



Letters to a Young Artist: Building a Life in Art

By Julia Cameron



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In the tradition of Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet*, an original and inspiring work from the bestselling author of *The Artist's Way*.

Each month, Julia Cameron receives hundreds of letters and e-mails from people around the world who have read her classic work on developing creativity, *The Artist's Way*, and who long to engage in further dialogue with her.

This book provides Julia's thousands of admirers with just that intimacy and illumination. Written in the form of correspondence from a wise, more experienced artist to a young artist who is full of turbulent self-doubt, *Letters to a Young Artist* echoes the many conversations Cameron has with all of the artists whose lives she has touched with *The Artist's Way*.

In these haunting and eloquent letters, the writer answers questions that are central to the artist's journey: How do I know that I am truly an artist? How can I find encouragement? How can I keep moving despite my fear? A rare window into the heart of the creative process, *Letters to a Young Artist* is an inspired volume from this leading authority on creativity and art.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

It's a good thing the young poet to whom Rilke famously wrote didn't have novelist, playwright and poet Cameron (*The Artist's Way*, etc.) for a mentor, or he would have given up on the idea of being a poet. Smug, arrogant and unimaginative, Cameron's combative letters ("You might enjoy Plexiglas cubes for tables for all I know") reveal little in the way of helpful instruction for a budding writer. Addressing herself to an imaginary young writer who seems like a caricature ("wearing black makes [X] feel more like an artist"), Cameron counsels that "creativity is like electricity": the artist merely plugs into the current and acts as a conduit. In this way, she observes, "a lot of masterpieces were made in passing" when the artist was less worried about the quality of the art than getting it down on canvas or paper. Yet she simultaneously insists on the importance of craft. Midway through their correspondence, she declares simplistically, "it is fun to make art." These letters can never substitute for the deeper insights of Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet*, Mario Vargas Llosa's *Letters to a Young Novelist* or even Bret Lott's new and insightful *Before We Get Started: A Practical Memoir of the Writer's Life*. Agent, Elizabeth Winnick at McIntosh & Otis. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Cameron approximates the one-on-one mentoring she provides via written correspondence in this epistolary guide, but it is a one-on-one minus one since she presents her responses to letters from "X," but not X's letters. She does, of course, frame her replies so that the general idea of the inquiries and the aspiring artist's concerns are clear. And her fans will no doubt flock to this treatise as much as they have to her past titles, happy to hear more of her "Just do it!" dictum, and her advice to lay "a certain amount of track" every day. It must be said that Cameron's signature bluntness and no-nonsense approach do veer toward scornfulness and mockery here, which can be a turnoff, but mostly she is courteous and generous to X, whose blossoming success includes securing a grant, the sort of recognition Cameron's readers seek. *Whitney Scott* Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

About the Author

Award-winning writer Julia Cameron is the author of twenty books, fiction and nonfiction, including *The Artist's Way*, *Walking in This World*, *The Vein of Gold*, *The Right to Write*, and *The Sound of Paper*, her bestselling works on the creative process. A novelist, playwright, songwriter, and poet, she has extensive credits in theater, film, and television.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louise Hacker:

As people who live in the modest era should be update about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which one you should start with. This Letters to a Young Artist: Building a Life in Art is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Irene Howe:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book Letters to a Young Artist: Building a Life in Art it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

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