



ARTWORK ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Occasionally, we are blessed with a piece of artwork that just “happens” in perfect flow! No wrestling, no getting stuck, now rework, no “woops, I didn’t mean to do THAT!”

When a piece is not “working” or turning out as we hoped, there could be several possible causes. Do you ever find yourself in one or more of these places?

- A pre-conceived expectation is not achieved
- The piece is just “Not There Yet” and you need a jumpstart in how to move forward
- Perhaps the artwork feels like it is “going off course”
- The original design is just not working now
- Elements don't have harmonious/supportive relationships
- Attempted too many things in one piece or one step
- Finding it unclear what the “STAR” is and what makes up the “SUPPORTING CAST”

You are in great company! We ALL go through this and even the most disciplined and skilled will find themselves needing to recalibrate exactly where they are going with a piece!

Learning to honestly assess what we create AS we create is a valuable skill in our creative toolbox! This practice facilitates making any needed changes in direction or course corrections along the way... You don’t have to wait until the artwork has “gone off the rails” to stop, assess, thoughtfully consider your next step, and capture any discoveries and lessons learned along the way!

FIRST! Let’s focus on what IS working well, both in the artwork itself and in your experience creating it. As you collect more insights you may find clues affirming your personal creative voice in what and how you create! Here are some prompts to get you thinking.

What IS working?		
The Artwork	What IS Working?	
	Why do you LIKE it?	
	Could you do again, if so how?	
	Strongest Design Elements?	
	Strongest Techniques?	
	Any Lessons Learned?	
The Experience	What was EASY?	
	What DID you ENJOY?	
	What felt NATURAL?	
	What did you DISCOVER?	



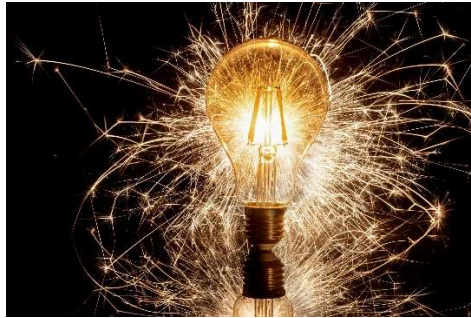
Now, let's be "real" with ourselves and think through what IS NOT working, both in the artwork and in our experience creating it. This is not an exercise in self judgement and condemnation! We want an honest assessment to identify those areas to fix, build skills in, find our groove, and discard the unhelpful! Here are some prompts to get you thinking.

What is NOT working?	
The Artwork	What ISN'T working?
	Why does it BOTHER you?
	Is it Fixable, if so how?
	Weakest Design Elements?
	Weakest Techniques used?
	Any Lessons Learned?
The Experience	What was DIFFICULT?
	What did you NOT ENJOY?
	What felt UNNATURAL?
	What did you DISCOVER?



NOW! You have identified what is and is not working in your piece. Dig into your toolbox of design principles, techniques, materials, methods, etc. and brainstorm possible next steps you could take. If you are applying Intention-Based Decision Making, ensure your ideas all align with that guiding intention you declared!

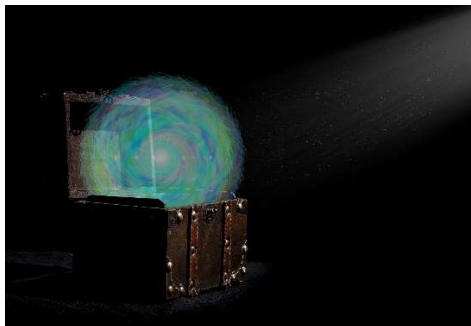
Brainstorm Possible Next Steps!	
1	
2	
3	



OKAY! Looking at the list you brainstormed for viable, intention-aligned next steps, which are you going to ***select and implement NEXT?***

What is NEXT?

Any of the ideas you still like but choose not to use at this time, be sure to capture in your Idea Repository to apply later in the process on this piece if applicable or for another piece of artwork at another time.



I hope the above process of assessing your artwork as you go is helpful and you can adapt any or all of it into your own creative practice! Use this as a guide to take notes in your preferred modality as you work.

If you like the tables format in this handout, you can print out the ARTWORK ASSESSMENT FORM on the next page, of the tables above without the text so you can print out and use more easily.

This is followed by a one-page ARTWORK ASSESSMENT PROMPTS cheat sheet for you to print out and refer to.



ARTWORK ASSESSMENT FORM

What IS working?

The Artwork	What IS Working?	
	Why do you LIKE it?	
	Could you do again, if so how?	
	Strongest Design Elements?	
	Strongest Techniques?	
	Any Lessons Learned?	
The Experience	What was EASY?	
	What DID you ENJOY?	
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	What did you DISCOVER?	

What is NOT working?

The Artwork	What ISN'T working?	
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	Is it Fixable, if so how?	
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	Any Lessons Learned?	
The Experience	What was DIFFICULT?	
	What did you NOT ENJOY?	
	What felt UNNATURAL?	
	What did you DISCOVER?	

Brainstorm Possible Next Steps!

1	
2	
3	
4	

What is NEXT?

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ARTWORK ASSESSMENT PROMPTS

What IS working?	
<i>The Artwork</i>	What IS Working?
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	Could you do again, if so how?
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	Strongest Techniques?
	Any Lessons Learned?
<i>The Experience</i>	What was EASY?
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What is NOT working?	
<i>The Artwork</i>	What ISN'T working?
	Why does it BOTHER you?
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	Any Lessons Learned?
<i>The Experience</i>	What was DIFFICULT?
	What did you NOT ENJOY?
	What felt UNNATURAL?
	What did you DISCOVER?

Brainstorm Possible Next Steps!

Decide What is NEXT!