

LEADERS IN THEIR FIELD

- Artist

Lisa Firer
King David High School Linksfield 1987



What did you study?

I studied a BA Psychology and Art history Wits, completed an H Dip Ed high school teaching diploma, a 3-year ceramic design diploma and then Psychology Honours

What work do you do and why did you choose this path?

I have had 2 work paths unfold simultaneously. I have a ceramic design studio and have also teach mindfulness meditation and Biodanza, a form of dance-movement. In terms of my ceramic life, this path chose me! I think that is often the case in creative fields. I fell in love with clay over 30 years ago. Initially I started working on my own as an artist and over the last 20 years my business grew to employ 6 people. I have always had a keen interest in psychological and holistic wellbeing. A difficult crisis in my life in my early 30s, being diagnosed with a non-Hodgkins lymphoma, invited me to dive more deeply into these arenas and I have been motivated to share what has been transformative for me in my own life with others over time.

How have you innovated to overcome life challenges?

To overcome life's challenges, I am very open to learning and developing. I feel our lives are an unfolding path of possibility. Currently I'm studying somatic movement education which has been very transformative for me in terms of managing my own stress. I can't wait to share it with others.

What challenges have you faced as a woman?

My studies at university helped me develop a critical eye for the patriarchal society we live in. As I have always worked for myself, I haven't faced these difficulties in my own work. However, I feel a great solidarity with challenges facing all women.

What King David experiences or Jewish values motivate you?

The Jewish value and emphasis on Community is what comes up for me on what King David experiences or Jewish values motivate me. I have had wonderful small business support from ORT Jet in the last few years and am very inspired by this communal support system and hope to play my part over time to support others.

What drives you to make an impact?

To offer beauty and healing into the world.

What you do you to relax?

Reading, meditation and watching series with my husband!

Tell us about your family.

I live with my husband in Cape Town and his father and my mother both live close by. Both our siblings and their families live in Johannesburg and Australia. So, we are a small family unit, luckily with cousins and aunts and uncles nearby.

Words to live by:

"Ring the bells that still can ring.

Forget your perfect offering.

There is a crack in everything

That is how the light gets in."

Leonard Cohen