

# UPPER MIDDLE CLASS FANTASY



BREE TURNER

I live in a large north facing, inner city apartment with an outdoor area that feels like an oasis. It's been photographed for several design publications, you might have seen it. I have fine linens and designer furniture that I have collected over time from my travels and local artisans. My fruit bowl is heaving with seasonal produce from the farmers market that I visit weekly. My expensive espresso machine makes the best coffee, but I often go to the cafe on my street because I like to people watch. I always have fresh cut flowers in generous and sculptural vases. The art on my walls is carefully curated and appreciating in value. I have magazine and newspaper subscriptions, local and international. I donate regularly to various causes that I'm passionate about, I give as much as my advisor allows me too. It feels good to give. My wardrobe contains a collection of carefully chosen pieces, well designed, sustainably manufactured, visually stunning. My shoes rarely show signs of wear before I take them to a recycled clothing boutique. I work for myself, and I made the decision a long time ago to work smarter not harder, so most days I keep my work time to about five hours. Of course there are busy periods but I can afford to rest after, burnout is a thing of the past, thankfully.

A typical day for me - I wake up around 7am, and my partner brings me coffee in bed where I will read until I'm ready to get up. I'll do a little yoga in our light filled living area, take a shower and then have breakfast on the terrace. I'll leaf through a magazine or the paper, check my emails and then tidy up slowly, there's no rush. Sometimes I'll start the work day with a meeting because that's when I have the most energy, but oftentimes I'll just tinker in my studio until lunch. I like to meet friends or colleagues for lunch because I work from

home and it's a good way to break up the day and be social. We take our time, sometimes we drink wine, but mostly we keep it healthy, perhaps a fresh salad or sushi and a walk in the park. My afternoon is productive but not exhausting. To switch off from work I might go for a swim or walk, or pour a glass of wine and just sink into the sofa. My partner and I like to eat out a lot, but also enjoy cooking together at home. We're always ready for guests, a fridge and cellar filled with wine, cheeses, fresh pasta and vegetables so we can "just throw something together" at a moment's notice. The house is always clean because we're tidy, but we also have a cleaner. I never have to scrub grout.

We like to travel and spend about a third of the year overseas, sometimes for work, but mostly leisure. We also have an apartment in Paris which we sublet when we're not there. We're considering getting something in New York too, we'll see. When at home if we need a break from the city we go to our holiday home on the coast. We don't have ocean views because we wanted something a little more inland that had lots of greenery, but on quiet nights you can hear the waves lapping against the sand. We open it up for writing residencies throughout the year, it's the perfect little hideaway. It might seem excessive to have three properties, but only one of the three is our main home, the others are businesses, essentially, that supplement our lifestyle. My favourite pastimes are reading, going to the cinema or theatre, visiting galleries, meals with friends and walking. I like nature, but wandering around the city and discovering new things can be equally restorative. Things that bring me the most joy often don't cost very much money, though I never have to worry about the price. I have everything I need (and more), even private health insurance. I inherited manifested it.

image:  
Flower Still Life with a Timepiece, 1663  
Willem van Aelst