My Ellen photo journal-


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/Critica/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.