



Crafting Your Artist Statement

Tips:

Write in the first person.

Be careful not to overuse "I". Vary your sentence structure.

Be brief.

Two to three paragraphs will do it. We live in a sound-byte world so keep it short and direct.

Describe the current direction of your work.

What is unique about your approach, your methods and/or your materials?

If your work takes different forms, write one statement for each body of work.

You may have two to three statements at any given time. A general one that provides an overview of your work, statements that present groups of work, and statements that present individual pieces.

Don't worry: they all build off one another.

Set your statement aside for at least a day, ideally more than one, and then reread it.

When you're relaxed and open, reread your statement. Notice what works and what doesn't.

Notice what's true and what isn't. Mark up your statement, revise and make it better. Do this as many times as it takes – three to five is about right though don't get discouraged if it takes you nine or ten revisions. Work until your statement reflects both you and your art.

When you're ready, give your statement to someone you trust, someone who understands your art, and ask for feedback.

Listen and pay attention to anything that resonates. Revise again and repeat the process until you are sure that your artist statement is the best you can make it.

As your art develops, so should your artist statements.

You'll write many artist statements in your career. Keep a filing system and let each new statement organically grow from your work and your existing statements.

Send out your work!

Send out your artist statement in order to extend your circle and to attain your goals. Include it with grant and admission applications, press releases, correspondence with gallery owners and potential buyers.

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