

Natalie Smith



When the November nightfall in Canada brings gusts of cold frosty winds, Natalie heads to Glenwood Stables in Georgetown. Wearing a heavy coat, her hair in a ponytail, she grooms and saddles a gelding Ritz who eagerly awaits to be taken to the indoor arena for their riding lessons.

An extroverted go-getter, curious and energetic, Natalie is an experienced equestrian who immerses herself in many interests. Like her horseback riding, she approaches all her passions with dedication and care. Whether spending time at the stable or volunteering with the International Association of Business Communicators, Natalie is always on the go. Her passion for crafting stories through words and visuals keeps her going.

It all started when a family friend, who was a teacher at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, invited Natalie to assist with a grade 10 Art Gallery of Ontario field trip. Natalie, back then an art history major at the University of Guelph, discovered her love for bringing arts imagery to life. Her narratives made the students, many of whom were disinterested at first, gush about art. This was her first encounter with the way words can alter people's perceptions, and it changed her life.

After graduation from Guelph with a Bachelor of Arts, Natalie pursued a master's degree in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management at Ryerson University. Her passion for unlocking the stories behind art pieces led Natalie to Texas, where, for six months, she interned at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston while writing her master's thesis in architectural photography.

A talented creator herself, Natalie is no stranger to producing appealing visuals. She spent her

university years photographing properties for real estate agents. Now, she runs her own Etsy business, creating digital illustrations.

For the last five years, Natalie has worked at Oblate Fathers of Assumption Province, a religious congregation of priests who have taken a vow of poverty. Natalie, fluent in English and Polish, translated and crafted communications for over 50 Polish priests across Canada.

"I am inspired by telling stories that bring communities together," says Natalie.

She also volunteers at her parish at the young adult ministry, where she oversees social media, events planning and graphic design.

"I am inspired by telling stories that bring communities together"

Being as involved with the community as Natalie requires a high degree of planning and organization, which is one of her core strengths.

This year, she is pursuing Public Relations – Corporate Communications postgraduate program at Sheridan College. She hopes that her excellent communication skills and extensive experience writing for non-profit organizations will land her a media relations job with a museum.