

***It's Okay.***

*the path meanders*

*It's Okay*

the path meanders

As I stood at the threshold  
of adulthood, no longer an  
art student, I thought I  
knew where my path would  
lead.

*It meandered.*

My own path was not linear.  
It ebbed and flowed,  
crossed over itself, it  
climbed into  
extraordinary mountains  
and descended into  
deep ravines.

But my path was my own.  
Cleared by my own hand,  
sometimes alone and  
sometimes  
with others.

*Still, it was my path.*

Along that path, I kept  
learning,

experiencing,

and growing.

Even now,  
many years  
later,  
I am  
**still**  
on the path  
to  
*becoming.*

As an artist, I felt  
like I was often  
creating for someone  
else - someone's  
expectations of me.  
I was trying to  
meet imagined  
expectations instead  
of embracing my  
genuine, messy,  
experimental,  
self.

*Finally, my hands  
felt untied.  
Open to create.*

But you are now venturing on  
your journey, seeking your  
own path.

*It will find you.*

So here is what I  
wish someone had  
told me back then.

What I tell myself still.  
What I'm telling you now.

*It's okay.*

It won't be perfect  
on your first attempt,

and that's okay.

It's okay  
to pivot.

It's okay  
not to have  
the answers.

It's okay to be afraid.

It's okay to fall,  
and to fail.

It's okay to  
do something else.

It's okay to want more.

Keep growing and learning.  
There is more to learn  
after the tassel and gown.

This is about embracing the  
process and the journey,  
not just reaching the  
destination.

Keep learning about  
everything you can, inside  
and outside the visual arts.

Try new things.

New techniques.

Explore.

Innovate.

Experiment.

A curious designer doesn't  
limit themselves to what they  
already know.

Find the craft and artistry  
in life -- in textiles, food,  
landscapes, and the ordinary  
and the unexpected.

Making is an  
essential part of  
growth. Practice  
your craft  
consistently. Let  
*yourself* and your  
work become a

living,

evolving

creation.

*The path meanders.*

*Allow it.*

*And it's okay.*

## *colophon*

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The meandering line was drawn by  
hand in pencil.

For my students --  
past, present, and still  
becoming.

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