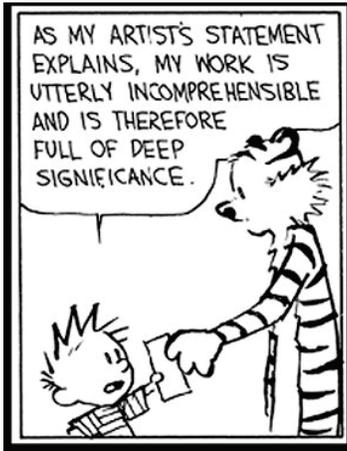


How to Write Your Artist Statement & Bio for Sanguine

June 2018



Thank you for taking the time to develop another facet of your artistic self.

Know that you are not alone. All artists struggle with these modes of expression. As artists we express ourselves best visually but rest assured that there is a pattern to this writing these just like there is one for writing an essay or a novel.

We will guide you through questions that will allow you to reflect on your work and how it relates to Sanguine and the 40th Anniversary of the MPG.

By the time you are done you will feel a weight off your shoulders and proud of yourself for articulating your ideas so that others can understand and appreciate your work on a deeper level.

Cartoon by Bill Watterson, July 15, 1995

What is an Artist Statement?

An artist statement is comprised of narrative text that explains the artist's work from the first-person perspective. This is where the artist may reveal his/her intentions, inspiration, concept and personal connection to the art to enhance the public/viewer's experience and understanding.

"Your artist's statement is a kind of lie that is looking for the truth. That is, you actually hold the artist's statement up to the work, either the work doesn't fulfill the terms of the artist's statement or the artist's statement doesn't fulfill the terms of the work."

Lauren Gallaspy
The Potters' Cast Episode 230

Some questions to think about when writing your statement:

What keeps you coming back to the studio?

What questions are you asked most frequently about your work?

Who is your art for?

From the Art League

Why do you make your art?

What inspires or drives you to make it?

Why people should care?

What does it signifies or represents?

What does it communicate?

What's unique or special about how you make it?

What does it mean to you?

<http://www.artbusiness.com/artstate.html>

**Guided steps in Unit 3 Portfolio Kit - Exercises 1–3 from The Work of Art Toolkit
WORKBOOK - Business Skills for Artists www.springboardforthearts.org/woa**

Preparing to Write Your Artist Statement:

- The Living Arts Centre gallery requires an artist statement that is up to 250-words.
- You will need to provide the title and medium for the LAC.
- We are also asking for the dimensions: typically given as Height x Width x Depth or Diameter for the catalogue (if we get funding to support it).
- Your audience is the jurors and the general public.

Tips for Writing Your Artist Statement:

1. Write in your own voice. Use active words/verbs. Write in the first person.
2. Summarize your art practice in the first paragraph with an "attention grabber".
2. Expand on who you are, what you do and why you do it. Max. 2-3 paragraphs in total.
3. Aim your writing at a grade 8 audience reading level.
5. Stop periodically to read your sentences out loud. Edit, repeat, refine.

Compare:

Through the materiality of the paint, I mediate the transition and spatial flux between oceanic, landscape and cosmic space. Heavily applied, the painterly viscosity brings a three-dimensionality to the work into which the viewer can visually dive.

With:

I use the paint itself to suggest the transition between ocean, land and sky. The thickly applied paint creates a three-dimensional quality which invites the viewer into the work.

Adapted from Jennifer Blunden, "Art + Text" Museums Australia, Exploring Dynamics, Cities, Cultural Sources, and Communities: 2006 conference

Tips for writing your Artist's Biography

- Name, Medium, Background
- For LAC 250 words
- Written in 3rd person
- Should instill trust
- Should provide the reader with a story about you as an artist (artistic journey)
- Should introduce your career credentials (formal training or self-taught)
- Includes where you are from if relevant
- Make multiple drafts and edit, refine & show to another artist

Recommendations and Sources:

<https://springboardforthearts.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/WoA-Toolkit-Workbook-2015.pdf> **The Work of Art Toolkit WORKBOOK - Business Skills for Artists** from Springboard for the Arts

<https://www.theartleague.org/blog/2015/08/24/artist-statements-we-love/>

<http://500letters.org/> (good fun but don't use it for real)

<http://www.artbusiness.com/artstate.html> "Your Artist Statement: Explaining the Unexplainable" by Alan Bamburger.

The Potters Cast by Paul D. Blais <http://thepotterscast.com/>

<http://renee-phillips.com/how-to-write-the-artists-biography/>