

We are delighted to have found you here in Switzerland! You are indeed one other curious and enterprising Mind. From Brazil to Switzerland, through a very enriching life experience in Romania, back to Zurich's Hub, and... where next?

How do you balance your artistic work with a career on sales and being a Freelance Coach?

The many activities I pursue form a natural balance to my life, to who I am. I need these different activities in order to feel complete. I think my work benefits from the rest, as I get inspiration and ideas that I can elaborate in an artistic way. Also my coaching activity benefits from my artistic performance as well as from my other jobs because I can bring creativity and an artistic touch to my work as a life coach, but also sales and business knowledge.

How did your interest in Music and the Arts begin and where has it taken you?

My interest in Music began at a very early age, maybe 4, when I listened for the first time to Mozart Symphonies. At that age I immediately understood music and its language. It told me stories I recognised inside myself and wasn't able to explain in words. I was very intrigued and kept listening to it. I always wanted to play the violin, but since there was no teacher in my Brazilian home town, I had to start with the piano, which I also loved. Later in Switzerland I could start playing the violin, which led me to study at the National Music University of Bucharest, in Romania. Music is still a very important part of my life. It's the place where I can be my true self and dive into a nonverbal world of beauty and truth.

I believe in change, in process, in transformation as a never ending work of art.

Is there any one person who has supported you and inspired you to continue with your creative work?

There are many people who have inspired me along my journey. I was lucky to meet wonderful teachers who were able to unleash the best I had to give and to believe that music is something worth fighting for. But life itself has been my greatest inspiration ever since.

What achievements are you most proud of?

In general I'm not necessarily proud of any achievements. I do not believe that my journey is about achievements, it's much more about the journey itself, a never ending

process of self-discovery. I don't believe in results, I believe in change, in process, in transformation as a never ending work of art, always developing.

You have lived in various different countries and experienced and learned from different cultures. What have been your most enriching experiences?

It's difficult to point out a single enriching experience, since I had so many. I think everything we experience is enriching if we are able to perceive it this way. My 5 years in Romania have definitely been very enriching from a cultural and personal point of view.

Is this how the idea of www.expats-coaching.ch was born?

I moved to Switzerland at the age of 13, then to Romania when I was 21, then back to Switzerland with my Romanian partner. I went through the whole integration process three times and accompanied my partner in his as well. I see that many people struggle and suffer when they have to adapt to a new culture, not because a culture is particularly bad or difficult, but because any integration requires change and growth, which are usually painful. I felt the urge to help newcomers understand Switzerland's culture and mentality and make their journey easier. Once you understand that your truth is only relative and manage to embrace other "truths", the whole thing becomes much easier and even fun!

Life itself has been my greatest inspiration ever...

Was the decision to set up your own Business in a foreign country an easy one to make?

I think decisions in general are in fact easy. I truly believe there are no wrong decisions, there are just decisions. And whatever decision you might take, you are always on your path.

How do you define success in your life and how can you help others find their own (career) path?

I define success with happiness. Our society chooses to define it by fame, power and money. Of course money is important in order to sustain a decent life, but not more. Happiness is the quality which gives us true value in life. And it comes from doing what you really love, finding your voice and speaking up for yourself, contributing to a better world in your unique way, discovering your true talents and passions and creating your life around those. When you do something with passion, you will do it very well and you will make a real difference. Success –as generally understood- will come as a natural result of work done with passion and enthusiasm. It should never be

an aim. True vocation never starts with the question “What do I want to get?” but “What do I want to give?”. And what you get is a mere consequence of it.

What are your main goals for the future?

On a personal level my goal is to be more able to surrender to life rather than trying to make it surrender to me, because it will not. On a professional level I would like to be able to help more people find their true passion and talents and discover who they really are.

And finally, do you believe 'EXTRAORDINARY' is possible?

Absolutely! I think everyone is extraordinary and unique. It's important to be in touch with our true self and to be able to manifest our fullest potential to create an extraordinary world!

To find out more about Gustavo and his projects visit <http://www.expat-coaching.ch/who-i-am/> or write to gustavo@expat-coaching.ch

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