

Visual Arts: *Oblique Strategies* Dartboard

Oblique Strategies is a set of cards that was created by musician Brian Eno to use when stuck. If you don't know what to do next, close your eyes, poke your finger into the middle of the page, and follow the advice.

- 1 A line has two sides
- 2 A very small object. Its center
- 3 Abandon desire
- 4 Abandon normal instructions
- 5 Accept advice
- 6 Adding on
- 7 Always give yourself credit for having more than personality
- 8 Always the first steps
- 9 Ask people to work against their better judgement
- 10 Ask your body
- 11 Balance the consistency principle with the inconsistency principle
- 12 Be dirty
- 13 Be extravagant
- 14 Be less critical
- 15 Breathe more deeply
- 16 Bridges — build — burn
- 17 Cascades
- 18 Change ambiguities to specifics
- 19 Change instrument roles
- 20 Change nothing and continue consistently
- 21 Change specifics to ambiguities
- 22 Children — speaking — singing
- 23 Cluster analysis
- 24 Consider different fading systems
- 25 Consider transitions
- 26 Consult other sources -- promising -- unpromising
- 27 Convert a melodic element into a rhythmic element
- 28 Courage!
- 29 Cut a vital connection
- 30 Decorate, decorate
- 31 Destroy nothing; Destroy the most important thing
- 32 Discard an axiom
- 33 Disciplined self-indulgence
- 34 Discover your formulas and abandon them
- 35 Display your talent
- 36 Distort time
- 37 Do nothing for as long as possible
- 38 Do something boring
- 39 Do something sudden, destructive and unpredictable
- 40 Do the last thing first
- 41 Do the washing up
- 42 Do the words need changing?
- 43 Do we need holes?
- 44 Don't avoid what is easy
- 45 Don't break the silence
- 46 Don't stress one thing more than another
- 47 Emphasize differences
- 48 Emphasize repetitions
- 49 Emphasize the flaws
- 50 Faced with a choice, do both
- 51 Feed the recording back out of the medium
- 52 Fill every beat with something
- 53 Find a safe part and use it as an anchor
- 54 From nothing to more than nothing
- 55 Get your neck massaged
- 56 Ghost echoes
- 57 Give the name away
- 58 Give way to your worst impulse
- 59 Go outside. Shut the door.
- 60 Go slowly all the way round the outside
- 61 Go to an extreme, come part way back
- 62 How would someone else do it?
- 63 How would you have done it?
- 64 Idiot glee
- 65 Imagine the piece as a set of disconnected events
- 66 In total darkness, or in a very large room, very quietly
- 67 Infinitesimal gradations
- 68 Intentions -- nobility of -- humility of -- credibility of
- 69 Into the impossible
- 70 Is it finished?
- 71 Is something missing?
- 72 Is the intonation correct?
- 73 Is the style right?
- 74 It is quite possible (after all)
- 75 It is simply a matter of work
- 76 Just carry on
- 77 Left channel, right channel, center channel
- 78 Listen to the quiet voice
- 79 Look at the order in which you do things
- 80 Lost in useless territory
- 81 Lowest common denominator
- 82 Magnify the most difficult details
- 83 Make a blank valuable by putting it in an exquisite frame
- 84 Make it more sensual
- 85 Make what's perfect more human
- 86 Mechanize something idiosyncratic
- 87 Move towards the unimportant
- 88 Mute and continue
- 89 Not building a wall; making a brick
- 90 Once the search has begun, something will be found
- 91 Only a part, not the whole
- 92 Only one element of each kind
- 93 Openly resist change
- 94 (Organic) machinery
- 95 Put in earplugs
- 96 Question the heroic
- 97 Reevaluation (a warm feeling)
- 98 Remember quiet evenings
- 99 Remove a restriction
- 100 Repetition is a form of change
- 101 Retrace your steps
- 102 Reverse
- 103 Short circuit (example: a man eating peas with the idea that they will improve his virility shovels them straight into his lap)
- 104 Simple subtraction
- 105 Slow preparation, fast execution
- 106 Spectrum analysis
- 107 State the problem as clearly as possible
- 108 Take a break
- 109 Take away the important parts
- 110 Tape your mouth
- 111 The inconsistency principle
- 112 The most easily forgotten thing is the most important
- 113 The tape is now the music
- 114 Think -- inside the work -- outside the work
- 115 Think of the radio
- 116 Tidy up
- 117 Trust in the you of now
- 118 Try faking it
- 119 Turn it upside down
- 120 Twist the spine
- 121 Use "unqualified" people
- 122 Use an old idea
- 123 Use an unacceptable color
- 124 Use cliches
- 125 Use fewer notes
- 126 Use filters
- 127 Use something nearby as a model
- 128 Use your own ideas
- 129 Voice your suspicions
- 130 Water
- 131 What are the sections sections of? Imagine a caterpillar moving
- 132 What are you really thinking about just now?
- 133 What context would look right?
- 134 What is the reality of the situation?
- 135 What is the simplest solution?
- 136 What mistakes did you make last time?
- 137 What to increase? What to reduce? What to maintain?
- 138 What would your closest friend do?
- 139 What wouldn't you do?
- 140 When is it for?
- 141 Where is the edge?
- 142 Which parts can be grouped?
- 143 Work at a different speed
- 144 Would anyone want it?
- 145 You are an engineer
- 146 You can only make one dot at a time
- 147 Your mistake was a hidden intention