

Critical Thinking

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My Manifesto

Rules...

- Nothing is a mistake; you cannot win or lose but you can only learn from.
- Consider everything as an experiment.
- Be passionate about ALL your work, even if it does not seem like much right now. You never know it might come handy in the future.
- Experiment with a mass number of varied materials and techniques. Do not always go your usual route to things.
- Do not worry about feeling foolish when it comes to art. Art isn't meant to be understood.
- Try and use more recycled or preloved items. It's amazing how you can transform someone's waste into your own treasure.
- You can listen to the opinions of others but not rely on it when it comes to your work, always trust your gut and do the things that you want to do.
- Research continuously, gain new knowledge and enjoy all of life's experiences.

Overview

1. *Try and use more recycled or preloved items in your work. It's amazing how you can transform another's person's waste into your own treasure.*

Throughout our past people have recycled and reused past loved items for centuries. It's nothing new to us. I do believe nowadays it is becoming more popular to use recycled goods and shop in the charity shops compared to when I was growing up in the late 90s to early 00s where having the latest brands was the cool thing to do. (but that is only my opinion)

The benefits of upcycling. Firstly 'upcycling' when defining it means "The act of taking something no longer in use and giving it a second life and new function." According to UpcycleThat.com.

Recyclingbins.co.uk says on their website that "British household creates over 26m tonnes of waste each year, the weight of around 260 large cruise ships." And that "In the UK, we are only recycling 3% more waste than we did in 2010."

But upcycling items can not only help save materials from the landfills and reduce waste but also can help you save money and create a profit for yourselves. A good example of this is the TV show 'More for Nothing' where host Sarah Moore finds people throwing out considerable worthless goods and transforms them to beyond recognition with the help of different designers and sells them off for a much higher value and any profit made on the product is returned to the original owner.

2. *Don't worry about feeling foolish when it comes to Art. Art is not meant to be understood.*

It worries me that there are more people concerned about the fear of looking or feeling stupid. Especially in the art world, it's the number 1 of dream killers. Holding back from your full potential just because of the opinions of others.

Art can be light; Art can be heavy; Art can be free flowing; Art can have boundaries; Art can be bright with bursts of colour; Art can be dark with no colours; Art can be beautiful; Art can be ugly.

Art comes from memories, emotions, beliefs and future ideas. It's not meant to be understood.

Explorations in Art, Theology and Imagination by Micheal Austin Page 16

The book talks about the common-sense commitments about art, particularly on understanding it. But why do we need to understand art?

Picasso said this:

"Everybody wants to understand art. Why not try to understand the songs of a bird? Why does one love the night, flowers, everything around one, without trying to understand them? But in the case of painting people have to understand. If only they could realise above all that an artist works of necessity, that he himself is only a trifling bit of the world, and that no more importance should be attached to him than to plenty of other things that please us in the world, though we can't explain them."

3. Don't rely on the opinions of others about your work, always trust your gut.

A famous artist that wasn't appreciated during his lifetime was Vincent Van Gogh. Compared to today's time he is listed in the top ten artists to have ever lived. Van Gogh's art was very new for his time. His style and technique weren't around, and the locals weren't impressed with it. Unfortunately, Van Gogh died very young and never got to see how his work influenced so many artists after him. But the main point I'm trying to make is that if Vincent Van Gogh listened to all the opinions of others who disliked his work and stopped doing what he enjoyed doing. It would be a devastating loss to the art world and a loss for everyone who's been inspired by his work.

Information found from:

[UpcycleThat.com](https://www.upcyclethat.com)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b077nzdc>

<https://www.recyclingbins.co.uk/recycling-facts/>

Explorations in Art, Theology and Imagination by Michael Austin, Page 16, Published 2005.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/van_gogh_vincent.shtml