

R.I.P.T. ISSUE #1

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“CREATIVE PEOPLE AND TIME MANAGEMENT” by Tim Devin

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about how creative people organize their time, and asking people their thoughts. To get more input, I created a short survey on SurveyMonkey. It was up for about 2 weeks; 81 people responded.

The first third of this paper shows some charts I created from the survey answers, and some thoughts I had about these answers. In the last section, you'll find the actual responses to some of the survey questions; I removed a bit of information from each answer, to protect people's privacy.

Who answered the survey?

Before getting into what results the survey found, maybe we should start with who answered it in the first place.

Age	number of respondents	percentage of total
Under 20	1	1.2%
20-25	3	3.7%
26-30	10	12.4%
31-35	16	19.8%
36-40	12	14.8%
41-45	5	6.2%
46-50	5	6.2%
50-60	7	8.6%
60+	3	3.7%
No response	19	23.5%
total	81	

More than one quarter of the people who responded are in their 30s. Not being an expert in statistics, I'm not sure if this affects the survey results; it may mean the results are a little skewed towards the way 30-somethings look at life.

The survey asked people to identify what creative fields they are involved in. Most people mentioned more than one; some listed as many as six. In the following chart, I only included the first two that people mentioned, figuring that these were the most important to them. I generalized the fields (changing, for instance, "sculptor/encaustic painter" into "artist") so that I could compare them more easily. Since most people listed more than one field, the total percentages in this chart is over 100.

Creative field	number of respondents	percentage of total
Art	36	44.4%
Writing	26	32.1%
Music	19	23.5%
Crafts	18	22.2%
Design	8	9.9%
Theatre	5	6.2%
Film/video	4	4.9%
Dance/ choreography	2	2.5%
Other	5	6.2%

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This information suggests that the results for this survey might be skewed towards how artists feel about things. I'm not sure what the effects of this might be.

Well, that's who answered the survey. Now let's look at what they had to say.

How people organize their time

The survey asked people about how they manage their time. It was an open-ended question, but most people estimated how many hours they spent on wage work and on day jobs. The next chart shows this information. It doesn't include wage-earning work, such as design or architecture, if the person identified that work as their creative work—it only includes wage work that the respondents identified as not being part of what they called their creative work.

Hours per week of wage work	number of respondents	percentage of total
None (but not retired from work)	13	16.1%
1-10 hours	2	2.5%
11-20	2	2.5%
21-30	5	6.2%
31-40	22	27.2%
More than 40	5	6.2%
Retired	1	1.2%
Varies highly	9	11.1%
No answer	22	27.2%

The number of people who didn't give information on their wage jobs was very high (27%), but it's interesting to see that another 28% work 30 hours or less per week, and that another 11% have flexible job hours. This means that at least 39% of these creative people can spend a significant amount of time each week on their creative pursuits.

Most people also estimated how many hours per week they spend on their creative work. The chart below shows this information; it also includes day jobs, if the respondent identified their day job as being their creative field.

Hours per week of creative work	number of respondents	percentage of total
Under 10	7	8.6%
11-20	10	12.4%
21-30	3	3.7%
31-40	1	1.2%
41-50	0	0.0%
More than 50	1	1.2%
Varies highly	21	25.9%
"a lot"	5	6.2%
No real data given	17	21.0%

Again, there's a large number of people who didn't give any information. However, a little more than 20% say they spend less than 20 hours per week on their creative work—and only 2 people said they spent more than 31 hours per week. Five people said they spend "a lot" of time on their creative work, but it's hard to tell what that means to them.

The survey asked people how long they'd been arranging their time this way.

Organizing time like this for how long	number of respondents	percentage of total
1 year or less	9	11.1%
2-4 years	25	30.9%
5-10 years	18	22.2%
11-20 years	8	9.9%
More than 20 years	4	4.9%
"forever"	12	14.8%
No response	5	6.2%

The low numbers in “more than 20 years” isn’t a surprise, since only 24% of the respondents are over 40. But the surprise is the large number of people who’ve only been doing what they do for less than 4 years. This could be that creative folks might change their approach to time management frequently. Another possible explanation is that a number of early 20-somethings responded, for whom 2-4 years would be a long, successful time.

To test these ideas, I compared the ages of the people who responded with how long they’ve been organizing their time this way. I found that most arrived at their present way of organizing their lives in their late 20s or early 30s; and that the average age was 29.

People’s views on time

I was curious how happy people were about how they manage their lives, so I asked them to describe their views on time.

What are your feelings on time?	number of respondents	percentage of total
I feel like I could use some extra time	26	32.1%
I need a lot more time	25	30.9%
I need more time	18	22.2%
I have all the time I need for things	7	8.6%
I get really frazzled, because I don’t have any time	4	4.9%

Pretty much everyone (creative and non-creative people alike) want more time, so “I feel like I could use some extra time” and “I have all the time I need” are probably standard answers everywhere. “I need more time” slides into this as well, since it’s pretty much the same answer. But it was interesting that about 1/3 of the respondents either needed a lot

more time, or get frazzled because they don’t have enough time for everything they want to do.

I compared these responses to how long people said they’d been organizing their time this way.

What are your feelings on time?	Average number of years spent organizing time this way
I feel like I could use some extra time	6.3
I need a lot more time	8.2
I need more time	8.3
I have all the time I need for things	5.1
I get really frazzled, because I don’t have any time	2.3

This is interesting. The frazzled people have only been doing things this way for a short time; hopefully they’ll change their habits soon, and become happier. However, people who are satisfied with their time (“I have all the time I need” and “I feel like I could use some extra time”) haven’t been organizing their lives this way for a while; maybe they’re better at tweaking their lives—or, if you want to be cynical, they just haven’t had the chance to feel overburdened yet.

But the most interesting part is that people who feel that they need a lot more time, but aren’t frazzled about it, have been living their lives this way for the longest—more than 8 years, on average. When you remember that this group also represents the largest number of people who responded the survey, you realize that this means most of these creative folk feel overburdened, but aren’t willing to cut down on their obligations. They are ok with this stress.

I also asked people what they would want more time for.

What do you want more time for?	number of respondents	percentage of total
Creative work	69	85.2%
Seeing friends	39	48.2%
Relaxing	35	43.2%
Chores	31	38.3%
Seeing family	20	24.7%
Wage-earning work	9	11.1%

Creative people are creative because they enjoy it, so it makes sense that they want more time to pursue their creative work. Seeing friends, and relaxing were pretty high, which also makes sense; you always want more time to do things you enjoy. I found it interesting that “seeing family” was low on the list; this might be because creative people aren’t close to their families, or because they automatically include their families in their lives.

But which was the most important? The survey asked people to look at the same list again—but this time, to choose only one thing.

What do you want more time for?	number of respondents	percentage of total
Creative work	44	54.3%
Seeing friends	11	13.6%
Relaxing	9	11.1%
Seeing family	5	6.2%
Chores	4	4.9%
Wage-earning work	2	2.5%

This surprised me. More than half of the respondents said they’d want more creative time, at the cost of everything else. Clearly, creative people are dedicated to what they do.

Some conclusions

Judging from the data, this survey was filled out mostly by people who consider themselves artists, and who are in their 30s. Only 81 people filled the survey out. I’m no expert, but I think this means that the information I gathered doesn’t really provide solid sociological insight into creative people in general. But there were still a few interesting things that cropped up.

First, spending less than 20 hours per week on your creative pursuits—whether you have a job or not—is pretty common. I often imagine other creative people laboring long into the night every night, which makes me feel guilty about how much time I spend on art each week; apparently, I’m well within the norm.

Second, creative people are alright with feeling busy and strained; they do want more time for other things, but they sacrifice that to pursue their creative work. This, of course, is the standard cliché about creative folks, so it’s interesting to see it come through in the survey as a fact.

Third, many of the respondents settled into their current time management groove at the same time in their lives: during their late 20s or early 30s. This was true for people in their 30s (who represent the largest group of people who responded to the survey), but it was also true for the people in their 40s, 50s, and 60s.

Lastly, I built this survey to look at time management as it applies to creative work versus wage work—but maybe I missed some things because of it. Some people mentioned how hard it was to juggle kids and family with their creative work; I think it would be interesting to do another survey that looked into family obligations and pressures. One person said I missed the point completely—that his/her struggle

was between all the interesting things in life, and sitting down to do creative work—with no mention of wage work. This would be another interesting avenue to explore.

How people manage their time (in their own words)

Here are the ways people organize their time. I've included what creative field each person identified himself/herself as being involved in; their age; and how long they've been organizing their time this way. I removed information, and generalized the creative fields, to make them more anonymous.

"Work; volunteer at collaborative artworks 4+ hrs a wk; spend time with family and friends; sleep (occasionally)."

-Artist, 60s. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"Try to practice main musical instrument daily for 40 minutes; exercise a little; often spend way too much time on computer and go thru periods of trying to avoid completely; very project driven (sleepless nights/long hours when deadlines approach unfortunately); composing music, art, professional musician, curator."

-Artist, 50's. Has been organizing time this way for 3 years.

"Every week I work as a designer, which merges a lot of creative energy- that's about 50 hours a week. I dance about 2-4 hours a week. I have band practice twice a month for 2 hours at a time- I practice probably 15 minutes a day to get prepared for it on average lest I feel crazy inspired. I write every weekday morning for 30 minutes to an hour and about 3 hrs a day on weekends. When I'm not doing these things I'm in the gym, at the yoga studio, out drinking with friends or seeing some art/film/music/dance."

-Writer/dancer/signer/designer, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 1 year.

"I paint in the mornings, Monday through Friday, for 90 minutes. I have a day job Monday through Friday from 1-5 p.m. (20 hours/week). When I have a concert scheduled, I will rehearse 2.5 - 5 hours/week with the group in the weeks leading up to the concert. The rest of the time is for exercise, preparing meals, hanging out with friends and family."

-Artist/musician, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 20 years.

"Every day I spend between 30 -60 mins on a daily creative project, weekends maybe 4-5 hours. The rest of the working week I work to pay the bills at another professional job and studying art at university one day a week."

-Artist/writer, 50s. Has been organizing time this way for 1 year.

"I spend 6-8 hours a day teaching or in class, but get in at least 2 hours a day on my own creative work. this was the same schedule when I worked a "regular" job."

-Composer, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 15 years.

"Every day: 3-4 hrs on body work 2 hrs creating, 2 hrs in meetings, 45min commuting (on bike) 2 hrs with family, 6.5 hrs sleeping."

-Dancer/writer, 50s. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"I work 35 hours a week doing body work. I work 15 hours a week on film making, when life doesn't invade on this time. 1 hour a day on exercise. 1 night a week teaching. 3 date nights a month, about, with the hubby. 2-3 nights a week w/ step kids. 1 lunch a week with a girlfriend weekends for family friends or parties. This is all general, not an exact formula."

-Artist/filmmaker, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"paint 10 hrs per week; childcare 7 hrs week; keep home clean 2 hr wk; meal shopping and prep/clean up 5hrs wk; keep studio clean and organized 10 hrs week; hw teach art 3 hrs week; prep to teach art 1 hr wk; hang with one friend at least 1x for 2 hrs per week."

-Artist, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"Every week I spend 35 hours at work; I spend about 15 hours a week doing some sort of craft; I pretty much spend the rest of my time with my husband and some with friends."

-Craftsperson, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"40 hours at work doing digital work. an additional 15 hours of week doing personal work(painting, music). 15 more w/ friends. other than my job this can fluctuate pretty wildly."

-Artist/designer, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 5 years.

"I spend approx 15 nighttime hours in a non-creative job, 15-20 hours (2-3 daytime "shifts") at a seamstress job, 10 hours per week reading and blogging, 15 hours with friends and family. Most weekday afternoons from 12-4 are spent on personal art projects- probably 20 hours per week. That's right now. Sometimes I go through phases where all the art I make is awful, so I just read, play video games and watch netflix for a few weeks. Then when my art ideas are flowing better, I hunker down & am very prolific, in terms of artistic output."

-Arist/designer, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"I draw in cafés every night; edit 8-10 hours a week; paint around 5 hours a week, but hope to spend more time in my studio now that I'm retired."

-Artist/editor/designer, 60s. Has been organizing time this way for [no response].

"I get up around 9:30, spend an hour reading comics and drinking tea, then work on the business end of my business until lunch (usually one or so). After lunch, I go out to the studio and make stuff till sometime between 7 and 9, depending on how much needs to get done. I take weekends off."

-Craftsperson, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 4 years.

"I generally spend 30-35 hours a week at day job; target 20 hours/week on art practice; target 7 hours/week on playing music; I do not target radio/record/dj time."

-Artist/musician, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 4 years.

"I try to write at least 4 hours per day."

-Writer, early 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 1 year.

"4 days a week mornings I spend painting (3 to 4hours; afternoons other job. 35 hours other bill-paying work. About 5 hours a week doing art related paperwork, mailings, interneting, e-mails etc. Two full 10 hour days a week reserved for painting (sometimes house chores) and Sunday reserved for my (day off) hanging out with friends or my fiance. Sometimes we watch a movie while I paint."

-Artist, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"50 hours in the studio each week; 4 hours w/family & friends; I sleep a lot."

-Artist, late 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 10 years.

"I spend 4 hours a day on business development; 5 hours a day on sewing (making orders); and 2 hours a day on professional reading and development."

-Craftsperson, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"I split my time 1/2-1/2 between my day job in web design/development and my private pursuits in graphic design/sculpture."

-Artist/designer, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 6 months.

"During week: 25-30 hrs work (depending on week); 20-25 hrs grad school; 20-30 hrs friends/family; 10-15 hrs art-related; 10-12 hrs commuting; 45-50 hrs sleep."

-Artist, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"40 hrs - "real job"; 10-20 hrs – studio; all the rest - friends/ family/ sleeping!"

-Artist/designer, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 4 years.

"35 hrs at work; 8 to 35 hrs theatre work; 10-20 hrs with friends and family (some of that overlaps theatre work); 3-5 hrs writing."

-Costume/set designer, early 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 4 years.

"I work two part time jobs 25-35 hours a week. Volunteer 4 hours a week. Go to school 4 hours a week. Do homework 3 - 10 hours a week. Art/Craft 12 - 15 hours a week."

-Artist/craftsperson, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for [no response].

"I work 24 hrs/wk. I try to spend at least 12-16 hrs/week writing (at the low end). Friends/family-- maybe 20 hrs.?"

-Writer, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 1 year.

"I make a list of tasks that need to get done for each day. Usually in a week, I spend 40 hours working and commuting, then go to the gym 4 hours a week... and then budget time for any projects I am doing. This can be 2-10 hours a week. In the summer when I

have more time, I paint 10+ hours week."

-Craftsperson/designer/artist, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 10 to 20 years.

"I spend 40 or more hours a week at work, I try to bead about 2 or 3 hours on the weekends, 8-10 hours with family and friends."

-Craftsperson, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"I have a part time (30 hour) job that is part of my creative life. I schedule the rest of my time around that and other freelancing. I organize any work outside of that by what has to be done when."

-Teacher/artist/dancer, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"yes, every week i spend 40 hours at work; i try to write for a spell during two evening nights, and one weekend day. that's in the perfect world. most weeks i cobble together some version of this."

-Writer, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 15 years.

"Painting is my full-time job and I spend about 35 hrs per week at my studio. I also spend many more hours per week promoting my art career and/or doing research/work for my process. I spend all of my evenings with my family, and work very part-time on graphic design work and teaching."

-Artist, "middle-aged." Has been organizing time this way for 5 years.

"I have no structure that I stick to. I work as much as I can (up to 40 hours) and if there are folks who want to play music, I do that as much as I can."

-Musician/video, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 7 years.

"Lately, work 20-24 hours for an architect (3 days, may go to 4 soon). Work on art or design projects in my own studio other two weekdays (16-20 hrs).

When on a deadline, also work all weekend on art and weeknights (another 16-20 hrs). When not, go out at nights and on weekends. Go to art shows tho, which is sort of friends, sort of art business. I try to go out to eat or drinks with friends whenever possible. Also try to get out camping once a month but doesn't always happen."

-Architect/artist/designer/musician, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 7 years.

"About 5-10hrs/week either painting or writing. I work full-time at a non-arts job."

-Artist/writer, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 10 to 15 years.

"I do my best to get everything done. Beyond that, no organization! Well, actually, I try to practice at least an hour a day."

-Musician/composer, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"at least one hour nightly. Then 3 or 4 hours on the weekend. Depends on what's going on."

-Artist, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 6 years.

"I work irregularly. I don't have a paying job, often spend the daytime working on creative stuff at home, and the nights going out to shows or art things."

-Artist/writer/musician, early 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 1 year.

"It is always different. I don't have a "day job". I'm doing a PhD in composition and devote all of what would be considered work time to writing music, playing music or writing words about music. Soon I'll be teaching as well. To be honest, I'm not sure how many hours a week this takes up."

-Musician/composer, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"My job takes up about 30 hours a week. I try to spend my days off working on larger art projects (mostly for galleries or commissions). At night after work I work on crafts for upcoming craft fairs, and I always bring craft projects or small drawing projects to parties and social gatherings. Basically I make things all the time, even when it's not scheduled."

-Craftsperson/artist, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"I work full time and use every moment not spent on life's essentials making art in some way."

-Artist, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 15 years.

"I work as little as possible to be able to work as much as possible on my own work. Sometimes my evenings are consumed by collaborative projects."

-Artist/craftsperson, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 6 years.

"I no longer paint because I need to attend to too many other things and find a more consistent, reliable form of income."

-Artist, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for "not long."

"Grad classes: 5 hrs/week; Homework: 10-20 hrs/week; Teaching: 1 hr/week; Commuting: 10 hrs/week; Entertainment: 10-20 hrs/week."

-Artist/teacher, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for [no response].

"Much of my writing is on deadline so I'm making sure I have the time to write and then revise before submitting. When working on books I make sure that every week I'm tackling some aspect of it, so that I'm always moving forward."

-Writer, 50s. Has been organizing time this way for 30 years.

"M-Fri -I make all my meetings, doctor appointments, grocery shop etc. in the mornings. I am in the studio every afternoon from noon until I have to leave. The weekends are less structured but I try to be in the studio one of the two days."

-Artist, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 1 to 2 years.

"I paint rarely as I get no time - once in 3-4 months. I write all the time as it's my profession to do so. I spend weekends and a couple of evenings per week with friends - it usually involves music too."

-Writer/musician/artist, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for [no response].

"I use calendars in entourage and gmail to organize my time. I am a professor/academic administrator 4 days a week. I try to use the rest of the week and some evenings working in my studio, researching, relaxing, attending art events, etc. I haven't kept track of actual hours in a long time."

-Artist/teacher/designer, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"I try to write or draw after each weekend. I work 35 hours per week. Other crafts happen seasonally."

-Artist/craftsperson, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"40 Hour Work Week; 3 Hours class time; 53 Friends/Family; Homework 10 Hours; Classwork 10 Hours."

-Musician, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"Work 40-50 hours / week. Spend lunch hours and a couple evenings a week on running a festival. Spend other evenings with friends / family."

-Architect, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 5 years.

"Professionally I block out all my time. I have blocks on my calendar for writing tasks, for reviews, etc...Outside of work I'm not as organized. I try to set deadlines for myself and I ask people that I collaborate with to give me "assignments" with hard deadlines."

-Musician/designer, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 5 years.

"I try to write 1-10 good lines of poetry a day."

-Writer, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 10 years.

"aim for an hour/1000 words of writing a day; music takes care of itself, through practice; work less than full time schedule."

-Writer/musician, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 10 years.

"I write as my work and personal schedule permit."

-Writer, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 10 years.

"plan my rehearsal; prep for teaching and teaching; plan my practicing around the above; schedule plan family around the above."

-Musician, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 20 years.

"I try to spend as much time as I can in the studio. even if it is just to be in the surrounds of materials and contemplate ideas. Work to pay the bills sometimes takes over what I want to be doing."

-Artist, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 25 years.

"I just keep in motion; I do what's gotta be done. I'm very good with setting priorities."

-Artist/craftsperson, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for [no response].

"I plan every hour of every day. I plan three months at a time I don't always get everything done; I DO get a lot done!"

-Artist/teacher, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"Day time is for family, night time is for work/friends."

-Craftsperson/writer/artist, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"poorly."

-Artist/craftsperson, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"work 40 hours/wk as graphic designer; 5-30 hours creative work; outside day job, varies varies- seeing friends and family."

-Artist/designer/craftsperson, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 to 3 years.

"Either working or looking for work. I am a self employed independent contractor."

-Film/theatre, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 12 years.

"I have insomnia and paint and assemble in the night hours. Composing is always varied. I never write anything I don't believe in. I sometimes get stuck and pick it up later. Art never seems to get me stuck though."

-Artist/musician, late teens. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"I work and take care of my house and a puppy. For the time being, those have taken top priority. When it's my free time, though, typically I just do whatever I feel inspired to work on. If I'm feeling torn in multiple directions, I do an hour of each in rotation."

-Writer/artist/craftsperson, early 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 1 year.

"work: 40 hours a week. art work: depends. at least a few hours a week. sometimes when things are busy, as much as 20 hours a week. friends and family-- the rest of the time."

-Artist, late 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 2 years.

"I work 40 hrs/week and try to exercise 2hrs/week. About 5hrs/week is probably house chores. 5-10 hours with friends. 2 hrs/week in class and 3 or 4 more doing homework. If I'm lucky, I spend an hour or two here and there crafting."

-Writer/artist/craftsperson, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 5 years.

"I spend 40 hours/week at work. I try to complete at least one "creative project" per week."

-Artist/writer, late 20s. Has been organizing time this way for 6 years.

"Pretty much a 40-hour work week, though sometimes I do need to bring work home. I try to keep that minimal. I give time to reading/music listening, pretty steadily, though it's vulnerable. My wife and I go out to performances a lot. So in terms of creative work, it tends to be project-based and not predictable in terms of time. Poetry I squeeze in as I can - not very disciplined yet."

-Musician/writer/theatre, 50s. Has been organizing time this way for 25 years.

"I spend around 50 hours a week for work (at work, lunch/breaks + transportation); 5-10 hours for exercise (including transportation time); 5-10 hours for direct contact with friends/family (phone or in person); 10-15 hours on personal emails (some overlap with work time); 10-30 hrs girlfriend time; 10 hrs or more for reading/movies and "me" time; 0.5-10 hours in creative pursuits (poetry, etc.); 0.5-5 hours organization (social/discussion groups)."

-Artist/writer, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 6 months.

"I would say I spend most weekends working on creative projects, usually some of Saturday and all of Sunday. I probably put in an hour or two every weekday depending on how tired I am from work. I use project management and calendaring software to keep up with everything (especially deadlines for the journal and meetings with interview subjects for the podcast). I make time for friends whenever they get in touch, but I don't initiate much anymore. I work about 50 hours a week in an academic field more or less unrelated to my creative work."

-Writer/designer/producer, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for [no response].

"Every semester is different -- during the school year I spend 5-10 hours a week in the studio OR doing exhibition related work. In the summer -- closer to 20-25."

-Artist/teacher, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 3 years.

"right now, freelance editing, I think in terms of, what's got to be done today, how am I doing on the deadlines? and then, do I need to move? And, what do I want to do about being out and about seeing people? Or do I just want to read tonight?"

-Writer/editor, 60s. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"Three days at part-time writing job; one big and two small freelance deadlines per week; new this month is a self-imposed four scene per week requirement for my book-length project because I was frittering too much time away."

-Writer, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 3 years.

"I do not prioritize my writing. If I'm acting or directing a play, I usually give that allotted time required for rehearsing, and add in at least 2-4 hours additional for rehearsing/practicing. For organizing, it

takes top priority to work with clients since it's paid. My nights are typically totally full."

-Actor/writer/organizer, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for 4 years.

"I divide my time between freelance design work, and sculpture/installation work. My schedule is very project-based; so I'm usually either working full-time in an office as a designer, or I'm just doing sculpture in my studio at home, but not both. I alternate between these two modes, with periods of around 2 to 4 months."

-Artist/designer, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 6 years.

"I'm trying to get more organized with my time. As clients appear, I edit them or write copy for them. I haven't been successful in writing for publication (or even pitching writing for publication). Deadlines help me immensely."

-Writer/editor, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 6 years.

"My schedule fluctuates - job-wise and creatively. Sometimes I am not working and have free time to work on a creative project; sometimes I am working and have an art deadline. So my time organization depends on my circumstances. I don't have a regular practice."

-Artist/musician, 40s. Has been organizing time this way for 8 years.

"Every week I schedule all of my work according to deadlines."

-Writer, 50s. Has been organizing time this way for 10 years.

"i do work impulsively or when needed, but i work non stop, im always thinking about work in one way or the other."

-Marketing/branding, early 30s. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"I periodically become obsessed with a project and it then becomes all consuming for a period of time - somewhat crowding out much of my regular freelance work. When its over, my work life returns to normal til the next time - which could be a week or 6 months."

-One-off projects, 50s. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"Unfortunately, it depends on the week - work requirements, scheduled rehearsals, gigs, etc. Until recently, I was also in graduate school, which ate up a lot of time I had been spending on music."

-Writer/musician, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for "forever."

"I spend 40 hours at work per week writing and editing. I generally have no time for my personal writing unless I'm taking a seminar or something."

-Writer, no age given. Has been organizing time this way for 10 years.