

HUFFPOST BUSINESS

Going Against the Flow: Nasos Topakas, CTO of Art.com



Nasos Topakas brings more than 20 years of software engineering and executive technology management experience to his role as Chief Technology Officer at Art.com Inc. Before joining the team, he served as CTO for SendMe, CTO at StubHub, and VP at Charles Schwab & Co., and Pacific Bell Information Services. He received his Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from San Francisco State University. His favorite artists are Wassily Kandinsky and Ansel Adams.

What does entrepreneurship mean to you, and what underlying characteristics do you see in successful entrepreneurs?

Nasos: I see entrepreneurship as having a clear vision, unrelenting passion, and the executional acumen needed to lead the development of whatever it is you're trying to achieve or create. You also need to be able to clearly communicate the value of what you're creating -- this will be your true north compass along the way. As an entrepreneur, you'll likely make many mistakes but your passion will enable you to learn quickly and keep driving forward. I've found that passion drives greater thinking and resilience to solve the impossible. Finally, no matter how many ideas you have or how inventive of a vision, if you don't know how to execute, you will not make it. The vision shows you the path, the passion helps you overcome obstacles and build quality, and the execution gets you there.