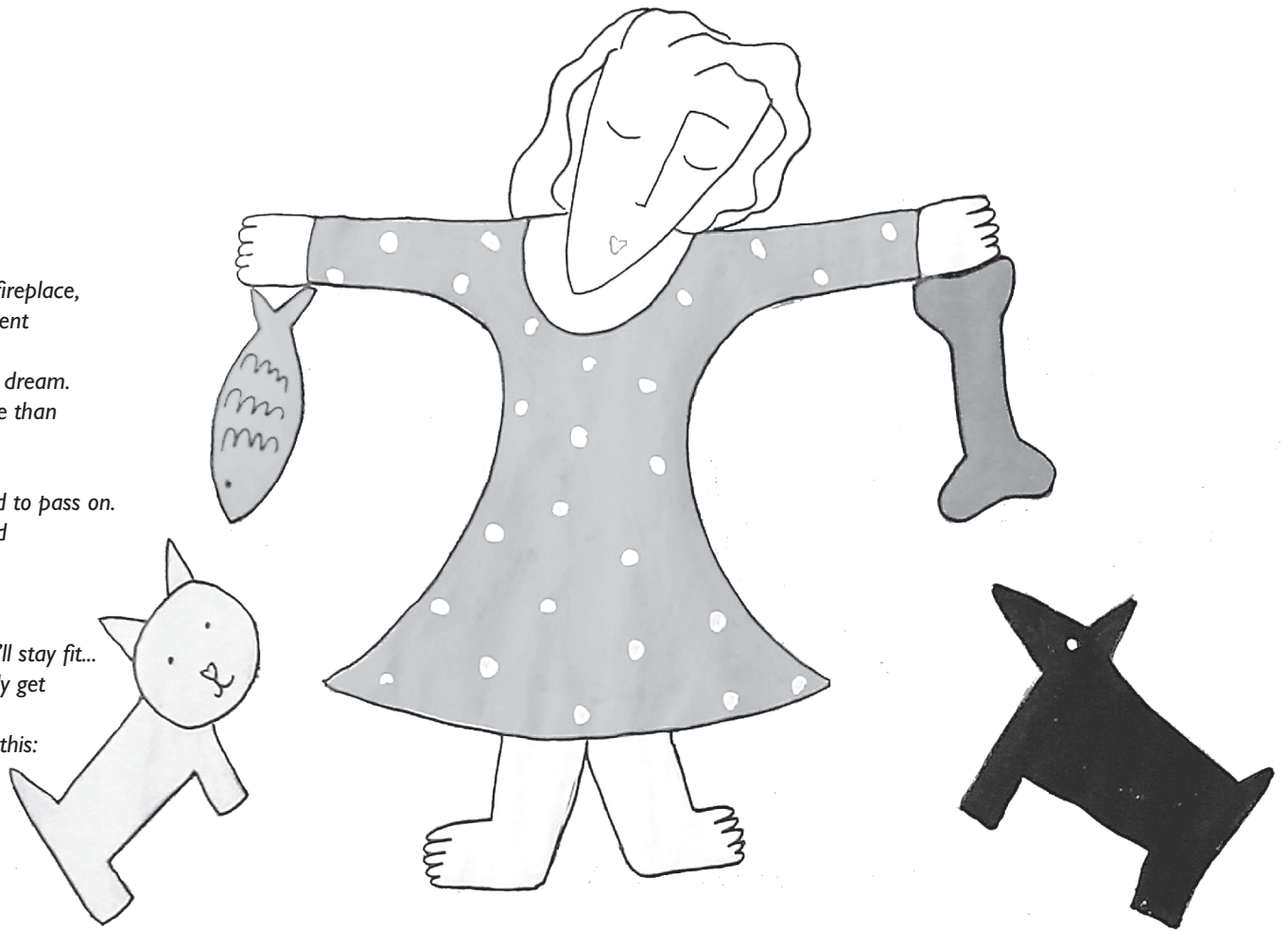


The Dog Sense that Changed My Life by Sandra

I looked at my dog and shook my head.
"What a life - I'd like to live that way," I said.
He was peacefully stretched out in front of the fireplace,
snoozing and dreaming with a look of contentment
across his face.
He clearly knew how to take a break, relax, and dream.
I realized there was more to my dog's knowledge than
what I had previously gleaned.
I watched him closely from dusk to dawn...
these are the lessons I learned and am delighted to pass on.
Express yourself. Show appreciation, concern and
gratitude to people who fill each day.
Real friendships are based on trust, loyalty, and
companionship—they work best that way.
Have fun, play and get plenty of exercise so you'll stay fit...
and be willing to learn new tricks...you'll probably get
some treats as you make a go of it.
The most important thing my dog taught me in this:
to love a lot and kiss, kiss, kiss.



From an early age, Sandra Magsamen painted to express the feelings and ideas she held in her heart. Today, the internationally acclaimed artist and author shares her meaningful messages and motifs through a widely popular range of books, ceramic gifts, serveware, stationery, home décor items, greeting cards, scrapbooking materials, and calendars, all bearing her signature images and Messages from the Heart™. Carrying phrases that affirm and celebrate life, Sandra's vibrant and expressive work is collected by and given to people of all ages. Her art and messages have touched millions of people, one heart at a time. She has been nominated for the prestigious 2006 LIMA International Licensing Awards as Best Art Brand License of the Year and Overall Best License of the Year by the International Licensing Industry Merchandisers' Association.

With her unique images and verses, bestselling books, and successful lines of licensed product, Sandra Magsamen has gained a large and loyal audience and is a leader in the message-driven gift industry. Her message plaque sales have topped tens of millions. Her books have sold more than 300,000 copies to date, with her titles *Story of the Heart* and *When There Are No Words* emerging as #1 art category sellers for national book retailers Barnes & Noble and Borders. *When I Grow Up I Want To Be Me* was called "one of the most captivating children's books I've ever seen: uplifting ideas and a gorgeous, ingenious pop-up design" in "O: The Oprah Magazine." During the 2003-2004 holiday season, the six windows of Saks Fifth Avenue's flagship store in New York City featured vibrant vignettes with moving mannequins inspired by images from Sandra's book, *The Gift*.

In her early work as an art therapist, Sandra met individuals whose words failed to express what was in their hearts and minds. Working with Alzheimer's patients, deaf children, criminally insane men, and troubled adolescents, she witnessed the extraordinarily diverse and creative ways people express themselves and attempt to share who they are and connect with the people in their lives.

"For me, painting became a very fluid means of visually presenting my thoughts and feelings," Sandra says. "I found my voice in color, design, and verses that shared my appreciation of, and passion for life."

Sandra also began to recognize, celebrate and document the simple truths and phrases that were meaningful and universal. From this work she created a collection of pottery for her newborn daughter as a gift of life lessons. This gift became the essence of her life work, to share messages from the heart.

Sandra began in her kitchen, designing ceramic heart-shaped tokens and plaques to commemorate the varied experiences and inspirations embedded in everyday life. In response to growing demand for her handmade originals, she founded Table Tiles, Inc. in 1991, which, in less than a decade, expanded into a multimillion-dollar gift business. In 1997, she began licensing her ideas. Today she has designed successful collections with significant licensees including: Creative Imaginations; Department 56; Glitterati; Lenox; Little, Brown; Peking Handicraft; Rizzoli USA; Scholastic; Simon & Schuster's Free Press; Stewart, Tabori & Chang; Sunrise Greetings, and Topsville. Her creations are gift staples at specialty stores, department stores, and in catalogs.

Sandra believes her Messages from the Heart can make life more enjoyable by reminding people to embrace the world with their own genuine style; that the way they approach daily activities is creative and life affirming because they bring their unique outlook to every endeavor. She calls this "living artfully," to express her concept that we all give meaning and purpose to our lives everyday through our own individual words and actions. Her signature lifestyle book, *Living Artfully*, will be published by Simon & Schuster's Free Press in October 2006.

She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from the Swain School of Design in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and holds a Masters Degree in Expressive Art Therapy from Goucher College.

Sandra lives artfully with her family in the Maryland town in which she grew up.

Pink Magazine is thrilled to be recognized by Sandra and absolutely honored that she designed and painted a special cover for this month's pet edition. Above is a poem that Sandra wrote about her furry family Buddy and Matilda, the dogs she and her husband, Mark, adopted from the SPCA.