

ART IS JUSTICE

## Esperanza Spalding on art as a practice

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Esperanza Spalding explains how art is a practice where artists are constantly experimenting. "Artists today have to figure out how our work is actually going to help people."

This video is part of the #ArtIsJustice series. Throughout U.S. history, artists and cultural leaders have been at the forefront of social change. Today, in the face of growing intolerance and widening inequality, artists stand up to these injustices, reminding us all that Art IS Justice.

### **Transcript begins.**

[The words "Art Is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Empathy, Political, Hope, Powerful, Perspective...it stops at a Practice. Art Is a Practice.]

**Esperanza Spalding, bassist, singer, songwriter:** Art is a practice. Artists today have to figure out how our work is actually going to help people, help heal people, and we're constantly having to experiment...

[Wearing purple glasses and a wired electric crown, Esperanza sings and plays bass on a large stage with her band.]

"Talking Founding Fathers with a free philosophy—Don't mention me."

**Esperanza:** ... repositioning our work with the hopes that we'll achieve maximum impact.

[Esperanza performs.]

"I wanna break the rules with you and see the dreams come true. All I need you to do is funk the fear, live your life."

We can encourage fellow humans to face challenges with the belief that we can transform any toxic situation into a vibrant, thriving situation.

[Esperanza continues to perform.]

"You gotta funk the fear, just live your life! That's what you're here to do! Come on! Live your life!"

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...a Practice, Expression, Change, Creativity, Healing...it stops at Justice. Hashtag Art Is Justice. Agree? Share this video.]

[Ford Foundation logo: a globe made up of a series of small, varied circles.]

**CREDITS**

**Executive Producer and Director**

Jessica Reynolds

**Producer and Editor**

Claire Kinnen

**Director of Cinematography**

Robert Rudis

**1st Assistant Camera**

Daniel Vignal

**2nd Assistant Camera**

Lavar Gibson

**Animation**

Rob Halstead

**Graphic Design**

Conrad Kocek

**Color Correction**

Henninger Media Services

**Re-recording Mixer**

Nick Montgomery

**Copy Editing**

Naomi Wax

**Music**

deWolfe

**Archival Courtesy of**

Emily's D+Evolution in concert, BRIC House, Brooklyn, NY

Video produced by NPR and WFUV

Performance: Esperanza Spalding

Emily Elbert, Serenity, Corey King (additional vocals)

Justin Tyson (drums), Matthew Stevens (guitar)

**End of transcript.**