsHub](#) / Wednesday October 17 2012



*Photo by Peter Tarasiuk*

Danielle Brustman works as a set designer for theatre and film. Over the past ten years Danielle has designed stage sets for numerous theatre and film companies including: Arena Theatre, The Malthouse, The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, The Business, Stuck Pigs Squealing. In 2006, she was invited to speak about her design work at the AGIDEAS conference held annually in Melbourne. Her work on the 'Black Swan of Trespass' was nominated for a Green room award. Danielle has art directed music videos for Chris Garneau and Eskimo Joe.

Other work includes design for film, interiors and exhibition. She has recently completed the interior for a new cocktail bar in Brunswick, 'Amelia Shaw Bar and Salson' and is currently developing a multi media-installation with Arena Theatre Company entitled The House of Dreaming scheduled to premiere at this year's Melbourne Festival.

### **What did you want to be when you grew up?**

At various stages I wanted to be different things when I grew up. I wanted to be a fashion designer, architect or a hairdresser.

### **When did you know you would work in the arts?**

I knew from a young age that I wanted to work in art and design.

### **How would you describe your work to a complete stranger?**

I start off coming up with ideas for a space, drawing it up in my mind and then on paper. The tricky bit is working out how to make the drawings / pictures come to

life. Most of my work is quite hands on. I get involved with the building and making process as well as designing and sourcing. Theatre work can be quite physically demanding. I hunt for unusual props, materials and furniture.

**What's your background – what did you study to get to where you are?**

I studied at RMIT and completed a Bachelor of Arts ( Interior Design )

**What's the first thing career related you usually do each day?**

Check my emails

**Can you describe an "average" working day for you?**

An average working day could involve driving around Melbourne collecting materials / props that might be needed on a set or site and perhaps a meeting with a director or contractor. Sometimes my days are more art based. Some days I am painting or modifying props / pieces of furniture.

**What's the one thing - piece of equipment, toy, security blanket, – you can't work without?**

Pen and paper.

**Who in the industry most inspires you?**

Tim Walker

**What in the industry do you despair about?**

Not having the next job lined up

**What is the best thing about your job?**

Making things with my own hands.

**What's the most challenging aspect?**

Making things with my own hands

**What are the top three skills you need in this industry?**

communication, negotiating and problem solving skills

**What advice would you give anyone looking to break into your field?**

I think the best way to break in is to the field is to present your own work publicly where possible and to intern /work / learn from people in your field who inspire and excite you.

**How do you know when you missed the mark?**

When you look at something you have done and know it needs to be done again.

**When do you know you've made it?**

When it has your hand prints all over it.