Artists U Core Principles

Success will either happen to me or it won’t.
I am building an artistic life, not an artistic career, step by step, thinking long-term and staying responsive to changing circumstances.

No one cares about my work.
By offering a strong artistic voice as widely as possible, I give citizens a chance to come close to my work.

I am competing with other artists for scarce and finite resources.
The success of other artists helps me, and mutual artistic support is worth more than money.

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My skills are needed in the world.

The future is scary and I don’t have time to think about it.
With limited, regular planning, I work toward the art, the values, and the life that I believe in.

What I do is frivolous and I am lucky if I get paid for it.
We are highly trained professionals, and the work we do, collectively, is essential in our culture. My expectation is to be compensated fully and fairly. I have the freedom do non- or low-paying work that is rewarding in other ways.

I never have enough time or enough money to make my work perfect.
With the time and resources we have for each project, we will do the best we can.

I have to do everything I possibly can for every project, even if it kills me.
No opportunity or work of art is worth the well-being of the people involved. I can say no.

I have to work all the time, with no time off.
I schedule down time in my day, my week, and my year, essential to my well-being and artistic growth.

No one cares about art/performance/music.
The world is hungry for noncommercial experiences, for moments of focus, connection, and insight instead of the profit-driven distraction provided by the entertainment industry.

There is so little funding/presenting/touring/press, and the more that others get, the less there will be for me.
The success of other artists is good for me.

My career hasn’t followed the trajectory of Blue Man Group-Julian Schnabel-Bjork-Twyla Tharp-Kanye-my best friend.
I define success for myself, and trust that impact does not correlate with fame.