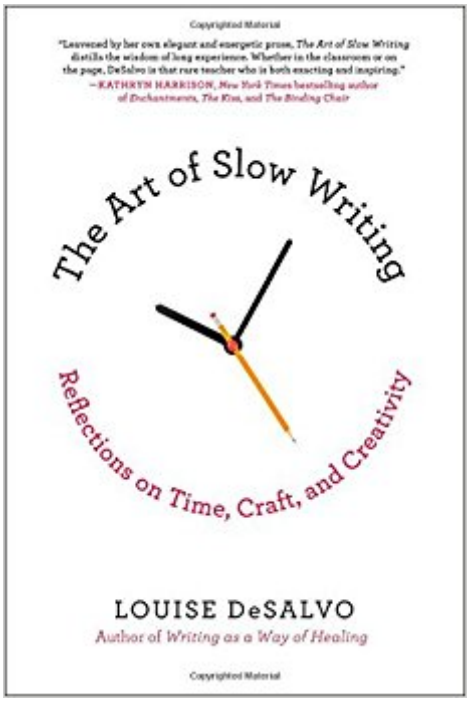
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The Art Of Slow Writing: Reflections On Time, Craft, And Creativity



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Synopsis

In a series of conversational observations and meditations on the writing process, The Art of Slow Writing examines the benefits of writing slowly. DeSalvo advises her readers to explore their creative process on deeper levels by getting to know themselves and their stories more fully over a longer period of time. She writes in the same supportive manner that encourages her students, using the slow writing process to help them explore the complexities of craft. The Art of Slow Writing is the antidote to self-help books that preach the idea of fast-writing, finishing a novel a year, and quick revisions. DeSalvo makes a case that more mature writing often develops over a longer period of time and offers tips and techniques to train the creative process in this new experience. DeSalvo describes the work habits of successful writers (among them, Nobel Prize laureates) so that readers can use the information provided to develop their identity as writers and transform their writing lives. It includes anecdotes from classic American and international writers such as John Steinbeck, Henry Miller, Virginia Woolf and D. H. Lawrence as well as contemporary authors such as Michael Chabon, Junot Diaz, Jeffrey Eugenides, Ian McEwan, and Salman Rushdie. DeSalvo skillfully and gently guides writers to not only start their work, but immerse themselves fully in the process and create texts they will treasure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Leavened by her own elegant and energetic prose, The Art of Slow Writing distills the wisdom of long experience. Whether in the classroom or on the page, DeSalvo is that rare teacher

who is both exacting and inspiring.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kathryn Harrison, New York Times bestselling author of Enchantments, The Kiss, and The Binding ChairÃ¢â ¬Å“I want to hand a copy of Slow Writing to every writer I know and every writer I don't know. This book is a gift. Its insights are unparalleled. Louise DeSalvo takes the reader on a joyful, unforgettable journey of reflection and pathos. I can't thank DeSalvo enough for writing this wise, accessible yet intensely researched master meditation on writing. Read it more than once-- the first time for pleasure and many more times for its invaluable insights into the craft.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Margaux Fragoso, author of Tiger, Tiger: A MemoirÃ¢â ¬Å“In this wise and insightful book, Louise DeSalvo draws from her own rich experience - as well as from that a variety of writers - to make the persuasive case that good writing takes time. As I read, I found myself underlining, dog-earing pages, writing notes in the margin, inspired by DeSalvo's passion and focus. Deep immersion in the process of writing, she says, yields results that surprise and delight us; our work is stronger, more nuanced, and more compelling. The Art Of Slow Writing is a welcome reminder that in this fast-paced world, some things should not be rushed.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Christina Baker Kline, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Orphan TrainÃ¢â ¬Å“DeSalvo turns what might have been an exercise in navel-gazing into a lively and inspiring guide for writers of all stripes. Buy two copies--the first will quickly sprout dog-ears.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers Weekly (starred review)

LOUISE DESALVO is an award-winning teacher and writer. She is currently the Jenny Hunter Endowed Professor at Hunter College where she started Hunter's MFA in Memoir program. She has published seventeen books, among them Virginia Woolf, named one of the most important books of the 20th century by The Women's Review of Books, and the groundbreaking Writing as a Way of Healing. She lives in Sag Harbor, NY, and Upper Montclair, NJ with her husband.

Oh, my! I borrowed this book from the library and have alternated between guzzling it and making my self read only one chapter a night, after work and before sleep. It is such a fine book, with so much good meat and helpful references to the work of others, and the premise--that writing/working slowly is an art, not something for writers to beat themselves up over--is like a refreshing draught of water in this time of instant this and how to do more in less time. I have not yet finished reading--am only on page 278--but I *must* have a copy of my own to read and reread and refer to and savor as I work. If I had the financial wherewithal I would buy copies for all of my friends who write. Thank you, Louise Salvo! (How I wish I could be a student in one of your memoir classes, but this book will be the next best thing.)

In short, conversational chapters, author and writing coach Louise DeSalvo offers comfort and inspiration to writers at any stage of development. As a beginning memoirist, I savored the detailed description of the hidden struggles and triumphs of authors like Virginia Woolf, Anne Tyler, and Ian McEwan as they navigate the writing life. Her practical, personal examples include the gamut of genres she has mastered: memoir, fiction, and writing guidebooks.This book felt like a handbook to me. My copy of the work is dog-eared and underlined. The fly-leaf features notes with page numbers of passages I found especially useful. She even suggests a flexible formula for the beginning writer on page 240: ABDCE. Curious? Buy the book!DeSalvo never confuses "slow" with "uninspired" or "careless." Rather she distills the wisdom of her long experience as she examines the patience and endurance required in the writing process. Her meditative approach to writing along with advice I can use earns this book a 5-star review, one I seldom accord any book, particularly one on writing.

I am a new reader of this author, and a huge fan now. This book spoke to me at a critical time, when I wanted to heave my nearly completed ms out the window! The advice, the calming nature of her style, her anecdotes...this is therapy/mentoring/friendship/and sage writing tips all rolled into one. Every writer, no matter what stage, should have this book nearby.

There are many helpful resources out there about writing style and composition, but this book explores and affirms the value of deadends, frustrations and roadblocks as opportunities for discovering one’s own authentic voice and message

I think I came across this book on Facebook. It is an incredible gift. The writing is lovely and superbly paced and the content is without compare. As a guide to the creative life, it is without comparison. Those lucky enough to have Ms. DeSalvo as writing professor are lucky indeed.

This is the kind of book that instantly dissolves any writer’s guilt about writing slowly. Providing many, many examples of well-known authors and their process, you soon learn that your process is quite similar to theirs. It’s also entertaining for those who love to read about writing and how it’s accomplished.

This is by far the most helpful book on writing that I have ever read and I have read quite a few!

DeSalvo is a brilliant teacher and writer. She addresses the writer's classic self doubt in an exquisitely sensitive way while offering grounded and practical suggestions for doing battle with it.

Using examples from well-known authors, DeSalvo gives a spirited defense of writing as an art form that requires a long and rigorous apprenticeship. Her message couldn't have come at a better time. It is far too easy now to push writing into the public arena without giving enough care and attention to the skills a writer needs to make his writing the best it can be.

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