

Art 116 Intro to Digital Media - Fall 2014

How to Write an Artist Statement

An artist statement is a specific written statement about an artist's work. It is brief (a few paragraphs long) to give support to the visual experience. It works as a means to present and give context to the work.

There are two types of artist statements. A general one to support an artist's over all work. Then there is a specific one that speaks to only a body of work.

Artist statements are always tricky to write. It is a balance of not telling too much about your work, and not giving too little. Be careful to not use too many "artspeak" words or too plain of language.

You want to sound intelligent, but not to outcast your audience who does not major in art.

Within your artist statement you need to cover some points:

- Why you created this work (not because it was an assignment)
- Anything that was important in the process of creating the work (you challenged yourself to create a whole video in 24 hours from concept to production, or your photographs were only shot on film that was cross processed)
- How the audience should react to the work, or rather your intentions for creating the work
- Are there any unanswered questions or open ended responses that they work is giving to the viewer
- Any relevant readings or artists that inspired the work (IE a political movement, the surrealists, or pages from your diary).

Sometimes the artist statement needs to answer the "who, what, when, where, and why"

But sometimes things may need to be withheld from the artist statement, to allow the audience to formulate their experience.

For our purposes in this class

Each Project is required to have an artist statement. Your artist statement should not be written last minute. Your artist statement should be at least a paragraph long and not longer than three.