

Welcome to the second edition of ArticuLiaison...where I connect you with my very favorite resources for living a fulfilling, creative life!

Artella readers and members of the Articulation mailing list often ask for my advice and recommendations for various products. So, four times a year, I compile my very favorite "bests of the best" to share with you. I shared some spectacular resources in [ArticuLiaison, Volume 1](#), last Fall...and all of those still stand, and it's killing me not to include those old favorites in this list, but I made it my goal to offer a *different* selection of resources in this edition. I've divided the recommendations into 4 categories: Books, Business Resources, Spiritual/Personal Growth Resources, and Nuggets of Creative Inspiration. I hope these suggestions are helpful to you. If I may answer any specific questions about any of them, just sing out!

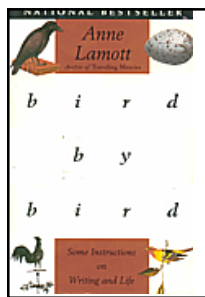
For some of these products, Artella participates as an affiliate, which means that we get a small commission for referrals made through these links. In these cases, by using these links to check the products out, you're supporting the waltz of words and art!

your Liaison to all things good and wonderful,

Marney Editor@ArtellaWordsAndArt.com

Section 1 : Books

Favorite Books About Writing



Bird by Bird

by Anne LaMott

This is a wonderful book about words, writing, and the writing life. LaMott's edgy, deeply spiritual, yet often irreverent style is so engaging and thought-provoking. After I read this book, I found myself making more connections with objects and people around me...and wanting to write about them.

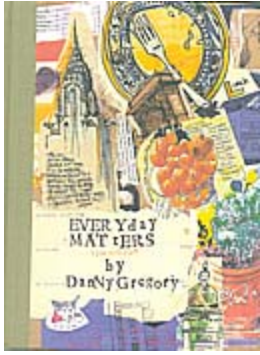


Writing Down the Bones: Living the Writer's Life

by Natalie Goldberg

There's no other book quite like this one, that really breaks down writing into a *practice*. Goldberg is one of the definitive voices when it comes to inspirational writing about writing, and this book is not to be missed. I actually first experienced this material in the audio book, read by Golderberg herself, and I found her spoken presentation of the book to be clear, focused, and very motivating.

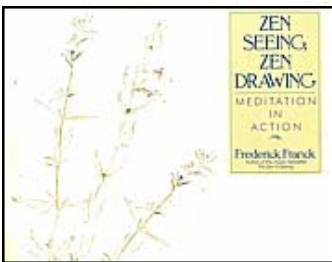
Favorite Books About Art



Everyday Matters

by Danny Gregory

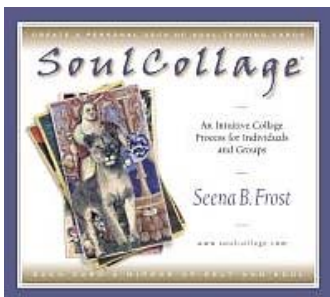
I just found this book about 2 weeks ago and it has already grabbed a special place in my heart, forever. Gregory discovered drawing as a way to truly *see* life and find reason in intense personal crisis, and he shares his journey in this book, through his words and art. I cannot properly explain the sensibility of this book. It is dramatically powerful and delightfully whimsical all at the same time. It made me look beyond the symbols around us, to really take what *is*.



Zen Seeing, Zen Drawing

by Frederick Franke

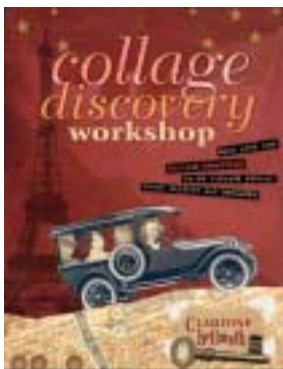
This is another wonderful book on seeing and drawing. Through essays and drawing exercises, Franke teaches us that drawing is a way to see, and not the other way around. His meditative drawings are, in and of themselves, as inspiring as his message.



SoulCollage

by Seena Frost

Frost pioneered the concept of creating a deck of personally meaningful Soul Collage cards, and then using the finished deck as a tool for understanding the self. In this book, she explains every step in the process, making it accessible to artists and non-artists alike. Filled with examples of Soul Collage cards, and powerful anecdotes about their use, this book sings with beauty on so many levels. Look for my interview with Seena Frost in e-Artella #e-5 later in February!

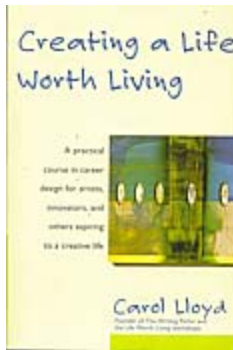


Collage Discovery Workshop

by Claudine Hellmuth

Hellmuth's book is great fun, and it is FULL of information and techniques for adding special effects to collages. The first part of the book presents step-by-step instructions for various effects. The second part of the book is quite unique, offering readers the chance to really learn the techniques by "working with" Hellmuth as she creates collages, hearing her thoughts as she makes decisions about composition, color, techniques, and so on. The photography of her work is to die for, and the step-by-step photos are excellent.

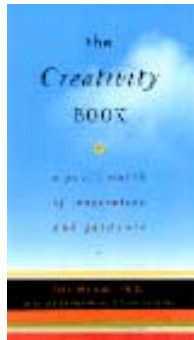
Favorite Creativity Books



[Creating a Life Worth Living](#)

by Carol Lloyd

This book is subtitled, “A practical course in career design for artists, innovators, and others aspiring to a creative life”, and that sums it up perfectly. This book takes us through unconventional career design, step by step, complete with comprehensive lists of possible alternative careers for creative people in all fields. The book’s resources are very impressive, but equally as helpful is Lloyd’s wonderful attitude about the career trajectory for creative people.



[The Creativity Book](#)

by Eric Maisel

This book offers a year’s worth of guidance in expanding creativity, offering two discussions/exercises per week, uniquely designed for both practicing “creatives” as well as those new to spreading their creativity wings. The exercises are affirming and motivating, and designed to promote creative risk-taking. And Maisel’s encouraging, wise voice creates a comforting undertone for the work.

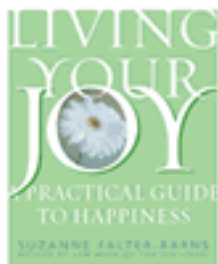
Favorite “Self-Hope” Books



[Comfort Secrets for Busy Women](#)

by Jennifer Loudon

This book offers priceless advice and encouragement for embracing a creative life, no matter how busy we are. Loudon presents a series of nurturing essays accompanied by spirit-awakening questions that really helped me get to the core of my individual path.

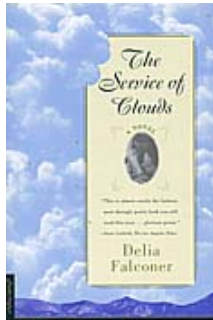


[Living Your Joy](#)

by Suzanne Falter-Barns

Subtitled, “A Practical Guide to Happiness”, this book is full of tangible advice on how to create the time, money, and extra energy to create the lives of our creative dreams. Falter-Barns goes beyond conceptual talk to present helpful, achievable actions that you can start right away. Several years ago, I took the e-course on which this book is based, and it was directly responsible for the launching of Artella.

Favorite Pleasure Reads



[The Service of Clouds](#)

by Delia Falconer

A really cool novel, totally out-of-the-box, totally ethereal, totally sumptuous. If you like getting lost in words, you'll love this book. Set in 1907 in the Blue Mountains of Australia, it offers a bittersweet love story surrounded by the passion of photography, science, and art.



[The Sensualist](#)

by Barbara Hodgson

Hodgson's illustrated novels are always wonderful, but this one in particular made my imagination soar. It's a suspenseful tale of lost and stolen art, lost and stolen bodies, lost and stolen love. I really enjoyed this journey, and the art interspersed within the writing makes it all the more provocative.

Section 2 : Business Resources

Favorite Marketing Tools



[AudioGenerator Web Audio Tool](#)

I am having a wonderful time with this tool, which allows me, and others, to make audio recordings to include on my Web site or in emails, just by making a toll-free phone call. I have found the uses for this product to be virtually unlimited, and I'm sure I haven't even thought of all of them, yet! If you're interested in adding audio to your Web site, to talk about your services, talk about your art, present testimonials, provide audio lessons, etc....check out this product!



[FusionQuest Affiliate Tracking](#)

I spent many, many hours researching affiliate tracking programs, and this was by far the best value I found. If you want to add an affiliate component to your Web site (where your affiliates can earn commissions for helping promote your products), take a look at FusionQuest. (And if you're interested, check out the Artella Affiliate program at www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com/affiliate.html).



[GetResponse Autoresponder](#)

Autoresponders have it rough right now, as more and more ISPs are adding filtering components to emails, in an attempt to block out spam. Still, GetResponse has many fewer problems with ISP blocks and filters than the majority of autoresponders out there, and the price truly is the best, in terms of the services included.



[Site Build It \(SBI\)](#)

SBI is the extraordinary product that I use for Artella's Web host, site builder, autoresponder and ezine mail server, and e-marketing mastermind. It's just one product that contains all of the above and it has surpassed my expectations on every single front. If you'd like to know more about SBI, just ask...I love talking about this product. (Okay, okay. I mentioned SBI in the first ArticuLiaison, but I just couldn't help myself. It's at the core of all I do!)

Favorite Business e-Zine



[The New Leaf by Molly Gordon](#)

This is an e-zine that I look forward to every week, and read word-for-word. Molly is a Life Coach whose specialty is helping independent business owners and creative people promote and market their work in an authentic way that feels good and is FUN. The New Leaf never fails to grace my inbox with gems of wisdom that carry me through each week.

Favorite Marketing Venue for Artists



[The Shoppes of Artella](#)

Just a bit of shameless promotion for *The Shoppes of Artella*...a venue for artists that is unlike any other! For a very low listing fee, artists get their own home page Web presence with a photo, bio, and all of their product descriptions. We take care of the rest -- marketing, promotion, credit card orders, customer service...so our artists can focus on their art! Check out our [Info for Artists](#) page for all the details.

Section 3 : Spiritual/Personal Growth Resources

Favorite Spiritual Program



LEAP (Life Energy Alignment Process)

I learned about LEAP and its founder, Julie Henderling, through my experience with the [Prosperity Partnership Program](#), and it has been the perfect “next step” in my spiritual journey. LEAP offers a unique body-mind-spirit integration that has supported powerful changes in my life. There are lots of free resources on the LEAP Web site, including audio recordings of some sample LEAP sessions, free eBooks, exercises, and more.

Favorite Daily Inspiration



TUT (Totally Unique Thoughts)

There’s no better way to start the day than to get a note from the Universe in my email inbox! In addition to offering all kinds of inspirational products, TUT’s daily “Note from the Universe” emails are totally free and potentially life-changing (click “Take the Oath” to sign up). Be sure to explore all of the inspiring links on this site!

Section 4 : Nuggets of Inspiration

Favorite Blog



“The Wish Jar Journal” by Keri Smith

Keri Smith, author of the new book, “Living Out Loud”, shares her thoughts, musings, experiences, and art in this great Blog (fyi: “Blog” is short for “Web Log”). It’s always a treat to read a new installment.

Favorite e-Zine



[Daily Planet from BenevolentPlanet.com](#)

This great weekly e-zine suggests things you can do in the course of one day — in even 5 minutes — to make a difference on the planet, right away. I have found this e-zine to offer unique, indispensable guidance for what I can actually DO...things I wouldn't have even thought of! Take these simple actions every day or a few times a week — the sense of gratification you'll feel may very well transform your life.

Favorite Art Zines



[I.Q.](#)

I love this zine, published by Eliza Badurina! I.Q. stands for “In(ner) Question” and the zine explores artmaking and inspiration, as well as personal growth, refilling your “well”, and designing your own destiny.



[Collage Cat](#)

This zine, published by Carla Naron, focuses on mixed media art, offering projects, articles, and yummy art! Scroll down on the home page to see the links to all the Collage Cat pages!



[Dog-Eared Magazine](#)

Kerrie Carbury's zine on book arts is full of information, projects, and interviews with top book arts experts, all in a very professional and highly inspiring format. There are also tons of other products she offers from her Web site, including fantastic fonts that Artella readers will no doubt recognize... :-)