

IF YOU NEED TO ASK THE QUESTION YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER

So what is it that separates a multi-strand creative practitioner from a dilettante? I think it's the ability and willingness to identify a difference between a 'strand of interest' and a 'hobby interest'.

In order to do that you need to have some kind of criteria to measure each of your activities by.

These are the ones that I chose and the way in which I defined the terms:

- **Infrastructure**

The resources which are necessary to support the activity including having optimum time to commit to the activity, physical and intellectual ability, finances, access to raw materials, transport and location.

- **Aspiration**

The desire to do and develop the activity and the skills it requires.

- **Maintenance**

The willingness to take an objective overview of the processes and outcomes of the activity. An audit of the value or worth it contributes.

- **Frequency**

Being able to visit the activity on a regular or semi-regular basis. Visiting the different strands may be sequential or simultaneous but there will come a point at which an activity which hasn't been visited for some time will cease to meet the criteria.

- **Motivation**

The ability to instigate and develop projects independently.

- **Inventiveness**

Technical and creative problem solving by a variety of methods including – but not limited to – research, experimentation, sampling, networking and innovation.

- **Autonomy**

Taking personal responsibility to drive the activity and its results whether successful or unsuccessful. Ensuring that all of the necessary procedures are in place to allow the activity to continue.

- **Double Loop**

According to Heuristics, transferring the skills from one field to another means that competency becomes capability.

- **Being professional**

Having a professional attitude to the activity. There is a separate paper on what it takes to be a professional but for the purposes of this exercise think about being knowledgeable about the activity, reliable, able to express yourself about it and willing to share your opinions.

- **Entirety**

The thing for me which closes the circle and absolutely nails the difference between a 'strand of interest' and a 'hobby interest', it's the willingness to develop and maintain a public interface for the process, outcome or both of the activity.