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## 18 Female Artists Give Advice to Women Starting Out in the Art World

"Try to get past the desire to have everyone like you," and more words of advice.

**Eileen Kinsella**, July 21, 2016

It's no secret that the extraordinarily competitive contemporary art world can be an especially tough place for female artists to navigate.

The gap in gender equality ranges from the not-so-subtle dominance of male artists at gallery and museum shows to the outright misogyny of an artist like Georg Baselitz, who has openly stated, "it's a fact that very few of them succeed," when referring to female artists. Amid much-hyped headlines about works that have broken the \$100-million mark at auction—10 artworks to date—not a single one is by a female artist.

"Unfortunately, there is no gender equity anywhere right now—and the art world is no exception," said Janice Sands, executive director of Pen and Brush, a nonprofit space started in 1893 that offers female writers and artists a space to create and show their work. "Many young women artists who are going out there and really trying to make a living at this may not be thinking about gender at all," said Sands. "They are thinking about whether they can find a gallery to show their art, get representation, sell their work."

With this often discouraging contemporary art world backdrop in mind, we sought the advice—and inspiration—of a group of established female artists to see what crucial wisdom and tips they would impart to the next generation.

Sands says: "This is the reality that exists, but we hope that we can do something about it."



Ebony G. Patterson. Courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago.

## **2. Ebony G. Patterson**

Being an artist is not a sprint, it's a marathon. Give yourself time; be patient. Maintain commitment and critical engagement in your practice. Work hard and work even harder when you are not satisfied. In those moments of displeasure you must allow the love of making to propel you forward.

***Related: The Disturbing Truth Buried Within Ebony G. Patterson's Lavish Tapestries***