

ASHER JAY: CREATIVE CONSERVATIONIST

1. Can your passion also be your profession? For “creative conservationist” Asher Jay, the answer is yes. She is an artist, writer, and activist. She uses her art to tell people about issues that affect animals around the world, like the illegal ivory trade and habitat loss.
2. Asher was born in India and was raised around the world to be a global citizen. She now lives in New York. She has been passionate¹ about wildlife since she was a child. As a girl, she often found sick animals and brought them home and cared for them. Her mother taught her that all life has a right to exist.
3. After learning about the BP oil spill² in 2010, Asher decided that caring for her planet was no longer a choice. She could no longer doubt her passion for wildlife. “I think that was when I realized this was more than a profession. It was my purpose on this planet!” she says. “I love animals, and when you care about something, it becomes your... responsibility to protect it for future generations.”
4. Asher loves what she does, but working with nature can still result in unexpected and hazardous experiences. One night, while she was in Africa for work, she woke up and heard lions walking around her tent. Asher was scared, but the experience was still rewarding. “Nature is a... tutor,” she says, “and the learning never stops.”
5. On a typical day, Asher spends a lot of time working on her art, which includes paintings, billboards, films, and sculptures. But anything can happen, and each day is unpredictable, so Asher has to be flexible. “I never know what’s next for me,” she explains.
6. Asher Jay has turned her love for art and animals into a job. She says there are many ways to turn what you care about into a career. So, what are *you* passionate about?

Identify main ideas. Read the article.

In which paragraph (1–6) can you find the answer to each question below?

Write the paragraph number next to the question.

_____ Is Asher’s job ever dangerous?
If so, how?

_____ When did Asher first become interested in animals?

_____ What’s a typical day like for Asher?

_____ What caused Asher to make conservation her full-time job?