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Fireside Chats from the Creativity Marketplace

## Zazzle Featured Designer Interview with Dina

by [Liz Reynolds, Community Manager](#)

Today we had a chat with an amazing 8-year-old, Dina, who just created her first Zazzle store: [DinasDesigns](#) (</web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinasdesigns>). We talked to Dina about her artwork, her allowance, and her love of animals.

**Zazzle:** How did you get started designing with Zazzle?

**Dina:** I saw SPCA ads on TV and they were talking about how, if you gave them some money, they could save the lives of cats and dogs. At first, I wanted to give my allowance money, but it wasn't enough. Then, one time at dinner, my Dad was talking about how, when he was a kid, he made greeting cards with his sister to sell. It gave me the idea to do that. My mom suggested to put my artwork on Zazzle. My goal was to raise \$50 and give it to an animal shelter, and I just got to \$50!



[\(/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_kitty\\_card-137887554973703294\)](/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_kitty_card-137887554973703294)



[\(/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_dolphin\\_notecard-137432259832594987\)](http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_dolphin_notecard-137432259832594987)

**Zazzle:** Pandas, giraffes, frogs, cats, dolphins – your store is like a zoo! What inspires you? How do you get ideas for your art?

**Dina:** It's usually how I'm feeling at the time. Sometimes I'm feeling like something really bright and yellow. Sometimes I'm sad and tired and I paint in blue shades. My feelings really inspire me. Most of the drawings have a happy feeling to them; a couple, excited. I usually have a lot of crazy ideas. I try not to get too crazy, but sometimes I can't help it! My favorite thing to draw is something that moves, like an animal.



[\(/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_bumble\\_bee\\_double\\_image\\_jumbo\\_size\\_specialty\\_mug-183903835818256648\)](http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_bumble_bee_double_image_jumbo_size_specialty_mug-183903835818256648)



[/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/bird\\_stamps-172746750082266690](http://www.zazzle.com/bird_stamps-172746750082266690)

**Zazzle:** Which piece of art is your favorite?

**Dina:** Oooo. Hard one. I think my alien ([/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_girl\\_alien\\_notebook-130698895570219432](http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_girl_alien_notebook-130698895570219432)) is my favorite. My teacher let me put a lot of imagination into that one with eyelashes and a belly button, changing colors, painting her toenails ... it was just really fun to make and turned out super-cool at the end.



[/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_girl\\_alien\\_notebook-130698895570219432](http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_girl_alien_notebook-130698895570219432)

**Zazzle:** What else do you like to do besides art?

**Dina:** I love to read. My favorite book so far might be "A Wrinkle in Time", and I also like the Pandora series. My very, very, very favorite is the Narnia series. It has a lot of imagination, and I always like happy endings. Reading is my favorite thing because I can go into other peoples' imaginations.



[\(/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/unicorn\\_grocery\\_tote\\_canvas\\_bag-149435042643521648\)](http://www.zazzle.com/unicorn_grocery_tote_canvas_bag-149435042643521648)

**Zazzle:** What is your favorite class at school?

**Dina:** I like STEM Lab because I get to experiment. It's fun to experiment and guess what's going to happen, just like I do with books. I like to work with partners. Science is really fun.



[\(/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_giraffe\\_13\\_laptop\\_sleeve\\_macbook\\_sleeve-204204940428300547\)](http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_giraffe_13_laptop_sleeve_macbook_sleeve-204204940428300547)

**Zazzle:** What are your favorite animals? Do you have any pets?

**Dina:** My favorite animals are sea turtles ([/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_turtle\\_stamp-172625649881355265](http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_turtle_stamp-172625649881355265)) because they're so nice. Some people kill them to make jewelry or to eat, and I want to help save them.



[\(/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/dinas\\_turtle\\_stamp-172625649881355265\)](http://www.zazzle.com/dinas_turtle_stamp-172625649881355265)

I have a pet kitty named Nala. She's named after a character from The Lion King. She LOVES to pounce. She's a tuxedo cat, half Maine Coon and half American Short Hair. She's really playful, especially in the morning when I'm sleepy and tired. She's a great pet!



[\(/web/20140127145531/http://www.zazzle.com/kitty\\_key\\_chain-256024225656686018\)](http://www.zazzle.com/kitty_key_chain-256024225656686018)

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## 10 Responses to “Zazzle Featured Designer Interview with Dina”

**annie** Says:

[December 20, 2013 at 8:48 am](#) | [Reply](#)

Your designs are wonderful – so colorful and fresh!

**Lisa Says:**

[December 20, 2013 at 5:08 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

Thank you Annie!

**Marian Designs Says:**

[December 20, 2013 at 12:43 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

What a talented girl! I love her paintings. The skill at her age is impressive. And her imagination is lovely. It's inspiring that her goal was to give to the SPCA. A great interview that cheered my morning.

**Lisa Says:**

[December 20, 2013 at 5:07 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

Thank you Marian! We shared your comment with Dina and it made her day too.  
(From Dina's mom)

**Gail Schlachter Says:**

[December 20, 2013 at 11:51 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

I loved this interview. Great questions. And, really interesting answers!

**DUANE PAPAIS Says:**

[December 21, 2013 at 12:51 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW ZAZZLE STORE! YOUR IMAGES ARE SO FUN AND IMAGINATIVE – I JUST LOVE THEM.

**Sumyyah Says:**

[December 21, 2013 at 3:50 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

I love your work...most of all I love your heart. Both are simply beautiful!

**[Zazzle Interviews My Daughter About Her DinaDesigns Store](#) | [Goldman's Observations](#) Says:**

[December 22, 2013 at 9:28 am](#) | [Reply](#)

[...] store and asked to interview her (initially by phone until I pointed out that Dina is only 8). Read her interview. Reader comments have been heart-warming, such [...]

**ElineYin Says:**

[January 21, 2014 at 1:36 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

So lovely!

**rusty Says:**

[January 21, 2014 at 6:25 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

Love the artworks, the drawing style and the colours! There is a special charm to them that just radiates happiness! Great background story for creating the store and I wish you lots of success!

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