



## The Artist Statement

Your artist statement is primarily designed to help the viewer of your work understand what you believe to be the most important aspects of your art and the techniques used to make it. It should be succinct (1 page). Viewers may have questions about your work. Since it is unlikely that you can always stand next to your art, your statement (which can be displayed with your work) can help answer those questions.

The time you spend on developing a worthwhile statement will help you clarify and define your art to yourself and to others. This is a statement of the work you are currently exhibiting—it is not a biography or general statement about you as an artist.

Every artist statement is different and should pertain to the work at hand. Below are some guidelines as to questions you might ask yourself. Depending on your project, you might touch upon all or only a few of these topics.

- Briefly describe your concept.
- Why did you make this body of work?
- Discuss the significance of the subject/s.
- What issues or ideas are most important to you?
- What unusual processes and techniques did you use? And how does it support your ideas?
- What is your inspiration or motivation for this work (personal, social, political, etc.)?
- Who has inspired your work?
- What do you want the viewer to learn or come away with?
- What kind of questions do you want your work to raise?

Avoid generalizations, nostalgia, glorification and vague statements with no real meanings. While this may be a place of reflection, do not make it a place for your excuses. Make sure your words connect with the work.

Be honest, passionate, and personal (write in the first person). Remember, everything in your statement must be clear and relevant to your art. Making art is a thoughtful and deliberate act—so should your statement.

The artist statement is often displayed with your work. It should visually reflect your exhibition/portfolio.