

## **Vanessa Daou's Essentials for the Artist:**

1. Hone your work ethic and revel in your discipline
2. Always feel the pulse of society
3. Never lose your sense of wonder and awe of Nature
4. Read books, blogs, and e-zines from all fields, everything from science journals to scrap booking
5. Learn the roots of words, their histories, get the condensed Oxford English Dictionary
6. Read dictionaries in other languages, write poems in languages that you don't know
7. Draw anything in order to understand it better
8. Mark up your books, take notes, record your first impressions in the margins
9. Keep a notebook of thoughts, observations, sketches, meanderings
10. Read poetry and philosophy that instigates & intimidates you: John Ashbery, Allen Ginsberg, Kant, & Kierkegaard
11. Learn from other artists who don't share your vision, voice, or aesthetic
12. Learn to love modern art
13. Use Babel Fish and YouTube as research and creative tools, dig deeply into language and history
14. Always try to reach those who cannot see or hear
15. Aim to move those whose hearts have been hardened
16. Stop yourself when you are jaded or too confident
17. Be as prepared for failure as you are for greatness
18. Sometimes lower your aims, goals, and expectations
19. Chose solitude over solidarity
20. Leave some things unfinished
21. Love the art you are in
22. Find your voice and dare to use it