



Writing an Artist Statement

IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE!

Artist statements may seem difficult to write...and understand!

The eternal struggle.



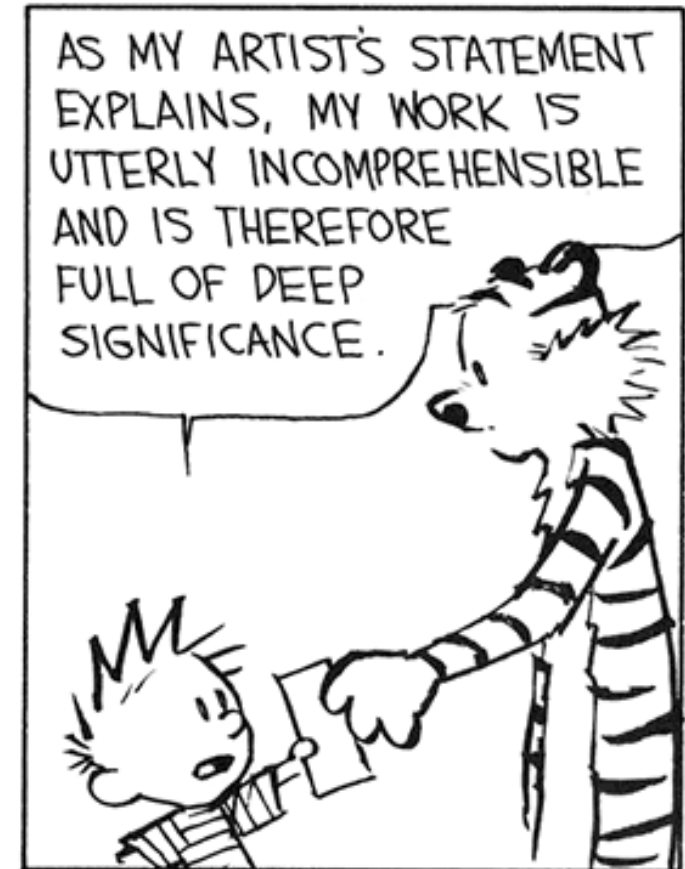
What is an artist statement?



- ▶ What is it?
Artists and creative people often need to create a document explaining their work. The artist statement provides a general introduction to your work that helps clarify your own thoughts about what you are doing, and shares that insight with others.
- ▶ Function:
It is a fundamental part of your applications for: MFA graduate programs, grants, residencies, and exhibits; public relations (for press releases); collectors; to be posted in galleries exhibiting your work.

Guidelines: (remember it's hard to generalize)

- ▶ Use first person voice
- ▶ Use your own “voice”: showcase your personality
- ▶ Be direct and concise (no jargon)
- ▶ Specific, not vague or general language
- ▶ Dynamic language: use action words, visual images or metaphors
- ▶ Avoid repeating yourself
- ▶ Resist the temptation to drag out the thesaurus to use words you don't know
- ▶ Focus on the most central issue in your work and HOW the art conveys that idea/message.
- ▶ Grab the reader's interest with the first sentence.
- ▶ Keep it short!
- ▶ Show confidence: avoid phrasing like, “I attempt to...”; “I hope that...” etc.



What your statement MIGHT answer (not all in one statement!):

You may choose to address one or two of these questions – the ones that get to the core of your work. For each artist, that will be different:

- ▶ WHAT does your work consist of?
- ▶ HOW is it made?
- ▶ WHY did you create it?
- ▶ WHAT influenced/inspired you?
- ▶ WHAT materials did you use, and why?
- ▶ WHAT is the work about? WHAT does it mean?
- ▶ HOW does your work fit into contemporary discourse? Or, how does it connect to a broader history of art? (if applicable)
- ▶ HOW is your process central to the work? (if applicable)
- ▶ HOW did the work /body of work develop?
- ▶ HOW does this work fit into your overall body of work?

Andy Yoder, sculptor

“Many people take great comfort in the bathroom towels being the same color as the soap, toilet paper, and tiles. It means there is a connection between them, and an environment of order. Home is a place not only of comfort, but of control. This sense of order, in whatever form it takes, acts as a shield against the unpredictability and lurking chaos of the outside world.

My work is an examination of the different forms this shield takes, and the thinking that lies behind it. I use domestic objects as the common denominators of our personal environment. Altering them is a way of questioning the attitudes, fears and unwritten rules which have formed that environment and our behavior within it.”

Sam Durant

- ▶ My artwork takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues. Often referencing American history, my work explores the varying relationships between popular culture and fine art. Having engaged subjects as diverse as the civil rights movement, southern rock music and modernist architecture, my work reproduces familiar visual and aural signs, arranging them into new conceptually layered installations. While I use a variety of materials and processes in each project my methodology is consistent. Although there may not always be material similarities between the different projects they are linked by recurring formal concerns and through the subject matter. The subject matter of each body of work determines the materials and the forms of the work. Each project often consists of multiple works, often in a range of different media, grouped around specific themes and meanings. During research and production new areas of interest arise and lead to the next body of work.

Short artist statements

- ▶ **Diana Chamberlain, ceramicist:** “I work in porcelain for its suppleness, delicacy and strength. Porcelain’s willingness to be transformed, both in form and texture, makes it a perfect medium for exploring the iconic meaning of dress and the concept of shelter.”
- ▶ **Charlene Fuhrman-Schulz, sumi-é artist:** “I use traditional materials, ink and brush on rice paper, to capture movement and life — making the brush dance and the ink sing.”

If all else fails... (just kidding!)

► <https://artybollocks.com>

artybollocks generator

**Do you hate having to
write your own artist
statement?**

Generate your own artist statement for free, and if you don't like it, generate another one. Feel free to use the statements with funding applications, exhibitions, curriculum vitae, websites, ...

Generate some bollocks



Tweet



Like

6.7K people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.



The bollocks doesn't end here...

TWITTER VERSION

ARTIST CERTIFICATE

APPRECIATION