



What do Artists Know?

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Beyond a wide range of material practices, histories and techniques, concepts and theoretical frameworks, artists are trained to use a unique set of skills and methodologies. These include:

- **Synthesizing diverse facts, goals, and references – making connections and speaking many “languages”. Artists are very “lateral” in their research and operations and have great intellectual and operational agility.**
- **Production of new knowledge as evidenced by the 100+ year history of innovation and originality as a *top criterion***
- **Creative, in-process problem solving and ongoing processes, not all up-front creativity: responsiveness.**
- **Artists compose *and* perform, initiate *and* carry-thru, design *and* execute. This creates a relatively tight “feedback loop” in their process**
- **Pro-active not re-active practice: artists are trained to initiate, re-direct the brief, and consider their intentionality.**
- **Acute cognizance of individual responsibility for the meanings, ramifications and consequences of their work. (The down side of this is that artists are not always team-oriented or willing to compromise due to the high premium placed on individual responsibility and sole authorship.)**
- **Understanding of the language of cultural values and how they are embodied and represented – re-valuation and re-contextualization.**
- **Participation and maneuvering in non-compensation (social) economies, idea economies, and other intangible values (capital).**
- **Proficiency in evaluation and analysis along multiple-criteria -- qualitative lines, qualitative assessment.**
- **Making explicit the implicit -- making visible the invisible. Artists have keen pattern and system recognition, which makes them valuable at seeing potential areas of convergence and connectivity.**
- **Artists do not think outside the box-- *there is no box.***