

The Good Craftsman

1. The good craftsman understands the importance of the sketch.
 - Not knowing quite what you are about when you begin.
 - The informal sketch is a working procedure for preventing premature closure.
2. The good craftsman places positive value on contingency and constraint.
3. The good craftsman avoids pursuing a problem to the point that it becomes perfectly self-contained.
 - Obsessing about perfect proportion is the cause of a loss of relational character.
 - The positive alternative to this drive to resolve is allowing the object a measure of incompleteness.
4. The good craftsman avoids perfectionism that can degrade into a self-conscious demonstration.
 - At this point the maker is bent on showing more what he or she can do than what the object does.
5. The good craftsman learns when it is time to stop.
 - Further work is likely to degrade the work done
 - Aware of the temptation to erase all traces of the work's production in order to make it seem a pristine object.

Annotations from:

Richard Sennett, *The Craftsman* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2008) 262.