

# HOW TO WRITE AN ARTIST STATEMENT

## What is the difference between an artist biography and an artist statement?

**Artist Biography:** This is your basic life story as an artist, usually including where you were born, when you became interested in art, where you studied art, took acting or modeling classes, etc. (or if you are self-taught), your main area of art expertise (acrylic painting, sculpture, charcoal drawing, etc.), where you've shown your art (galleries and art shows) or awards you've received for your art, and anything else similar that you deem pertinent.

**Artist Statement:** An artist statement would basically be what inspires you as an artist, or an expression of your creativity and purpose as an artist. It is usually written in what I would call "flowery prose", meaning bigger and more unique words than one would normally use. Writing an artist statement can help others connect with your work better and understand your artistic message better.

Good questions to answer when writing an artist statement are:

- Why do I create art?
- How do I create art?
- What is the message I'm trying to convey through my art?
- What is my art about?

**An artist statement is about the art, not about the artist. It is a statement about the current direction of your artwork – not the history of how you got to this point.**

## Helpful tools for writing an artist statement:

- Make a list of words and phrases that communicate your feelings about your work and your values. Include words you like, words that make you feel good, and words that communicate your values or fascinations. Be loose. Be happy. Be real. Be honest.
- Take time to think about why you do what you do. How did you get into this work? How do you feel when work is going well? What are your favorite things about your work? Jot down short phrases that capture your thoughts.
- Keep it simple. You do not have to use big, fancy words – find unique words that convey your work's qualities. You're creating your art in word-form; describe it to the reader. If they've never seen an image of your artwork, they should be able to picture it in their mind from your description.
- Write it from the heart. What really inspires you as an artist? Why do you create what you create? What message are you trying to pass on in your art?
- Write in the third-person (e.g. Debra's art represents...).

For a more step-by-step guide for writing an artist statement, refer to the websites below.

<http://www.mollygordon.com/resources/marketingresources/artstatemt/>

<https://www.mica.edu/Documents/Career%20Services/ArtistStatementBio11.pdf>

<http://www.artistsynergy.com/what-every-artist-needs-to-know/how-to-write-an-artist-bio-or-statement/>

Resources used to create this document:

<http://www.mollygordon.com/resources/marketingresources/artstatemt/>

<http://www.artistsynergy.com/what-every-artist-needs-to-know/how-to-write-an-artist-bio-or-statement/>

<http://www.artbizblog.com/2010/11/bio-statement-about.html>