

WE ARE NOT MAKING ART TODAY

with A. Kendra Greene



Today we are trying VERY HARD not to make art. No matter how much you want to. Forget about it. Don't do it. Not today.

We're going to have to be careful. For instance, if you stop to consider what you're making and it is interesting or powerful or mysterious or strange, be careful: it might be art. If it reminds you of a feeling or shows you something surprising or you or makes you look at something familiar in a new way—it is time to stop because it is VERY POSSIBLE art may be happening.

And we are not making art today.

- 1. We will need a NOT ART material.** That will be good. Like socks. Or junk mail. Or sticks just lying on the ground. Have you found something? Is it definitely NOT ART? Good.
- 2. Now see if you can get quite a few of those things.** Like A LOT of socks. Or a whole pile of junk mail. Or all the sticks or dead leaves or acorn tops you and a friend can find outside and put in one place. We don't want to leave any room for art things to sneak in.
- 3. Now we are going to be STRICT.** We are going to have NO FUN. We are going to make RULES and put all the NOT ART things in a line. Maybe the rule is they go from little to big. Or light to heavy. Or smooth to crinkly, or plain to patterned, or all the way from green to yellow **to orange to red.**
- 4.** Maybe instead of a straight line, make it a curve. Maybe keep curling that curve into a spiral. Or else change the pattern so instead of building up in one direction, it alternates, like the way big-little-big-little does. **You can make a bunch of rules, if you want to. Just be sure to stop before you MAKE ART.**

You could stop right now. You might not want to risk it. **But if you're brave, maybe take a picture. Maybe draw what it looks like. Maybe describe it in words, but be careful you don't write a poem, because that IS ART, too.** Maybe just show it to someone—but first tell them that it cannot be framed or sold to a museum, or even given a little sign that says who you are and what you call this and when you made it and what you used to make it.



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