

Craft and Fine Artists

SOC: 27-1012 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

<div>\$56,260</div> <div>Median Salary</div>	<div>52,000</div> <div>Employment</div>	<div>+0.0%</div> <div>Growth Rate</div>
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.2/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Artistic ability, Business skills, Creativity, Customer-service skills, Dexterity, Interpersonal skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Craft and Fine Artists are creative professionals who produce **original works of art for aesthetic, expressive, or functional purposes**. They use a wide range of materials and techniques to create pieces such as paintings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, illustrations, and mixed-media works. Their art may be displayed in galleries, sold to collectors, used in commercial settings, or commissioned for public and private spaces.

This career is well suited for individuals who are highly creative, self-motivated, and passionate about visual expression and craftsmanship.

What Do Craft and Fine Artists Do?

Craft and fine artists develop concepts and transform ideas into finished works through skilled artistic processes. Their responsibilities combine creativity, technical execution, and often business management.

Common responsibilities include:

- Developing artistic concepts and themes
- Selecting tools, materials, and techniques
- Creating original artworks by hand or with digital tools
- Refining and finishing pieces to professional standards
- Presenting and displaying work for sale or exhibition
- Managing commissions, deadlines, and client requests
- Maintaining portfolios and documenting creative work

Types of Craft and Fine Artists

This occupation includes a wide range of artistic disciplines:

- Fine Artists: Create paintings, drawings, prints, or sculptures focused on artistic expression.
- Craft Artists: Produce functional or decorative items such as ceramics, glassware, textiles, or jewelry.
- Illustrators: Create visual imagery for books, media, or advertising.
- Multimedia Artists: Combine traditional and digital techniques.
- Public or Installation Artists: Design large-scale or site-specific works.
- Independent or Commissioned Artists: Create custom work for clients or institutions.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Craft and fine artists blend creativity with technical skill and discipline.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

Craft and fine artists follow varied educational paths:

- Bachelor's Degree (optional): In fine arts, visual arts, or a related field
- Studio Training and Workshops: Skill development in specific media
- Apprenticeships or Mentorships: Learning from experienced artists
- Self-Directed Practice: Independent creation and experimentation
- Ongoing Skill Development: Exploring new techniques and materials

Formal education can be helpful but strong portfolios are often more important than degrees.

Where Do Craft and Fine Artists Work?

Artists work in a wide variety of creative and commercial environments:

- Art Studios or Home Workspaces
- Galleries and Museums
- Design Firms and Creative Agencies
- Publishing, Media, and Entertainment Industries
- Public Art Programs and Cultural Institutions
- Self-Employment and Freelance Work

Work environments are often flexible and project-based.

How Much Do Craft and Fine Artists Earn?

Earnings vary widely based on reputation, market demand, and sales volume:

- Emerging Artists: Often supplement income with related work
- Established Artists: May earn more through exhibitions, commissions, or sales
- Commercial or Licensed Artists: Can generate income through reproductions or contracts

Income is often variable and project-based.

Is This Career Difficult?

Craft and fine art careers are creatively rewarding but financially and emotionally challenging. Artists must balance creative expression with self-promotion, business management, and uncertainty. Persistence, adaptability, and continuous skill development are key to long-term success.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Craft or Fine Artist?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Are deeply motivated by creative expression
- Enjoy working independently on long-term projects
- Are comfortable with self-employment or freelance work
- Value craftsmanship and originality
- Are willing to continuously refine your artistic voice

How to Prepare Early

- Practice drawing and visual design regularly
- Experiment with multiple art forms and materials
- Study art history and contemporary artists
- Build a strong portfolio of original work
- Learn basic business and marketing concepts

Craft and fine artists enrich culture and society by transforming ideas, emotions, and materials into meaningful visual works that inspire, communicate, and endure.