

Artists' Advocate

8 Comebacks to the Uninformed Things People Say When They Find Out You're an Artist!

When will you ever use that?

Understand Art Worlds

Actually, the visual and media arts and design employ more people than any other field in New York State and those jobs are expected to grow by 30% by 2030.

You draw so well, you must be SO good at Pictionary!

Observe

Good drawings take careful observation of the world around us, Pictionary is quick drawings with symbols. Everyone can be good at both with time and practice!

You just make things look pretty.

Reflect

Actually, to make something you think is "pretty" I have to reflect upon what our culture values and prioritizes as beautiful, so I've had to study history, culture, and people to do that.

I don't know where you get all your ideas?!

Envision

Actually, I use all kinds of strategies like research, brainstorming, and keeping a sketchbook to develop my ideas, there are so many ways to come up with lots of options to consider.

I don't understand art, most of it looks like my 4-year old could make it.

Express

Art looks a lot of different ways. That's what is so powerful about it; there's room for everyone to express their ideas and point of view. Art helps us build empathy and respect for diversity.

Can you make me __ for my __ birthday? I'll pay you \$20.

Engage & Persist

My paintings take 20 hours to create. I'm thoughtful about audience, materials, and composition. The minimum wage in NY is \$15/hr. At that rate my painting would be worth at least \$300.

It must be so much fun to play with crayons and paints all day!

Stretch & Explore

You're right, sometimes we do look like we're playing in the art studio, but when I'm experimenting with supplies I'm discovering what they can do so I can decide how best to use them in my work.

Wow, you're so talented, I can't draw a stick figure/straight line!

Develop Craft

Actually I've spent hundreds of hours practicing skills like drawing and perspective, just like you've spent hundreds of hours learning to be an expert in your area.

