



CAREER CHANGE CORNER

It is never too late to launch your second act – introducing Grandma Moses

One of the missions of this company is to assist, motivate and guide mid-life professionals to implement career and/or vocation change. I have been through the wars and in the trenches where career change is concerned and intimately understand the issues involved, from the mental and emotional to practical implementation. This page will serve as a resource for any professional who is thinking about a career switch. We will publish a broad range of topics from dealing with the mental and emotional aspects of career or job dissatisfaction to second act implementation strategies. These *original* articles will be brief, to the point and loaded with practical information.

This is the first in a 3-part series of articles whose sole objective is to drive home the point that **age and time are not barriers** to anyone at any point in their lives deciding to change or switch careers

When I finally admitted that I was in the wrong profession (after years of convincing myself that I was happy to be an academic lawyer) the main question that arose for me was whether I had enough time to resign, study, graduate with a new profession and still make a mark in my consciously chosen field. Never mind that I did not have clarity, at the time, on what my new vocation would or should be. But there were clues, more than enough clues, from the Universe on which direction I should channel my thoughts. I was, of course, in the absence of any professional guidance, doing this blind. Yes, a Google search on, “mid-life career change” here and there did feature in my schedule but there was nothing systematic about what I was doing or how I was going about it. But, there is a silver lining to all that chaos, because I picked up invaluable lessons along the way and wrote about them to help others:

So, you might be asking yourself if you have enough time to implement a career change and the purpose of this article is to motivate and encourage you to realise, accept and internalize the fact that as long as you are still breathing you have time. One of the best examples and a living embodiment of the adage, “it’s never too late to start over” is that of the world-renowned folk artist and painter, Grandma Moses. Grandma Moses (real name Anna Mary Robertson Moses) was a product of the nineteenth century times that she was born and raised in, so even though she had this talent for the arts, she spent her youth focusing on marriage and family.



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She only launched her career as a painter and folk artist at the age of 76! And she has left a global legacy that has endured for more than a century. Her first cover on *Time* magazine happened when she was 93! Not only that, when she picked up her paintbrush and decided to play full-out, she was already struggling with arthritis! Grandma Moses had her first art gallery showing at the age of 80! Excuse the exclamation marks but this is one of my best “it’s never too late to start over” stories. To put this into even sharper perspective, this is someone who did not paint for 60 straight years! Until she did and exploded all over the global art scene!

Don’t wait until you’re 76 though to unearth your natural talents and do work that energizes you, if you are unhappy and know for a fact that whatever it is that you’re doing is not what you’re meant to be doing, embark on a career change or switching process. There is plenty of support.

Just to be clear, by career change I am not saying that one must pursue a specific line of work and that should be the end of it. I am not advocating career change that tunnel visions and stereotypes you. You are the owner of many diverse talents; the Creator is just that generous. Just move away from efforts that drain and deplete you and don’t infuse you with energy and a feeling of aliveness and towards those that fit the bill. Do what you love regardless of “number” (who’s counting?), everything will align and your creativity will grow its tentacles in different directions based on your natural talents and abilities.

Grandma Moses wasn’t just a painter, she was also a folk artist and a maker of mean fruit jams that won prizes at country fairs.

Sources:

I first read about Grandma Moses in Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton’s *Now Discover Your Strengths* a few years ago. I will be referring to *Now Discover Your Strengths* in future articles. It is a seminal work in the area of **talents and strengths identification**.

Olivia Waxman’s article in TIME magazine was a useful source of particular details for this article: <http://time.com/4482257/grandma-moses-history/>

Coming soon:

- Case study on **how** Grandma Moses launched her career as a serious contender in the arts