



Nathalie DeSousa

1. What motivated you to start making layouts and begin stamping?

I have loved paper and ink since I was a child. Since my first love has always been journaling, I think that stamps just made it easier to add subtle embellishments to my pages without hiding the story. As I started translating my journal entries into pictures and stories on paper, I began to also evolve the way I document to something more graphic. It was only organic to also transition into using stamps as a way to embellish my layouts and, in a way, as a reflection of my personal journals.

2. How did you fall in love with Altenew?

A couple of years ago, I saw a card with a small daisy stamped image. The realistic look of the flower led me to research how the card-maker created the layered look, and I found the [Daisy Mini Stamp Set](#). Needless to say, I purchased it, played with it, loved it (it is one of my most loved stamps, even when I have lost the die), and now I own a large collection of Altenew goodies.

3. You have continuously amazed us with your colorful, fun, and vibrant layouts and journal pages! We admire your ability to use various elements and techniques in any project you create. Do you have a favorite technique to do? Please share some tips with us!

Thank you for the compliment! I love doing mixed media on my pages. One of my favorite techniques has to be a watercolor background. It just creates

the perfect setting for your picture/sentiment. The key to diving into mixed media is to not be afraid to make mistakes. It takes a lot of playing time to learn what works for you. One of the best things to do is always start small; don't decide to start a watercolor background on your large layout, instead, cut a tag, or get an art journal and just play with your products there before moving onto a layout. Make a small note on what you did so that you are able to translate the technique to a larger scale. Always use heavy cardstock for your mixed media or prep your pages with gesso. This will help you avoid all the warping water can create on paper. But, above all, have fun with your medium. If you don't like the results, start again, but use that page to create a die-cut, or stamp on it. You will be surprised by the magic of mixed media!

4. Do you have a specific crafting style that you are comfortable with or like to stick to?

One of the things I like to see in my work is variety. I think my crafting style is always evolving, but I think color and white space is something that will always be constant in it.

5. Can you share a favorite layout or project that you made previously using Altenew products?

There are so many projects to choose from and, though I love Altenew florals, [I think that this page sums me up...](#) Mixed media, texture, color, white space and my kids!

6. This is just for fun! If you can choose only three crafting supplies for the rest of your life, what would you choose?

It is so hard to just choose three, but it will always come back to basics:

- Good quality paper
- Watercolors
- Scissors
- A good waterproof black fine liner (I need to write a story after all!)



Products Used: [Live Your Dream Collection](#), [Watercolor 36 Pan Set](#), [Wavy Grid Stencil](#), [Pure White Ink Spray](#), [Dream Big Stamp Set](#), [Botanical Silhouettes Stamp Set](#), [Trendy Circles Stamp Set](#), [Jet Black Ink](#), [Year-Round Color Release Enamel Dots Bundle](#)