

# CHOICE

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Russell, Elizabeth T. **Art law conversations: a surprisingly readable guide for visual artists.** Ruly Press, 2005. 127p  
 bibl index ISBN 0976648008 pbk, \$16.95

Visual artists have an increasing need to be aware of the law and legal issues that may impact their work and livelihoods. Russell, art law columnist for *Art Calendar*, very succinctly defines the legal issues in conversation points that will reduce the intimidation felt by many people unfamiliar with the law. Divided into three sections--"Your Life," "Your Work," "Your Business"--the book offers clear documentation to support directions in each of these areas. Issues discussed include taxes, making donations of one's creative work, copying it, rights management, ownership, copyright and intellectual property, protections, first sale and derivative works, collaborations, selling work, agreements, contracts, and working with galleries and other establishments. The book's special qualities indicate how reader-friendly it is. The volume provides plenty of examples to illustrate a broad as well as a specific legal situation. It also has a bibliography of current important online resources and a substantial glossary to define terms in a way that an artist will understand. Being well indexed enhances the affordable value of this book, which belongs in all public, academic, and appropriate special libraries and personal collections of artists. **Summing Up: Essential. All levels.** - *J. Gelfand, University of California, Irvine*