

Be Brave. Be Experimental. Be Tough.

For this series, BOMB asked artists and writers to list ten pieces of advice that reflect on how they approach their practice and process.

BY AMY SILLMAN

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1. don't be a WIMP. (be brave. be experimental. be tough.)
2. don't be a HACK. (embrace change. keep developing. don't crank out the same old shit for money.)
3. don't be a PUTZ. (do what you want and need to do as an artist in your own time frame, not what galleries, curators, art historians, or other "authority figures" tell you to do.)
4. don't be a FAIR-WEATHER FRIEND. (love your friends and family. be generous with everything you have. get rid of jealousy.)
5. don't be an EGOMANIAC. (be grateful for everything good you have in your life.)

6. don't be a CONFORMIST. (be a radical. do things for love, for invention, for curiosity, for soul, not for money or competition. stop comparing yourself to others.)
7. don't be a SCHMUCK. (be respectful to people who work. give generously to others in all stages and positions of life.)
8. don't be a SUCK-UP. (be independent. be critical. tell it like you see it. learn from criticism.)
9. don't be a PUSHOVER. (be a serious artist. be discerning. go at your own pace. the artist has one important power: to say NO; use it.)
10. don't be SIMPLISTIC. (be very complicated and appreciate that in others. go deeper. be a weirdo. do your thing.)
11. don't be COY or PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE. (say what you think. don't be resentful.)
12. don't be LAZY. (be intense about it, whatever that means.)
13. don't be an IDIOT. (keep learning. be a reader. study everything. think more deeply. question what you learn. be discerning.)
14. don't be a SOURPUSS. (have a sense of humor and depend on it.)

Amy Sillman is a painter who also writes, makes zines, animations, and installations, teaches, curates, and lives mostly in New York City.