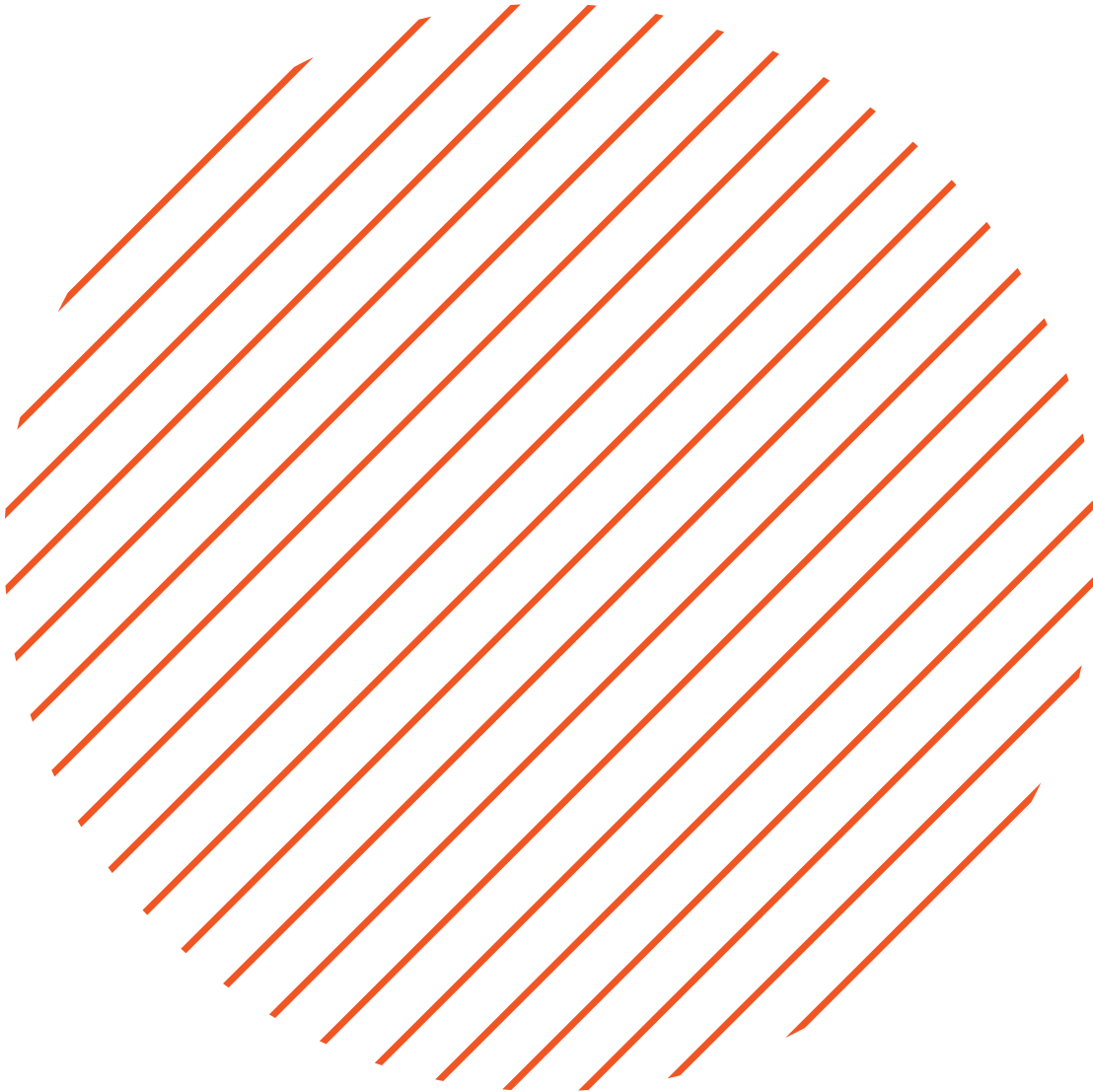


Publication



Shumka Centre for  
Creative Entrepreneurship

# Typologies of Independent Art Practices



# Typologies of Independent Art Practices

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This document maps a variety of approaches to a professional art practice, which includes looking at a variety of collaborators, infrastructural needs and ways of making money. Most artists cross frequently between these categories and/or maintain a hybrid practice.

This overview is intended to help you think about who might be part of your professional network, who to start to build relationships with, what resources you may need to assemble to establish a practice outside of school, and how you will generate some income from your work.

# Material Practice

	Critical	Public Art	Commercial
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Studio Practice</li> <li>• Exhibition Preparation and Installation</li> <li>• Residencies</li> <li>• Proposal Writing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal Writing</li> <li>• Site Research</li> <li>• Studio Practice</li> <li>• Collaboration with fabrication and design teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studio Practice</li> <li>• Direct participation in selling work</li> <li>• Marketing or self-promotion</li> </ul>
Ways of Making Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Grants</li> <li>• Artist Fees</li> <li>• Commissions</li> <li>• Art Sales (through gallery representation)</li> <li>• Teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Fees</li> <li>• Commissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Sales (through gallery or vendor representation)</li> <li>• Commissions</li> <li>• Selling artwork in the form of a product</li> <li>• Teaching</li> <li>• Brand collaborations</li> </ul>
Key Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curators</li> <li>• Artist Peers</li> <li>• Commercial Gallerists</li> <li>• Artist Run Centres</li> <li>• Festivals</li> <li>• Writers and Critics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Fabricators</li> <li>• Engineers</li> <li>• Architects and Designers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Peers</li> <li>• Studio Operators</li> <li>• Vendors, Festivals, Events, Markets</li> </ul>
Core Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Studio Space</li> <li>• Administrative Support</li> <li>• Financial Predictability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Support</li> <li>• Production Planning and Project Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Studio Space</li> <li>• Administrative Knowledge</li> <li>• Marketing and Sales Knowledge</li> </ul>

## Non-Material Practice

	Critical	Social Practice	Artist-led Initiatives
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Exhibition Preparation and Installation</li> <li>• Residencies</li> <li>• Proposal Writing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Organizing (events, festivals, symposia, workshops)</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Proposal Writing</li> <li>• Residencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Organizing (events, festivals, symposia, workshops)</li> </ul>
Ways of Making Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Grants</li> <li>• Artist Fees</li> <li>• Commissions</li> <li>• Teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Fees (festivals, residencies, public art)</li> <li>• Project Grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist Fees (festivals, residencies, public art)</li> <li>• Project Grants</li> </ul>
Key Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curators</li> <li>• Artist Peers</li> <li>• Artist Run Centres</li> <li>• Festivals</li> <li>• Writers, Critics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Non-Profit Orgs.</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Artist Peers</li> <li>• Curators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varies</li> </ul>
Core Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Support</li> <li>• Financial Predictability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Context</li> <li>• Organizing Knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production Needs (equipment, venues, permissions)</li> <li>• Administrative Knowledge and Support</li> <li>• Marketing and Promotion Knowledge and Support</li> </ul>

## Appendix

This document is based on a topic presented as part of SOCS 411, Professional Practice for Self-Driven Projects, delivered by [Laura Kozak](#). These resources are produced by the Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship at Emily Carr University of Art + Design with the generous support of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training.

[Laura Kozak](#) is a design researcher and cultural organizer. As a Research Associate with Emily Carr University of Art + Design's Shumka Centre, she has played a key role in advocating and advancing opportunities for emerging artists and designers in British Columbia. A core interest in collaborative design of the urban environment, grounded in values of stewardship, care, incremental change and place-based knowledge, informs her research and teaching practice. Past publications include *Superimpositions* (SFU, 2019), *Infinite Mappings*, with Rebecca Bayer (Access, 2015) and 'Open Source City', in *Now Urbanism: The Future City is Here* (Routledge, 2014). Laura holds a Master of Advanced Studies in Architecture (UBC, 2012) and teaches in the Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies at Emily Carr. She is President of 221A Artist Run Centre Society.

[The Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship](#) launched in 2018 to create programs and partnerships that help artists and designers realize their ideas in the world. The Centre is a place where creative practitioners can find the community, knowledge, and resources they need to launch, fund, and organize projects across the spectrum of contemporary art and design activities- products, projects, curatorial initiatives, platforms, companies, organizations, and more. We believe that tactical support specifically designed for the needs of artists and designers is the first step in achieving a systemic change to empower creative people. The Centre is operated by Living Labs.



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