

Tools for Being an Artist

(Introduction for handout set)

This dossier is designed to help you be an artist in the 21st century, outside of an art school, outside of a major art city (LA / New York / Chicago etc.) and under working class time constraints and budget issues. In this folder you will find documents from various sources that have been compiled to cover most if not all of the major issues you will need to address on your journey as a developing artist. The world does not always support the arts, but remember that art is what truly makes us human beings, and art by its definition has no practical function. All the following handouts do not provide answers to the larger questions that being an artist entails, these are only tools to help you find your own answers.

Theses Are Not Rules: The following documents are not *rules*, nor do they provide larger *answers*. As stated above these are all just *optional tools* to help you find answers.

Scheduling Studio Time: The great artist/philosopher Robert Storr said in 2012 that an artist does not need to be in their studio 7 days a week to truly be an artist. Most of us have to work for a living, but that doesn't mean we can't be full artists. As long as we get 2-3 days a week devoted to making / thinking about / writing about / researching / or seriously looking at art for 4-6 hours, we are artists.

Being Inspired: The only thing that makes us artists is our inspiration. Because of this we must listen to that tiny voice whenever it speaks up and try to do what it says diligently. Often it will seem that things in the world (people, places, shapes, colors, thoughts, sounds, music) will be silently asking you to paint or draw or sculpt them. This is all you have to listen to in this world, if you follow these voices when they speak to you you will always be an artist.

The work of other artists can inspire you also, if you need inspiration try seeking out the following:

- Museums / Galleries (In person or free online images)
- KQED's Spark (A public television show that profiles artists – found free online)
- Art 21 (The same as spark but for more famous and/or wealthy artists)
- Any Artist Documentary or Movie (“Pollock” and “The Mill & the Cross” are two good starters)
- Books of favorite artists (Found in libraries or bought used online)
- Long Walks (Nature is the greatest work of art)

