

VIDAL SASSON PROFESSIONAL BEAUTY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP- Advanced

I always seem to find them at the right time. My letters. Written goals, tucked away for a year or so. And it feels so humbling as I read what has become in my personal life, my career, my family, and my dreams.

This past summer my husband and I experienced one of my long time goals and dreams, to take a tour of Europe. Being a hairdresser, an artist, and an extremely visual person, I was in a complete state of awe and inspiration as we explored the richness of several European countries. The breathtaking architecture of Westminster Abbey, the natural beauty of the Austrian Alps, the grandeur of the Pantheon, the sublime feeling of fulfillment in Paris, and the hair...everywhere. It was invigorating. Inspiring. Not only was my travel journal being filled with our highlights of each day and sights, it was also becoming a sketchbook of hairstyles and cuts.

Disconnected techniques kept catching my eye and seemed wildly more popular for both genders at all ages. An asymmetric rounded to A-line bob appeared on young professionals thru the streets of London; it was refreshing to see a twist on a classic look. The soft, naturally styled curls worn by Italian women was sophisticated, yet free. I couldn't wait to get back into the salon and allow these differences to influence my work behind the chair. And it was exciting to share these styles with my clients and even try some disconnected techniques to improve or change the shape of their cuts.

I believe it is a true testament to what you do when you can't escape your passion anywhere you go, even 4,000 miles away from home. Like Vidal, doing hair isn't just a job. It's my career and it's part of who I am. Those that sit in my chair aren't just a haircut or an updo or a color application. It's a person that may have had to rearrange their day for that haircut, they might be getting married, or they might just want a change in their color to make them feel beautiful and refreshed. As a hairdresser, I feel so fortunate to provide a service that can enhance someone's self image, be an integral part of life event, and simply make someone's day.

To have longevity in the beauty industry, I know it requires persistent drive for education, exploration and discovery of new techniques and skills, and consistency in delivering incredible craftsmanship and service to each individual in my chair. And I love every bit of it. It is so fulfilling to be able to challenge myself, set goals, and observe personal growth in my skills and clientele. I would be so grateful to have the opportunity to push myself even more through advanced education at a Sassoon Academy and absorb even a bit of the legacy that Vidal left behind.

Suzy Grifa