

The *Long Game* Audit.

An audit of the patience your career actually requires. Where you're rushing. Where you're building. Where “nervous don't pay the bills” is the line that keeps you in the work long enough to be seen.

A WORKSHEET BY MORIAH ALISE · DEAR GLORY · MAY 2026 · [READ THE ARTICLE](#) →

Nervous don't *pay the bills.*

The careers that compound aren't the loudest in any single year. They're the ones built by people who stayed in the room long enough to be selected for what mattered. The audit below is how you find out where you're playing the long game on purpose — and where you're trading patience for noise.

How to use this. Move through each area honestly. The point is not to feel good about where you are. The point is to see clearly enough that you can make a different decision next month. If you can't name a specific action, write *none*. That's the answer that tells you where to build.

SECTION I · THE AUDIT

Six areas. *Where the long game is being played.*

For each: name the real action, the real name, the real piece of evidence. If you have nothing concrete to write, write nothing — honestly.

01 VISIBILITY

Where you've shown up to be seen vs. where you've shown up to be heard. There's a difference, and the long game requires both.

- I've appeared in *at least three* public-facing settings in the last 12 months (panel, podcast, profile, talk)
- I can name two writers, editors, or curators who actively know my work
- I've shown up *in person* at an event outside my home city in the last six months
- I have a current artist statement or curatorial bio that I'd send today without rewriting it
- My online presence (site, IG, LinkedIn) reflects the work I'm actually doing right now

→ What is missing or uncertain here — and what's the first move to fix it?

02 RELATIONSHIPS

The relationships you're investing in for this year vs. the ones you're investing in for three to five years from now. Most artists only do the first.

- I have at least one peer relationship I check in on without an agenda each month
- I have a list of 5-10 people I'm *quietly* building toward across years
- I've sent a non-pitch message (a real one) to someone above my current level in the last 60 days
- I know the names of the people I want to be in proximity to by 2030
- I have at least one mentor or near-peer who knows what I'm building this year

→ What is missing or uncertain here — and what's the first move to fix it?

03 INSTITUTIONS

The slowest node in any career — and the one most rewarded for patience. Institutions move on geological time. You meet them anyway.

- I can name three institutions whose programming aligns with what I do
- I know one named curator, registrar, or program director at each of those institutions
- I've applied to at least one residency, grant, or fellowship in the last 12 months
- I've visited a museum show in the last 30 days and could speak about it specifically
- I understand which institutional collections would — or wouldn't — be a fit for my work

→ What is missing or uncertain here — and what's the first move to fix it?

04 GEOGRAPHY

The single fastest way to extend your career is to leave the city you live in. The long game requires geographic depth, not just digital reach.

- I have visited or shown work in at least three cities outside my home city in the last 18 months
- I have an active relationship with someone — gallerist, curator, peer — in another city
- I know which two cities, beyond my own, my work makes most sense in right now
- I have a plan to be present in one of those cities in the next 90 days
- I can name one international opportunity (fair, residency, show) I'd accept tomorrow if offered

→ What is missing or uncertain here — and what's the first move to fix it?

05 PATIENCE

The decisions you've made under pressure vs. the ones that could have waited. The long game is mostly the second.

- I have *not* said yes to anything in the last 30 days I'd say no to if I'd had a week to think
- I have one project on a 12–18 month timeline that I'm staying disciplined about
- I have one no I'm proud of from the last six months
- I'm comfortable not responding to a message for 48 hours if the response requires real thought
- I have a clear sense of what I won't be available for, in writing

→ What is missing or uncertain here — and what's the first move to fix it?

06 COMPOUNDING

The work you've done twice or more is the work that builds a career. The one-offs feel productive in the moment and never compound.

- I have a body of work, series, or program that's now in its second iteration
- I'm in active relationship with someone I first met more than three years ago
- I have a writing, posting, or publishing rhythm I've maintained for at least 6 months
- I show up in at least one recurring space (chat, channel, fair, dinner) consistently
- I can name one thing I do every month that no one is forcing me to do

→ What is missing or uncertain here — and what's the first move to fix it?

Where are you *rushing*?

Look across the six areas. Find the one where impatience is costing you the most right now — where the temptation to rush is currently overriding the long-game discipline.

What *rushing* actually looks like.

*Rushing is usually not dramatic. It's the application sent without enough research. The yes given to a partnership that wasn't a fit. The email composed in three minutes. The post made when nothing needed to be said. **Patience is what you do instead.** Find the area where rushing is your current default.*

YOUR MOST EXPOSED LONG-GAME AREA

The *one area* you're practicing patience in over the next thirty days —

Three *patient moves*. Thirty days.

Slow on purpose. The point is to write down three actions that take longer than they could and produce more durable results.

A patient move is one where you trade speed for depth on purpose. A long letter instead of a quick DM. A real research session instead of a rushed application. A studio visit instead of an Instagram follow. Write three.

1

PATIENT MOVE ONE

BY WHEN

2

PATIENT MOVE TWO

BY WHEN

3

PATIENT MOVE THREE

BY WHEN

CLOSE

From *nervous* to long.

The careers that last are not the ones built by people who were the fastest. They're built by people who were still here in year ten when most of the noise had stopped. Come back to this in thirty days. See what patience produced.

Moriah Alise

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