



Graduate in tourism. Creator of the brand Mr. Pillow

Place: Arraiolos, Portugal

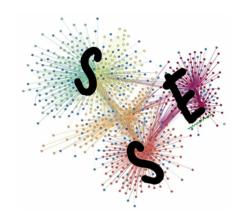
Activity:

Creation of cushions with the traditional point of Arraiolos

Contacts:

Web: https://osenhoralmofada.pt **email**: o.senhor.almofada@gmail.com

Phone: +351 962 864 553



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«Change of life with the Pandemic. The Project "Mr. Pillow»

Nuno Rosa Teixeira Dias, holds a Degree in Tourism from the University of Évora and a Post-Graduate degree in Hotel Management from the Lusophone University. He is 44 years old, and was born in Cascais, but lived almost all his life in Évora. Until March 2020 he worked in Lisbon, however due to the Covid Pandemic - 19 was in Lay-Off regime, without working, and chose to stay in the Village of Arraiolos, in the family house.



What is "MR. Pillow" and how did come about?

Mr Pillow is an entirely online business that sells custom cushions, with the traditional Arraiolos point.

I was working in tourism, and due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I returned home for a few days. Unfortunately, as the sector was one of the most affected by the pandemic, I lost my job. Yet I wanted to do something with my time. I know people who are also artisans and who use the Arraiolos point. So I started learning. Initially my first embroidered was 20x20 cm frame, but as I liked Cushions instead of rugs, I began to embroider pillows but with patterns created by me and with the colors I like the most.

But initially was all for fun because my goal was to return to Lisbon for my work. That didn't happen.

I then created my own brand, Senhor Almofada, and started my business entirely online.

And what were the first steps after the creation of the brand?

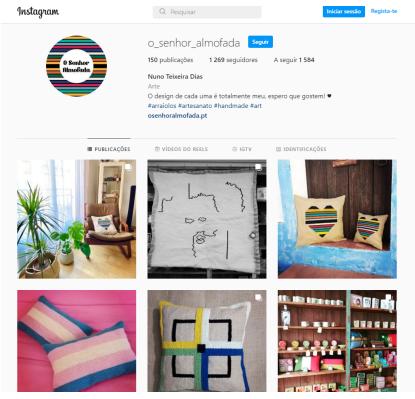
After the creation of the brand, I the profile of Senhor create Almofada (Mr. Pillow in english). Initially I considered a name in English but wanted to keep the Portuguese language for respect for tradition. After ancient creation of the profile I started the e-mail to sending media; televisions, radios, newspapers and some of them started contacting me and I started giving interviews. I don't have a shop, all my business is done online. All the projects are original mine, I draw them on millimeter paper and then step them to the cushion. It is a time-consuming requires a lot of that process precision.





How do you describe the process of creating your company?

As I said it was something that started as a hobby, as an occupation of time, I did not target. It was a process, where I started learning, then I sold the first pillow and realized I could have a business. I opened activity on my behalf (I did not create company) for this type of specific business and i did not have any support because I also did not request it.





O Senhor Almofada

O que começou como brincadeira, tornou-se algo mais sério, saiba tudo sobre o projecto

all my business is done

online."

What do you think are the biggest challenges for an entrepreneur?

The biggest of all is being able to make enough money to live with your idea. If starting with a new technology company it's probably easier to start making money than with activities like mine. The biggest challenge is probably to be difficult to live with if you don't have another source of income.

On the other hand it is very gratifying to create your own job and create something that people like.



As an entrepreneur, do you think it's important that entrepreneurship has a social component?

I believe that today all activities must have a social component. Social and sustainable. Instead of buying from the big brands of big companies, I find it increasingly important to buy more traditional, more local, and with a very strong social component. Help the people we are closest to putting their children in school, for example.

Do you have any advice for a senior entrepreneur who is thinking about venturing into the world of social entrepreneurship?

My advice is to use my example, a hobbie became up a small business, that is, take the opportunities that arise and turn them into something positive. The central point is to take pleasure in what is done and not be ashamed to fight for what we like and believe.

If they want to promote their business or their idea, they should use social networks. It is essential today to be on social networks. Even if they didn't want to sell anything, but showing what you do, or your ideas being online is important. They should therefore increase their knowledge of new technologies. I give my case for example where I sell to everyone over the internet



"I give my case for example where I sell to the whole world over the internet."

The Mr. Pillow in MEDIA

Fonte: https://www.radiocampanario.com/ultimas/regional/sr-almofada-durante-a-pandemia-alentejano-reinventa-negocio-com-borbados-de-arraiolos



"Sr. Almofada" - Durante a Pandemia Alentejano reinventa negócio com Bordados de Arraiolos





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No Alentejo, o Senhor Almofada dá outra vida e cor ao ponto de Arraiolos.

Nuno Teixeira Dias é formado em turismo, mas a pandemia e o lay-off deram-lhe a oportunidade de se reinventar e criar um novo projeto que já conquistou o país e o estrangeiro.

Gestor Hoteleiro de profissão, conta, que durante a Pandemia aprendeu por brincadeira a bordar em Ponto de Arraiolos e começou a fazer Almofadas como hobbie. Passados uns meses, graças às redes sociais e aos apoios amigos, começou vender e criou a Marca!

A história deste alentejano que deu a volta à crise com um produto de valor patrimonial da nossa região, foi hoje contada pela SIC em reportagem e o trabalho pode ser apresiado nas redes sociais.

Arte e engenho em tempo de crise foi o que fez Nuno Teixeira Dias, um hobby que virou negócio e tem já produtos vendidos para vários pontos da europa.





Foi com o lay-off resultante da crise económica provocada pela pandemia de Covid-19 que Nuno Dias acabou por criar um projeto inesperado

Iria iniciar um novo trabalho como chefe de receção numa nova unidade hoteleira de 5 estrelas em Lisboa, mas entrou em lay-off e decidiu passar esta ase da vida em Arraiolos, na casa dos seus pais.

Com 43 anos, Licenciado em Turismo pela Universidade de Évora e Pós-Graduado em direção Hoteleira pela Universidade Lusófona – nasceu em Cascais, mas viveu quase toda a vida em Évora.

Encontrava-se aborrecido quando Maria Hortense Canelas, dona da Loja e Fábrica "Tapetes Hortense" o desafiou para workshop de Ponto de Arraiolos.

Desafío aceite, passou a ir todos os dias à loja (sempre que se encontrava fechada ao público) de modo a melhorar e terminar trabalhos que la fazendo. Fez um quadro e do quadro passou para uma almofada,

Fez umas quantas almofadas para si e para oferecer a amigos, sempre como um hobbie, e, como teste, colocou um exemplar à venda na loja da Dª Hortense, tendo sido vendida no imediato, o que fez pensar nas almofadas com uma perspetiva que nunca tinha colocado: um novo projeto.

Em setembro, após conversar com uma amiga norte-americana, natural de Los Angeles, mas residente em Lisboa, revelou-se grande admiradora das almofadas e dos novos padrões e cores, incentivando-o a fazer para vender. De imediato criou um perfil para o projeto e inventou o nome "O Senhor Almofada", uma marca que está já registada e que já foi destaque em programas televisivos.

Alentejo Alentejo Central Lazer Negócios e Empresas





Marca "Sr almofada" nasceu durante a pandemia

A pandemia veio mudar a vida de muitos, mas no meio da adversidade houve quem se reinventasse e mudasse completamente de área de trabalho. É o caso de um gestor hoteleiro que, durante o primeiro confinamento, criou e...

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