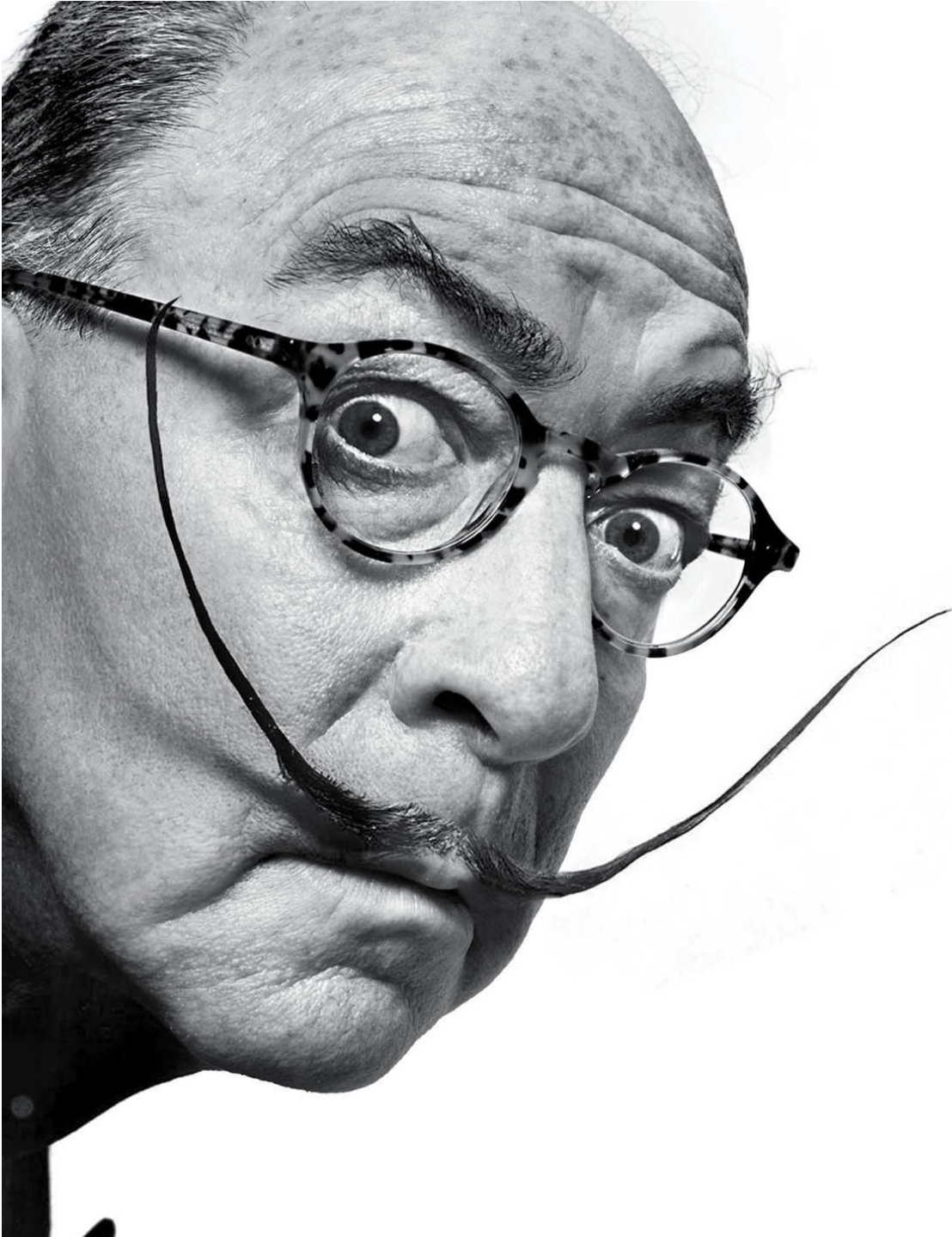


My Ellen photo journal-

<https://www.vulture.com/2018/11/jerry-saltz-how-to-be-an-artist.html>

How to be an Artist/Jerry Saltz



Step One: You Are a Total Amateur

Lesson 1: Don't Be Embarrassed/ reveal things about yourself that others may find appalling, weird, boring, or stupid.

Lesson 2: "Tell your own story and you will be interesting." — *Louise Bourgeois/* just because it's your story, that doesn't mean you're entitled to an audience

Lesson 3: Feel Free to Imitate

Lesson 4: Art Is Not About Understanding. Or Mastery./ Forget about making things that are understood.

Lesson 5: Work, Work, Work/ Every artist and writer I know claims to work in their sleep

Step Two: How to Actually Begin

Lesson 6: Start With a Pencil/ Don't think good or bad. Think *useful, pleasurable, strange.*
Any camera

Lesson 7: Develop Forms of Practice/ For instance, on the subway, while waiting or sitting around, practice drawing **looking/seeing** your own hands.

Lesson 8: Now, Redefine Skill/ your skill will be whatever it is you're doing differently.

Lesson 9: “Embed thought in material.” —

Roberta Smith/ What does this mean? **An object should express ideas**; art should contain emotions. And these ideas and feelings should be easy to understand — complex or not./ **“No! These are just dumb pictures of clouds and have nothing to do with anything.”**



Is Duchamp's *Fountain* an artwork or an idea? Both!

Conceptual art

Lesson 10: Find Your Own Voice

Lesson 11: Listen to the Crazy Voices in Your Head

Lesson 12: Know What You Hate

Lesson 13: Scavenge/ “I always like to work on ... things that were discarded,

Step Three: Learn How to Think Like an Artist

Lesson 14: Compare Cats and Dogs/ Artists are cats. (And they can't be herded.)

Lesson 15: Understand That Art Is Not Just for Looking At./ Holy relics in churches all over the world are said to heal.

Lesson 16: Learn the Difference Between Subject Matter and Content/ Compare These Eight Nudes

Forget the subject matter — what is each of these paintings actually *saying*?

Lesson 17: See As Much As You Can/ standing back, getting close,

Lesson 18: All Art Is Identity Art!

This is because it is made by *somebody*.

Lesson 19: All Art Was Once Contemporary Art

Step Four: Enter the Art World

Lesson 20: Accept That You Will Likely Be Poor

Lesson 21: Define Success

Lesson 22: It Takes Only a Few People to Make a Career/Dealer, Collectors/Critics/Curators/ Surely your crappy art can fake out 12 stupid people!

Lesson 23: Learn to Write/ Exercise: Artist's Statement

Step Five: Survive the Art World

Lesson 24: Artists Must Be Vampires

Stay up late every night with other artists around your age. **Show up.** Go to openings, events, parties, **form small gangs.**

Lesson 25: Learn to Deal With Rejection

Lesson 26: Make an Enemy of Envy/ Envy looks at others but blinds you.

Lesson 27: Having a Family Is Fine/ **being a parent is already very much like being an artist.**

Step Six: Attain Galactic Brain

Lesson 28: What You Don't Like Is As Important As What You Do Like/ Don't say, "I hate figurative painting."

Lesson 29: Art Is a Form of Knowing Yourself

Lesson 30: "Artists do not own the meaning of their work." — Roberta Smith

Lesson 31: All Art Is Subjective/ Art is a static, non-changing thing that is never the same.

Lesson 32: You Must Prize Vulnerability/ We all contradict ourselves. We contain multitudes. You must be willing to fail

Lesson 33: Be Delusional/ "Yeah, but I'm a fucking genius." **Believe in yourself**

You are, now. Art is for anyone, it just isn't for everyone.

