

Janne Willems

Founder and Executive Director, Seize Your Moments

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Activism / Philanthropy / Civic Engagement
- Art
- Communication
- Compassion
- Employee Engagement
- Human Resources / Workforce Issues
- Innovation / Creativity
- Inspiration / Achievement
- Mental Health / Psychology
- TED-Talks

About Janne Willems

Janne Willems believes that trust can change the world. With this mission in mind, Janne founded the Seize Your Moments project in 2010 and embarked upon a global expedition to connect with 11,500 people in 30 different countries. For four years, Janne was "homeless by choice," traveling from park to park, couch to couch to capture the enduring spirit of individuals who--time and time again--chose to see the beautiful moments amid life's greatest challenges. Since that time, Janne has shared her story hundreds of times with audiences ranging from CEOs in Dubai to students in Vietnam. She has been a speaker at TEDx thrice (including the first TEDx to be held on a train world wide). Janne received her undergraduate degree in Cognitive Artificial Intelligence, a Masters in Cognitive Neuroscience and a second Masters Degree in philosophy (cum laude) from the University of Utrecht. She's the author of Pluk Je Momenten, a Dutch book that tells the inspiring tale of the numerous individuals she met in her travels. In her free time, Janne can be found doodling, woodworking, or devising ways to make vegetables taste amazing.

Select Keynotes

- **Creating a Trusting Culture**

One of the most influencing factors in employee engagement is trust. People at high-trust companies report 74% less stress, 50% higher productivity and 76% more engagement compared to people at low-trust companies. It pays to build a trusting environment. But how?

For two years, Janne Willems traveled the world with markers, empty postcards and one question: Do you want to draw a beautiful moment? Solely relying on the kindness of strangers, ten thousand people in 30 countries joined. She combines the insights from this remarkable journey with the latest findings in neuroscience. Learn from her astonishing and inspiring story how to build a community of trust in any environment.

You'll learn:

- * How to increase trust in conversations
- * Boosting up your own levels of trust
- * Management strategies for trust

- **Improving Engagement**

A five-point increase in employee engagement is related to a three-point increase in revenue growth in the subsequent year. However employee engagement is declining worldwide. This decrease in employee engagement results in higher turnover, steeper absenteeism, lower customer satisfaction and ultimately to poor financial performance. So how to improve engagement? You need to empower the people you work with. And in order to do that you need to really connect with them and build a trust trusting environment.



For two years, Janne Willems traveled the world with markers, empty postcards and one question: Do you want to draw a beautiful moment? Solely relying on the kindness of strangers, eleven thousand people in 30 countries drew their moment. And over 500 people were engaged in making the project a success. She combines the insights from this remarkable journey with the latest findings in neuroscience. Learn from her astonishing and inspiring story how to really connect and build a community of trust in any environment.

You'll learn:

- * The key ingredients to connecting listening well
- * How trust works
- * How to be open for great outcomes

Select Book Titles

- **2015:** Pluk Je Momenten

Select Articles

- [Washington Post: A Dutch woman travels the world capturing beautiful moments on index cards](#)

A very positive article in the Washington Post about Janne's Seize Your Moments project.

- [TED.com: A sweet look at some of the small things that make our lives beautiful](#)

Hailey Reissman from the blog ideas.ted.com writes an indept article behind the TEDx talk: discovering a world of happiness.

Select Testimonials

Janne was a hit at our conference.

— *Momentous Institute*

In her talk beautiful images, stories and comic relieves alternated. Janne knew to capture, move and make a real connection with her audience. Everybody was touched in a pleasant and positive way. Happiness in all possible dimensions. Janne opens hearts.

— *Sustainability Week Boxtel*

Brilliant! Janne entertained us with inspiring anecdotes about her motivation, the process and outcomes of asking strangers in many countries to draw a moment of happiness. Our turn to draw and re-live while sharing our moments became a bonding, happiness half hour. I returned home with many creative ideas for achieving my own dream.

— *Wendy*