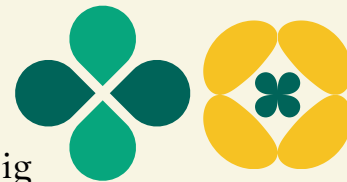


B.TODD.ARTS

# artist reading list

These are all gems from my studio library, and trust me, I'm a big believer in devouring books and turning knowledge into action.

Get them from your local bookstore or [B.Todd Amazon Storefront](#) (click here, then head to The Knowledge Hub).



## CREATIVE THINKING

- *The Book of Alchemy* by Suleika Jaouard. Creative prompts in every chapter for the writer, adapt these to painting.
- *The Creative Act: A Way of Being* by Rick Rubin. A spiritual roadmap for anyone seeking to live a more authentic, creative life
- *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use it for Life*, Twyla Tharp.
- *The Art of Play* by Herve Tullet. Images and inspirations from a life of radical creativity.
- *On Art and Mindfulness* with Enrique Martinex Celaya. A practical guide not only for artists but for anyone who wishes to live a mindful, productive life. Views & advice on art making.
- *How to be an Artist* by Jerry Saltz. Blunt, encouraging advice for artists to embrace their unique voice and work relentlessly.
- *The Fifth Season* by Mark Nepo. Explores creativity in the second half of life. Hint: This is when we are at our best
- *Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear* by Elizabeth Gilbert. Encourages readers to embrace curiosity and pursue their creative passions without fear, viewing creativity as a magical force available to all.

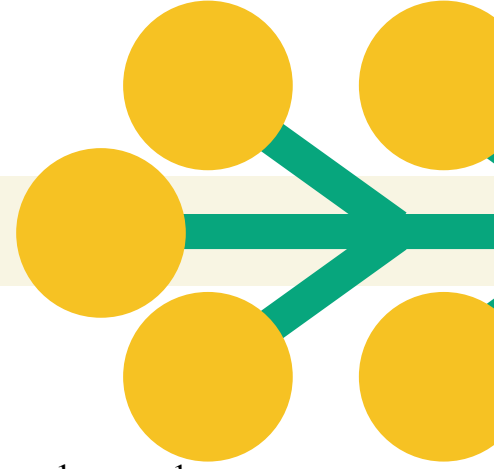
## EXPANDED THINKING

- *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life* by Dacher Keltner. Illuminates how even small encounters with beauty or vastness can evoke the impactful emotion of awe.
- *This is Strategy* and *This is Marketing* by Seth Godin. Marketing centers on empathy and connection to a chosen tribe, while strategy is about understanding systems and making purposeful choices for lasting impact.
- *That's Bold of You* by Case Kenny. How to thrive as your most vibrant, unique, and weird self.
- *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg. To build consistent creative practices.
- *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. To understand cognitive processes that influence creativity.
- *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F\*CK* by Mark Manson. The opposite of positive thinking, power comes in embracing our fears, failures, faults, and uncertainties and moving past them.
- *You Are a Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life* by Jen Sincero. Understand how to blast past what's holding you back, make serious changes, and start living the kind of life that once seemed impossible.
- *Daily Creative* by Todd Henry. A practical guide for staying prolific, brilliant, and healthy. 365 exercises and insights for creatives.
- *The Business of Being an Artist* by Daniel Grant. A classic resource that provides practical advice on the financial and legal aspects of being a working artist, from pricing and contracts to grants and taxes.
- *Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience* by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. Introduces the concept of "flow," a state of complete immersion in an activity, and explores how achieving it can enhance creativity and well-being.



## SKILL BUILDING

- *Drawing in the Present Tense* by Claire Gilman & Robert Malbert. Explores contemporary drawing's urgency, originality and imaginative power in representation and abstract art.
- *Drawing & Painting People: A Fresh Approach* by Emily Ball. Inspiring examples, insights and practical advice to being more expressive & adventurous. Principles for abstraction, too.
- *Interaction of Color: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition* by Josef Albers. Expanding the way colors are used and perceived in art.
- *Color: A Workshop for Artists & Designers* by David Hornug. Builds skills and understanding in the use of color with assignments.
- *The Art of Noticing* by Rob Walker. 131 ways to spark creativity, find inspiration and discover joy in the everyday.
- *Color Creates Light, Studies with Hans Hoffman* by Tina Dickey. The man, his work, and teachings from an era that ushered in the abstract expressionism movement.
- *The Artist's Journey: Bold Strokes to Spark Creativity* by Nancy Hillis, MD. Actionable strategies and profound insights for artists seeking to deepen their creative practice.
- *Expressive Drawing* by Steven Aimone. Guides artists in moving beyond literal representation to unlock deeper emotional and personal expression through drawing and mark making.





## ARTISTS

- *The Woman Who Painted the Seasons* by Penny Fields-Schneider. A biographic novel about Lee Krasner who had an eye for genius (husband Jackson Pollock) and a passion for art.
- *Restless Ambition* by Cathy Curtis. The first of the abstract expressionist women to break through, Grace was tough and driven doing what was needed to be an artist.
- *Basquiat* by Taschen. Monography of Basquiat's expressive strong voice and expressive style.
- *Ninth Street Women* by Mary Gabriel. Mixes critical insight with juicy story telling of the women of abstract expressionism.
- *Joan Mitchell* edited by Sarah Roberts and Katy Siegel. The images alone will take your breath away. A vital resource for understanding the life and work of the iconic abstract artist, Joan Mitchell.
- *The Essential Cy Twombly* edited by Nicola Del Roscio. More eye candy in this overview of Twombly's complex body of work of symbolic language of letters and words in pictorial poetry.

*\*Fair warning: If you're into abstract expressionism and contemporary art, you'll feel right at home with these. It's my kind of thing!*

