

HOW TO ENJOY BEING AN ARTIST

1. Find a community that supports your pursuit. Having people to encourage you will help keep you up on the down days.
2. Never base the success of your entire career on one project. You are an explorer, failure is part of the process, give yourself permission to do so.
3. Don't stick to what you know. Try new things, take risks, redefine your edges.
4. Value your expertise. You've spent thousands of hours honing your craft— you know what you're talking about.
5. Let curiosity dictate what you do — there are times where money is necessary, but don't let it be your compass.
6. Create new social structures. Instead of bowing to old rules, be a leader and push your community in the direction you hope it will grow. Being an artist has perks, you don't have to fit in.
7. Have patience with those who don't understand your pursuit. Educate them on why art is important and the power of emboldening the creative individual.
8. When a client/customer/gallery owner/patron have a specific request you're not interested in, turn it into a conversation rather than an obligation.
9. Set achievable goals. Set short term goals that you can accomplish every day and long term goals that you can accomplish ten years from now. Learning takes time. Ideas take time.
10. Be so kind to yourself.