

How to Find Your Artistic Voice Faster

The Self-Aware Artist Workshop by Michael Magrutsche

Finding **YOUR Artistic VOICE Faster** has been created by Michael Magrutsche and taught since 2015 in his [Self Aware Art Masterclass](#). This process is part of Michael's [book *The Smart of Art*](#) - *A New Art Consciousness To Awaken Our Enthusiasm For Art*. To amplify your effectiveness, subscribe to my free bi-weekly human art-wisdom [podcast <https://anchor.fm/michaellart>](#), to experience art as an inherent human superpower outside of systems, 30 seconds at a time. #SmartofArt

The aim of art is not to represent the outward appearance of things, but their inner significance." Aristotle.

Self-Aware Artists are aware of artists' unique part in humanity. They are able to verbalize (mentor) the why and how of their whole creation process from inspiration to finished artwork understandably.

The most effective way to this heightened awareness of art is to first, find your inner significance by discovering **YOUR artistic voice** (Voice.)

What is Voice? Voice is a creator's artistic personality, its unique idiosyncrasies, his/her essence in its artistic interpretation. It is authenticity which is a truth that connects humans to relate.

Usually, it takes your whole life to find and refine YOUR artistic Voice. Artists consciously or unconsciously pursue, develop and refine their artistic Voice to discover

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more of their clarity over a lifetime. Typically, Voice is not inherently recognizable like with Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley or Picasso or Andy Warhol.

Essence and Voice are similar but Voice is the artistic/creative expression of one's essence. The term Voice was first used in visual arts, because of its similarity to a uniquely-recognizable musician's voice. Voice allows the audience to know and connect to the artist in a millisecond (examples: Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Beyoncé, Nina Simone, and Leonard Bernstein).

Voice in the visual arts: Picasso, Mondrian, Alexander Calder, Gustav Klimt and Keith Haring, are good examples. All of these artists are instantly recognizable, and the audience feels a connection through familiarity with what they experience.

Art as Emotional language. Your Voice is the language that communicates through emotions/feelings/aesthetics who you are. If you copy others or hone your work for a sales agenda, you distort your uniqueness and wash out the gravitas of your communication.

It is like conveying who you are in a language that is not your own. Once you are aware about YOUR voice, you will be able to communicate and explain your work clearly to your audience.

The following questions are part of the Self-Aware Artist workshop. **THIS PROCESS IS FOR YOU ONLY - THE FINAL RESULTS ARE FOR THE WORLD.** These questions will provide clarity, enhance awareness about your work, while helping you to discover and hone your Voice. It will be a continuous resource for expressing and selling your creativity.

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You don't need to get the answers right away. Keep reading the questions from time to time, till the answers reveal themselves. There are no right or wrong answers, only YOUR answers. Start by writing down all that comes to the surface for you, which will give you a clearer picture about you.

Knowing your Voice will help you for the rest of your life as an artist. YOUR answers will trigger awareness and insights that reflect YOU. You will be able to create more authentic work that is streamlined from inception to completion. You will be in touch with your essence and know YOUR voice, which keeps YOUR creative-portal open. All you have to do is follow your inspired action and execute and express that flow artistically.

The more you follow this process the more awareness about your Voice you will reap.

Here are the steps that will assist your process:

If you can't answer certain questions, leave it out. Scan over the questions and answer the easiest ones first - leave the harder ones to answer later.

A. Write down any insights that come up for you.

B. Print out the questions and carry them around with you. If you get an answer - write it down. Try not to make this a boring linear process. The answers come when they are supposed to come.

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C. Once finished, re-read and hone your answers to make them as concise and accurate as to resonate with YOU. You will know by feelings and you will be able to gauge what resonates best with you and what not.

D. Have fun discovering YOU and your art. It's art, YOUR art, YOUR wonderful expression of the essence that you are.

E. During this process you will realize that the biggest value in art is in its creation. Selling, success and acknowledgement are symptoms of YOU feeling wealthy and confident by knowing your essence and being able to project it into the world.

QUESTIONS:

YOU as Creative

1. What is art all about for you?
2. What draws you to art?
3. Are you considering yourself an Artist? Yes, No, Other.
4. Why? Why are you an artist?
5. For whom are you painting/sculpture/acting/making music? Others, The Audience, Myself?
6. Should you create for the audience? Why or why not?
7. What are you expressing with your work? Why?
8. Can you communicate your work to your audience tangibly? Your best way? How?

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9. What is YOUR artistic strength? You Voice, Style, Talent, Craft, Execution, Other?

YOUR Voice

10. What are my preferences? Random, organized, lively, calm, other.
11. What am I attracted/drawn to in my Life? Harmony, curiosity,
12. How do I express myself in how I dress, cook, the things I prefer, my favorite car and colors I choose?
13. Am I aware of any similarities that overlap in the ways/forms I express myself?
14. What are the similarities of the different images I project into my world? (being a father/mother/daughter, my job as a salesman, with my friends, as a man/ woman, etc.)
15. How do I uniquely communicate with my words, language, clothes, behavior, etc.
16. Try to connect to your Voice through your character traits such as I am shy, picky, loving, angry, sloppy, happy, tidy, blend in, stand out, loud, quiet, pessimist, optimist or any others.
17. What of my characteristics can I see in my creations? For example, *In my (Michael's) case, in life and in art, I am dynamic and humane, I am loud, I am decisive, I have defined boundaries, I am composed, I am not afraid to be me/unique, I have fervor and passion, I can change the mood (good or bad) of a room with my art, as well as in person in a crowd. I enjoy my impact. All that I see in my art reflects my personality, my likes and the way who I am. To get this concise, it took years to define my Voice clearly. Be gentle with*

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yourself. *My Voice seems so obvious now, but it took quite a while to condense all my awareness to get a clear picture of my essence that resonates with me and others got the same message.*

18. What topics/subjects touch you deeply in your life. (Love, humans, pollution, colors, emotions, nature, fun, animals, homelessness, art, happiness, freedom, oneness, other) Why?
19. Do you prefer to include your favorite topic/subject in your work like nature, love, etc? Why?
20. Is it important to convey a message in your creative work? Why and how are you doing this?
21. How creative does your work need to be to be called art by you? How do you define this?
22. How is your work different from others? Why is it different?
23. What do you see in your creations that is obviously specific to you?
24. What is relevant in your creative work and why? For you and for others?
25. Answer for yourself, "How do I communicate with my creativity as an artist? In my subject matter, my medium, skill or other?"
26. What about the various media you use? Do you have more than one you work with?
27. What is/are your favorite media? Why?
28. Which media reflects/expresses YOU the best? Is it in your painting/ sculpture/ photography/ look/ dance/ music, or other?
29. What is your favorite material/media/expression to work with? Why? Why do you prefer, for example acrylic vs. ink, piano vs. singing? Two dimensional vs. 3-dimensional vs. digital/paper/ canvas/collage. Classical vs. Jazz etc.

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30. What is your favorite color? What similar color(s), designs, textures, etc. keep popping up for you over and over? How do you express them?
31. List three qualities of your favorite color/patterns.
32. Confirm if these qualities reflect YOU or apply to your work.
33. Do any of these three, color/sound, qualities show in your work?
34. Do these qualities apply to your work's message?
35. What processes, skills and techniques do you use for your creation? Why?
36. Do you create differently from the way you were taught? Did you create your own artistic process?
37. Why? Is this way you work easier? Do you get better results? Or, you don't know any other way than your way? What patterns emerge? Is there a pattern in the way you select materials? In the way you use color, texture or light? For example, you always paint a sun, lots of shadows in your paintings, you use pink a lot.
38. What else do you see in your artwork?
39. Do you enjoy your own work? Do you hang it or be surrounded by it?

YOUR Exposure to the World

40. Do you see value in creating art without being successful in the art business?
41. Would you buy your own art, if it was not done by you?
42. If yes, how much would you be willing to pay, if money was not an issue?
43. What success stories about your art can you tell?
44. Why do you think you were/are successful in these instances?
45. What do other people say regarding what they see in your work? How do they describe your work? How do they react to your work?

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46. Are there similarities in what others say about your work? Interesting, Fresh, Nice, Cool, Good Titles, Uniquely Yours, Sad, Happy, Makes Them Happy, etc.
47. Do others' assessments of your creative work resonate with you? If yes, can you tell why? If not, can you tell why in facts (not as defense)?
48. How much is your audience aware about your work? Do they recognize your preferences, for example, your favorite or different media, that you use the same color, same designs, same emotions?
49. Can you explain your process about all your work? For example, how did you get to “this” image?
50. Within your work, how do you best recognize YOU through skill, unique expression, or strong Voice and verbalize it?
51. What are you most longing for as an artist? More time to create, more inspiration, more appreciation, more creativity, more success, more fun, more fame, more fulfillment, more money etc.
52. Prior to this workshop, how did you best find your essence?
53. Do you have any advice, suggestions, or wisdom for other artists?
54. How do you connect with your audience?
55. Summary, condense and jot down what have you discovered about your Voice, your style/direction(s) and message (if you have one) through these questions until now?

Thank you for the commitment to yourself and therefore to the arts and humanity. To lift artists' consciousness, feel free to share this PDF without any changes to this file. This process is part of The Self-Aware Artist movement and was created by Michael Magrutsche. For updates go to: SelfAwareArt.com or questions art@selfawareart.com