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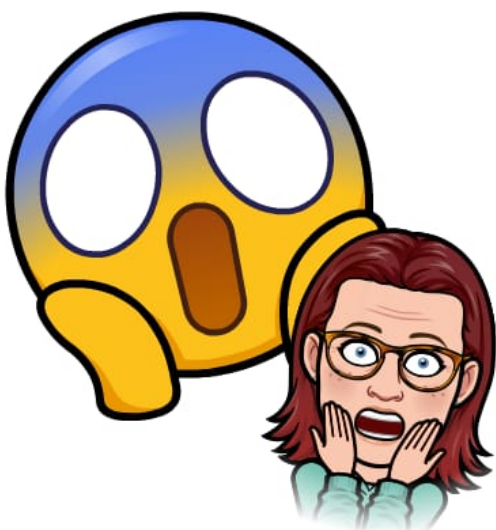
Welcome to **The Art[ful] Experience**, an artletter resource from Kestrel Fields Studio & Art Residency for artists, creators, art appreciators, and people who like to be creative no matter their profession or ability.

This month:

- Quick, run away! Taxes are coming!
- Sign up for Jan 31 Taxes for Artists & Freelancers workshop at Kestrel Fields Studio
- Podcast recommendation

Run for your life!

It's tax season



A story of avoidance

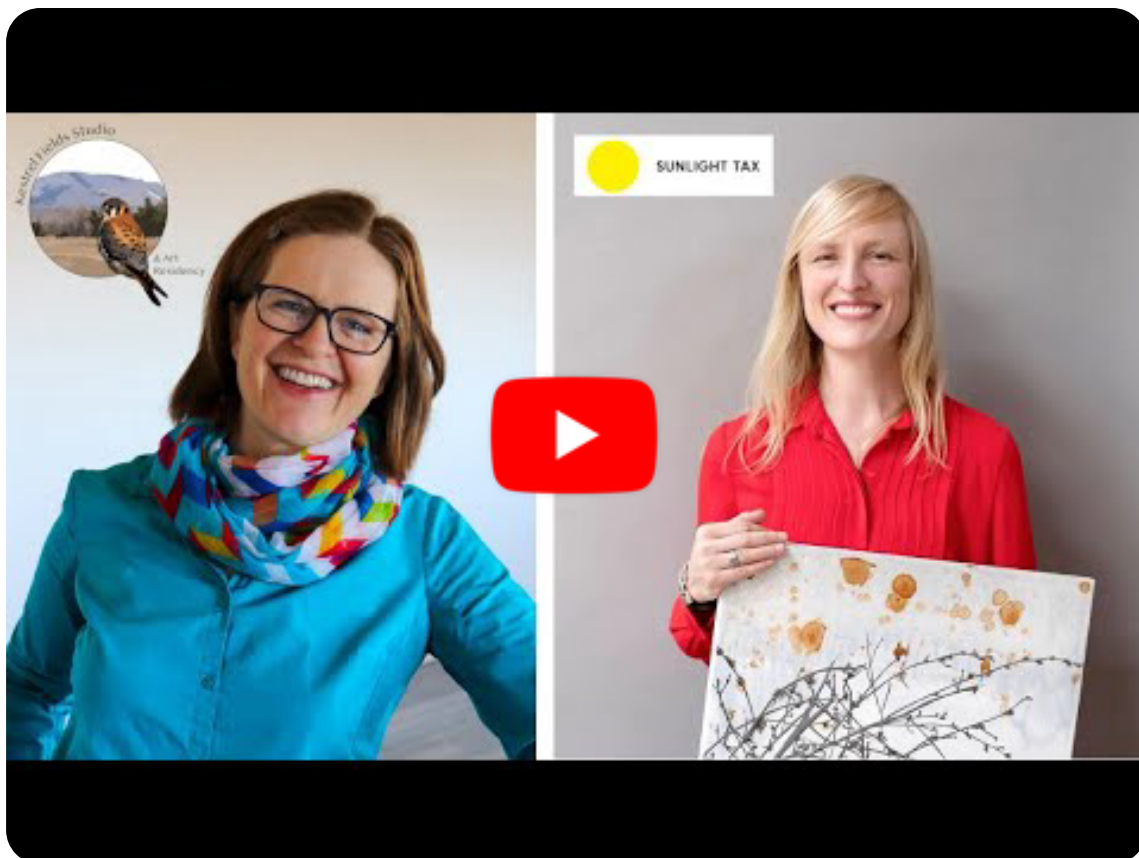
Warning: Includes crying, stomping and procrastinating

It's a new year, which means it's time to start thinking ahead to that dreaded April 15 deadline.

For me, taxes were always something that put me in a bad mood. **Until last year.**

I can't sing high enough praises for SUNLIGHT TAX, whose founder, Hannah Cole, is going to present [Taxes for Freelancers, Artists, and Creative Businesses](#) at Kestrel Fields Studio on January 31, 2025.

Video: I Am No Longer Afraid of Taxes



A story of an artist and her tax obligation (lots of eye rolling and big huffs)

I literally didn't know what to do about taxes. We were married-filing-jointly, and I had a day job, so I mostly didn't account for my piddly art income. In the language of the IRS, even if I was earning money from being an artist, (I know now that) I was a "hobbyist."

In 2013, I was five years into my professional artist journey and starting to think of myself as an Artist-with-a-capital-A. I borrowed a book from the library, "The Legal Guide For The Visual Artist," which had a thick chapter about taxes.

Despite my best intentions, I never turned past the table of contents. I just didn't understand, and I was sure I'd get it wrong. It seemed impossible for my artist brain to wrap around.

I *did* write a [blog post](#) about how scared I was.

In the last 11 years, so much has changed, including having become a full-time creative business owner (now, my taxes matter to our tax return).

Another part of that change is that today, in the first few minutes of the new year, there is no clenching in my heart. There is no avoiding. ***I am actually sort of looking forward to doing my taxes***, and I am not afraid at all.



Hannah Cole (above) is an artist and tax preparer from Asheville, NC.

**"What can I deduct? Do I bring receipts to my accountant?
Is my creative work a business or a hobby? What is a
Schedule C? How do I deduct my home studio? Why do
freelancers have to pay taxes quarterly, and how do I do
that?"**

Hannah Cole is a tax expert who specializes in working with creative businesses and artists. A [long-time working artist](#) with a high-level exhibition history, and a tax and money columnist for the art blog *Hyperallergic*, the financial challenges of freelancers and small creative businesses are both relevant and personal to Hannah.

During our workshop, Hannah will discuss

- the basic tax equation
- self employment tax and the estimated quarterly tax system
- audit concerns for the creative person, and
- other tax issues specifically relevant to creatives, makers, and freelancers

There will be time for a Q & A at the end.

Besides Hannah's extremely relevant knowledge, **we're offering lunch**, community, and work sessions where we can support each other as we do our own bookkeeping and taxes. Let's come together to develop our confidence and competence as artists and business owners who can: do their own taxes.

Friday, January 31

12:00-3:00pm

Fort Collins

(lunch included)

Also available to livestream online starting at 1:00pm.

This is an amazing opportunity that you won't want to miss!

EARLY BIRD PRICING available through January 15 for both in-person and online options.

Learn More & Register

Podcast Recommendation



Search Engine with PJ Vogt

Speaking of taxes--I know, I am really on a roll here--have you ever wondered why it's so hard to tax billionaires?

My very favorite podcast, Search Engine, explains it.

"Why Is It So Hard To Tax Billionaires?"

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

If you want to get even more in the weeds--and I know this sounds impossible, but I'm totally serious when I say it's worth it:

["Is everyone pretending to understand inflation \(or just me\)?"](#)

And if you're rolling your eyes because **this is an artletter, not a financial e-newsletter**, here is my favorite Search Engine episode of all time, about the artist and story behind Charging Bull (of Wallstreet) sculpture in NYC:

["The Bull of Wallstreet"](#)

That's me, below, last November with The Bull (in the financial district, lol). Also, yes, people (not me) are taking photos with his balls. 😊



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Love & light in the creative life,
Heather



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