

# *Reaching Out to Other Artists*

**At Least One Artist Friend:** Art is about communication, you must regularly talk or show your work to one other artist, or someone that at least takes art very seriously or loves art. You don't always have to listen to them or like what they say, but even a good spirited argument is better than isolation. Without communication artists often lose motivation.

**Making a Website:** This can be a way of putting your work up publically without having to get an actual show, it is also a great way of feeling accomplished when you complete a work as you can show it to other people easily. As of 2014 websites like "Tumblr.com," "Blogspot.com," or "Wordpress.com" are free services that allow you to design and post a website easily and for free.

**Residencies:** Residencies are retreat communities for artists. They span from 2 weeks to 2 years and allow artists to live in isolated communities of 5-50 other artists, concentrating on their work. This can be an incredibly valuable experience that looks great on an artist's resume and they are often free and will also feed / house you. (Several examples are included in this packet, for more see the book "Artist's Communities")

**Getting a Show:** Its not as hard to get a show as artists often think. Most people live within driving distance of a small mainstreet art gallery or coffee shop / restaurant that shows art regularly. Each venue will have a different process, but if you have 10-20 good artworks photographed you are in good shape to approach one of them in person (phone or email are not as reliable). Just be friendly, have images of your work handy, tell them you're an artist interested in showing your work there and ask who you should speak to about it.

**Art School:** Art school is expensive, and you will be in debt by the time you graduate. But if you take it seriously, try to form relationships with other artists and work harder making art than you've ever worked in your life it is the best thing you can possibly do for your work. If you want to move to a larger art city (LA, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Portland, Houston, Seattle, Philadelphia) it can be the best way to make a life for yourself in an art community, which in turn can help you find employment, housing etc. Before committing to an art school make sure it ranks well in the "US News: College Ranking." This is a reliable source for determining whether or not a college is a good investment for your time and money.