

Ask Eve

Dear Eve,

I always dreamed about my daughter marrying a doctor, lawyer, or a successful businessman. But now she has fallen in love with an artist! I am worried about her financial and emotional future. I mean, how stable can he really be? He looks normal; he looks like he could be a doctor, but yet he isn't. I am so worried and confused. I don't want to interfere, but I only have her best interest at heart.

Sincerely,

Holding on to the hope.
Seattle, Washington

Dear Holding on to the Hope,

It seems as though your first inclination is to be worried about what you want, and not what your daughter wants. You should be asking yourself, "does my daughter seem happy?" and if so, is there really a problem? Despite what many may believe, one can be an artist and still be responsible. And believe it or nor, not all artists are mentally unstable. Haven't you heard of the new professionalization of the artist? Open any art magazine and you will read a critic, artist, or curator lamenting the new professionalism of the arts. Most blame this on graduate school and artists becoming "masters" of the arts. For you, mother, this could be a positive thing. Your daughter's boyfriend is probably a well-educated lad who is ambitious, and in many ways treats his career similarly to that of a lawyer or doctor. Plus, art is a hot commodity these day, if the market stays on fire, he has a higher potential to be rich!

Have faith in your daughter's choices and keep her best interests at heart, not your own.

Dear Eve,

Lately, I have had a desire to make some art. I never thought I could be an artist, but my friend's friend is a painter, and recently I have thought I could do that. What should I do? I was thinking of taking a class at the local Y or watching some shows on PBS, What would you recommend?

Thanks for your help,

Creatively challenged.
Queens, New York

Dear Creatively Challenged,

The first thing you need to know is that art comes from within, so if you are having these urges you are on the right track. However, I think you should call this feeling that you could paint your friend's paintings "inspiration". You should realize this artist has spent a long time learning how to make those paintings and what you are seeing is the result of lots of hard work. For this reason, it is a good idea to take a class and/or watch some PBS shows. Since you live in NYC, you have the opportunity to visit world-renowned museums and galleries, let these places guide you.

Dear Eve,

I've had this painting since the early 80's, and have recently been keeping it in the closet. I would like to hang it up in my house, however I feel it looks too dated. Is there something I can do to make it more contemporary? Can I paint over it or just add a few strokes?

Thanks for your input,

Coming out of the closet.
Montreal, Québec, Canada

Dear Coming out of the closet,

Don't you know the 80's are back in style? I take it this isn't your own piece. I'm sure if you were to hang it on your wall, within just a few days, you would be loving it all over again. If I were you, I would wait to paint over it or add a few strokes of paint (either should work). At least a few years anyway, until another decade has come into vogue.



AskEve at Gmail.com