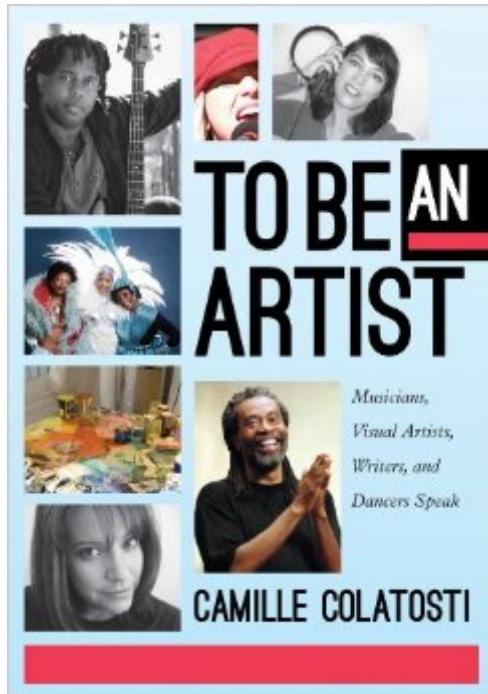


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# To Be An Artist: Musicians, Visual Artists, Writers, And Dancers Speak



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## Synopsis

To Be An Artist is a conversation with today's successful and prominent artists from a variety of disciplines musicians, visual artists, digital artists, poets, writers, activists and scholars. All of them discuss what it means to be an artist today, how they perceive their craft and their world, and the role of art in society. They agree that artists' creativity and success come not only from the intense focus on their craft, but, also, from their development of a worldview from their wider vision and understanding of the world in which they live. In *To Be an Artist*, author Camille Colatosti, head of the Liberal Arts program at Berklee College of Music--a premier college of contemporary music and, with 4,000 undergraduate students, one of the largest arts colleges in the United States--shares her first hand experience with educating young artists. In her more than 25 years of teaching at the college level and designing liberal arts programs for students planning specialized careers, she has seen how broad and general study helps young people develop and grow stronger in their chosen fields. At Berklee, she has watched aspiring artists, initially so focused on the study of the technical aspects of their craft, grow in their understanding of themselves and their world as they study philosophy, history, literature, mathematics, foreign languages and psychology. And, she has seen that aspiring artists, as a result of this growth, become more creative, more willing and able to use rules and technical aspects of art as a place of beginning, rather than a place of ending. She has seen aspiring artists gain the confidence they need to create something new. Featured artists include performance poet, dancer and yoga expert Caroline Harvey; singer-songwriters Janis Ian and Nona Hendryx; vocalist Bobby McFerrin; musician and composer Bill Banfield; painter Ellen Priest; painter and sculptor Greg Jaris; New York Times bestselling novelist Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez; New York Times bestselling nonfiction author Doug Stanton; dancer and choreographer Otis Sallid; performance poet Bruce George; bassist Victor Wooten; musical director Michael Bearden; photographer Henry Diltz; new media artist Lori Landay; and visual and sound artist China Blue. All of them emphasize a theme of performance poet Bruce George, co-founder of Def Poetry Jam on HBO: artists are the guides who take people from the individual to the social. Artists need to understand their world and this comes through study and lifelong learning. It is the constant desire to know, to learn, to inquire that facilitates and sustains an artist's career.

## Book Information

Paperback: 218 pages

Publisher: E L Kurdyla Publishing; 12th ed. edition (December 16, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1617510041

ISBN-13: 978-1617510045

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #113,055 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #196 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Artists, Architects & Photographers #890 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National #1130 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers

## Customer Reviews

To Be An Artist is a treasure for anyone wanting to learn who they are as an artist from other artists who have demonstrated success in their field. Colatosti's interviews gives us an intimate look at an eclectic group of artists - poets, fine artists, musicians, dancers, and more - and delves into their artistic journeys, what motivates and inspires them to create, and their varied perspectives on what it is to be an artist. It's a good read!

Being an artist isn't always easy, especially when you feel your art isn't seen or heard. This book along with all the artists views and advice, gives the gift of courage to take a step out into a bright New world filled with possibilities and hope. I recommend this to anyone who loves and understands Arts importance in the world.

I learned a little about where an artist may come from and what is now considered art. Each story came from a different place and broadened my outlook on artists.

This book is a great source of inspiration for any aspiring or professional artist. The interviews with major artists like Bobby McFerrin, Victoria Wooten and others, shed light into the philosophical aspects of being an artist, as well as the connection and relevance of artists to society, culture and the overall human experience.

Enjoyed reading this book for one of my classes at Berklee.

Very introspective

I found no good career or life advice in this book. The book is mostly "artists" talking about how successful they are. Lots of generic advice.

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