



Showcasing Your Memorabilia



It took me a long time to figure out storage solutions for the items I hold dear. I struggled to find a balance between showcasing my valued items and hoarding them into boxes and portfolios to ensure that nothing happened to them. When I started taking steps toward a more minimalist lifestyle, I knew it was time to lovingly address these items. I saved them until the end because of my emotional attachments to them. The items I place the most value in are things like: hand written cards, heartfelt letters, and items that belonged to my father before he passed. I knew they would be the hardest to let go of, and I needed the practice of parting with all other non-essential items under my belt before I could even dream of approaching this category of personal effects. As I decluttered my space room by room, I was getting better at differentiating items I placed value in and what I was comfortable letting go.



When it was finally time to tackle my memorabilia I did what any rational person would do...I poured myself a glass of wine, took a seat on the floor, put on “ The Bahamas” and got down to it. This pile had grown larger than I had anticipated. I didn’t have a set expectation for what I was “ALLOWED” to be keeping, but by this point I was well practiced at parting with non- essential items. This pile had to be picked through, and I was ready.



Survival tips for the Memorabilia Pile

Take your time. If you're feeling overwhelmed, take a break. Walk away, give yourself space! It most certainly does not have to be done in one session. This step isn't easy. Especially when it involves the death of a loved one, or mementos that you've been holding onto for years. It is human nature to attach emotions to the things we care about. You are not alone in this. Something that I always make clear to clients is that parting with an item doesn't mean it won't be in the family. You can give it to someone close to you, that has the space to showcase it, and it can once again be appreciated. You'll be able to go see your item and a loved one simultaneously. If it doesn't have a home, and you can't find a solution for the item, it's time to donate it. Always keep in mind that something of importance does not deserve to be forced into a dark corner in a "someday" or "maybe" pile.



Frames.

In the process of eliminating items, I had found many old picture frames. I decided to frame some of my favourite drawings, letters and cards to help bring personality to my space. I was finally able to showcase and protect the items that I held so dear; hand-written cards from family members, a hand drawn map of the camp grounds my sister had rented for her wedding, photos of my sisters and I taken at Sears in 1995 wearing all slightly varying, but mostly identical “OSHKOSH” attire. Not only do these things bring an instant smile to my face, they add so much of ME into my living space. My once empty walls now have a little bit of my memories to show snapshots of some of my favourite moments. This step does take some time, but you use what you have and see what you can make from it. Otherwise, both the frames and the memorabilia end back up in the “one day” dead zone, and we don’t want that.



Displays.

So much of what you do as a personal organizer is centered around finding homes for items. If you have cabinets, bookcases, hutches, cupboards, even one shelf, you have the ability to showcase your belongings. Some of the most simplistic things can add such a lovely display to your home. If you have children and are worried about those reaching arms, place them higher up and out of reach. *recommended for the grandparents and caregivers as well*

A simple “Billy Bookcase” from Ikea can be altered 1,000 ways. Your items will pop and guests will love seeing your valued belongings on display. There is a reason why the coziest homes are often decorated with old photos and memorabilia. Never discount nostalgia, it’s the reason we all are who we are. Just as a space provides protection for you, you should share some of you with it.



Bins and Baskets.

I have said it before and i'll say it again...Bins and baskets are a personal organizer's best friend. They keep everything in tip top shape aesthetically and allow you to store items that may otherwise end up getting stacked on top of one another and adding to the clutter of a space. They work for anything and everything. They can add a nice streamlined look to any space. If you're concerned about budget, you can purchase them at the dollar store, DIY them out of old cardboard boxes or often find some at thrift stores. They come in so many shapes, sizes and patterns even the toughest client can find their perfect match. I highly recommend bins and baskets for any room. They create the perfect storage solution for organizational projects.



Albums and Scrapbooking

Admittedly not for everyone, the art of album keeping and scrapbooking is seemingly obsolete in today's society. But I refuse to accept this. I say.. "NO! Let's bring it back! Let's keep the tradition alive." When I was a kid every single photo taken by family ended up in an album. They helped catalog my childhood, kept everything in one place and helped keep us busy and entertained on rainy days. Much like bins and baskets, they come in so many different shapes, and/or patterns and you can find one that you love.

There are a trillion and one creative solutions you can apply to your home to help declutter and create a more cohesive, functional living space. I hope that some of these ideas have been helpful. Don't get discouraged, start small, and work your way up toward the items that you are most sentimental about. I believe in you.



You can do it darlings!
Let's take your living space
from “hot mess” to Freaky Neat!