

## Artist Statement Guidance

Your artist statement is about facts, a basic introduction to your art; it's **not** instructions on how to look at it, what to experience, what to think, how to feel, how to act, or where to stand, and if it is, you'd better do a rewrite. On this planet, people communicate with words, and your artist statement introduces and communicates the language component of your art. Just about all artists want as many people as possible to appreciate their art. A good artist statement works towards this end, and the most important ingredient of a good statement is its language.

**WRITE YOUR STATEMENT IN LANGUAGE THAT ANYONE CAN UNDERSTAND**, not language that you understand, not language that you and your friends understand, not language that you learn in art school, but everyday language that you use with everyday people to accomplish everyday things. An effective statement reaches out and welcomes people to your art, no matter how little or how much they know about art to begin with. Like an introduction to a good book, your statement presents and conveys the fundamental underpinnings of your art, aspects that people should be aware of.

- **WHY YOU MAKE YOUR ART,**
- **WHAT INSPIRES OR DRIVES YOU TO MAKE IT,**
- **WHY PEOPLE SHOULD CARE,**
- **WHAT IT SIGNIFIES OR REPRESENTS,**
- **WHAT IT COMMUNICATES,**
- **WHAT'S UNIQUE OR SPECIAL ABOUT HOW YOU MAKE IT, and briefly,**
- **WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU.**

People have short attention spans, especially these days. When you overload readers with and details or explanations, you risk drowning them in words, and possibly even discouraging those who might otherwise persevere if only you would have kept it simple. This... your statement is about you, so personalize it. Write it in the first person, not like you're talking about yourself in the abstract. Infuse it with your unique perspective. Whenever possible, make it conversational, like you're speaking directly to readers (note: a good editor can work wonders here)..

### Steps to write an artist statement?

1. Make a statement about why you do what you do.
  - a. The first section of your artist's statement should begin with a discussion of why you make art.
2. Describe your decision-making techniques. ...
3. Talk about your current work. ...
4. Keep it short, sweet, and to the point. ... **CLEAR, CONSISTENT, and CONCISE**
5. Use simple language.

### What is an artist bio?

An artist biography is usually a **short paragraph** about you and your career as a practitioner. It may also contain a line about the key themes to your practice. Artists Biographies are often confused with artist CVs and artist statements.

### What is an artist curriculum vitae?...and what does it contain?

A CV or curriculum vitae is an overview of your artistic professional history and achievements. CV stands for some Latin words Curriculum vitae. These translate as "[the] course of [my] life". A curriculum vitae is a necessary document if you hope to submit your work to galleries, collections, fine art exhibitions, etcetera. In contrast with a resume, a CV highlights your professional accomplishments rather than your experience and qualifications. This is the place to list awards your art has received, exhibitions your art has been included in, collections where your art is held, and publications where you and your art have been featured.