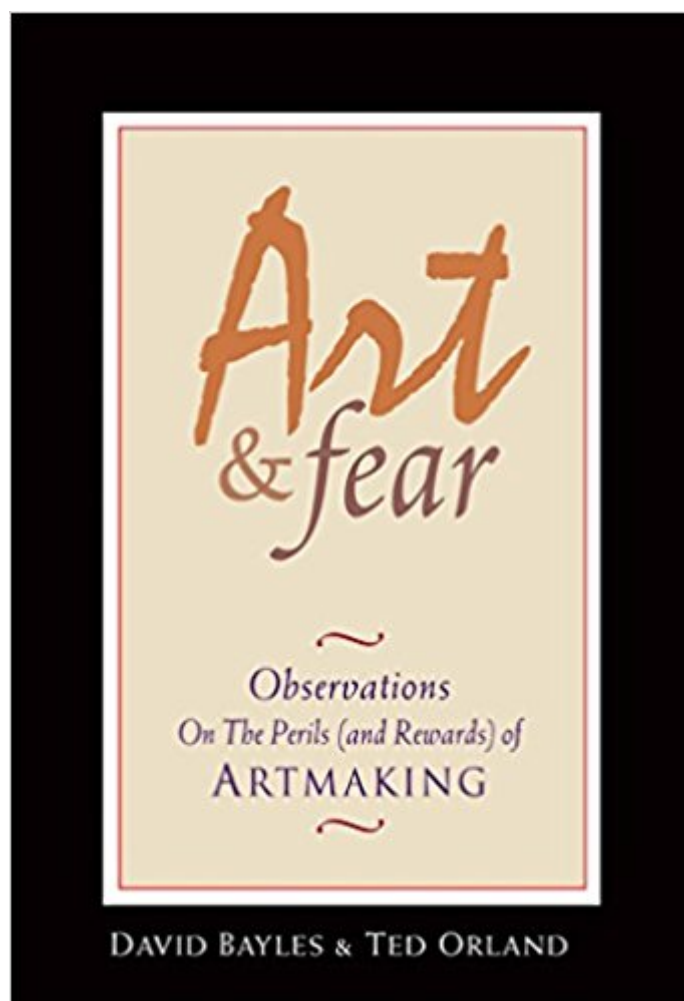


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# Art & Fear: Observations On The Perils (and Rewards) Of Artmaking



## Synopsis

"This is a book about making art. Ordinary art. Ordinary art means something like: all art not made by Mozart. After all, art is rarely made by Mozart-like people; essentially—statistically speaking—there aren't any people like that. Geniuses get made once-a-century or so, yet good art gets made all the time, so to equate the making of art with the workings of genius removes this intimately human activity to a strangely unreachable and unknowable place. For all practical purposes making art can be examined in great detail without ever getting entangled in the very remote problems of genius."—from the Introduction

Art & Fear explores the way art gets made, the reasons it often doesn't get made, and the nature of the difficulties that cause so many artists to give up along the way. The book's co-authors, David Bayles and Ted Orland, are themselves both working artists, grappling daily with the problems of making art in the real world. Their insights and observations, drawn from personal experience, provide an incisive view into the world of art as it is experienced by artmakers themselves. This is not your typical self-help book. This is a book written by artists, for artists—it's about what it feels like when artists sit down at their easel or keyboard, in their studio or performance space, trying to do the work they need to do. First published in 1994, Art & Fear quickly became an underground classic. Word-of-mouth response alone—now enhanced by internet posting—has placed it among the best-selling books on artmaking and creativity nationally. Art & Fear has attracted a remarkably diverse audience, ranging from beginning to accomplished artists in every medium, and including an exceptional concentration among students and teachers. The original Capra Press edition of Art & Fear sold 80,000 copies. An excerpt: Today, more than it was however many years ago, art is hard because you have to keep after it so consistently. On so many different fronts. For so little external reward. Artists become veteran artists only by making peace not just with themselves, but with a huge range of issues. You have to find your work...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Both authors are teachers and working artists. Ted Orland's previous books include *Scenes of Wonder & Curiosity* and *Man & Yosemite*.

I found the book very helpful. It points out common struggles that all artists go through, and many are the very ones I struggle with as a composer. It is useful to know that almost all artists, even "successful" artists share these same struggles. Reading the book helped put me in a much healthier state of mind WRT music making, so for me, the book was definitely worth reading, and I plan to periodically revisit several sections.

This is one of those books that I don't know how I missed it for so many years, now that I'm hearing that it's a "classic" from so many people. It's also one of those rare books that I can't imagine not having experienced. The writing is crystal clear and direct, but its greatest asset is the clarity and depth of the experience and thinking and understanding behind the words. If you've thought about how you're using your life and about your successes and failures, especially if while engaged in any kind of creative activity, I'd bet you'll find, as I found, a mirror of my own thoughts and experiences. But the mirror is a clarifying mirror, unscrambling and clearly articulating what my own thoughts knew only in fragments scattered across years and unifying experiences in a way that shows their direction or need for direction. Many books can state ideas and events clearly; it's a rare book, and this is one of them, that seems to show you your own open pages and read you back to yourself.

I needed this book for my Art Seminar class, and I thought it would just be another textbook that I was made to read with no enjoyment. I was wrong! This book is AMAZING! I didn't not think a "textbook" would be so informative and therapeutic. The author really speaks to your soul as an artist and gets down to the real reasons we fear the art-making world. He suggests ways we can overcome our fears and beautifully illustrates why it is important that we do. I feel motivated each time

I finish a chapter and I will definitely read this after I graduate from college.

I would teach this book. The whole deal for creative types is how to carry on when their first support system shoves them out of the nest. This book can help you get deeply in touch with why you want to make art and with what you must accept to do it. Then you figure out the rest. Good luck!

A concise and optimistic book about the mental and emotional process of creating art. It's uplifting without being delusional and helpful without being annoying. Highly recommended for anyone who is, was or wants to create art of their own.

Why do human's create? There have been civilizations that existed for a long time without the wheel, but no civilizations we know of that existed without art. In rock age times there were primitive stone tools found in caves that had fantastic paintings on the stone walls. The paintings are beautiful today, but the tools are so primitive to be nearly useless to us today. Why did art exist before they had a word for art, or for the pronoun "I" for that matter? This book meant so much to me because ...more

Why do human's create? There have been civilizations that existed for a long time without the wheel, but no civilizations we know of that existed without art. In rock age times there were primitive stone tools found in caves that had fantastic paintings on the stone walls. The paintings are beautiful today, but the tools are so primitive to be nearly useless to us today. Why did art exist before they had a word for art, or for the pronoun "I" for that matter? This book meant so much to me because I have been making art since I was a young child and I soon will be 65 years old and I am still making art. I make very little money, few people see my art, my own family sees me as quirky, and yet I continue to make art. This book discusses that question. It covers the fears of self doubt and negative reactions of the audience and the question why do so many that make art reach a point where they stop. Why do people stop making art? If these sorts of questions are of interest to you, so will this book. It is short, well written, easy to read, and important to makers of art and lovers of art.

Best book on art encouragement ever. may words of wisdom to help one keep making art for the sake of art as opposed to worrying about making art for others and approval.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. It explores the process of making art and everything that comes along with it-- the fears, the successes, the struggles, etc. It provides great insights into why

creating art that is truly your own can be extremely difficult because of the expectations of others and the fear you have of being accepted by everyone else. I think this book is a great source of reflection and inspiration because it can help artists like myself recognize why creating genuine art can prove to be such a struggle at times, and that is part of the process of overcoming the struggle. It can provide opportunities to think about what fears you have and address and overcome them through your work. Granted, this book does not provide a checklist of things to do to overcome fear, but it does include various situations where you might come across it so you can recognize it. More than anything, Art & Fear is a novel you can empathize with and ponder over as you consider various obstacles such as the misconception that talent is more successful than developed skills, or being able to be vulnerable by putting your art out there to be critiqued and judged by the world. Art is a very personal process and it comes with a lot of risks and sacrifices. It is scary to give a little piece of yourself to something that may not even be considered art by the rest of the world, but this book will help you face those fears and give you the opportunity to come to terms with them and turn them into strengths.

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