

ARTIST'S STATEMENTS

FUNCTION

Artist's statements serve a variety of purposes. They can provide context, help the audience comprehend your work, or convey purpose or intent. Below are several distinct functions for an artist's statement.

Class Assignment

Artist's statements are sometimes written for the purpose of presenting a project to class. In this capacity, it is a tool for critique and should contain relevant detail, describing the intent and execution.

Grant/Fellowship Application

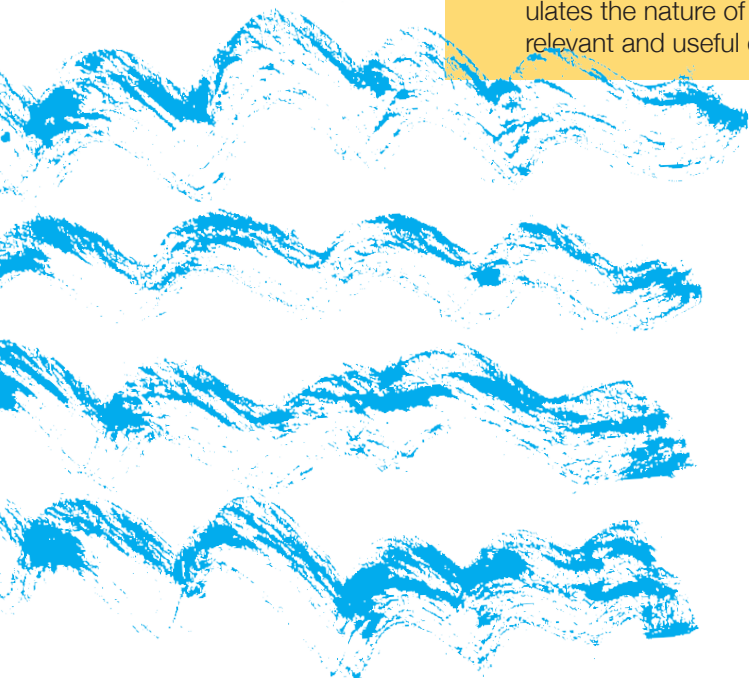
Often, grant applications will require the submission of an artist's statement. This statement should directly relate to the images or slides that are submitted with the application and should provide some details about the content or form of the work.

Graduate School Application

Graduate schools often request artist's statements from prospective students, asking them to describe their work and their understanding of their 'place' in contemporary art.

Gallery Solicitation

When submitting slides to a gallery, you should include an artist's statement that articulates the nature of your work. This statement should match your work and contain a relevant and useful description.



FORMAT

Depending on purpose or function, artist's statements can address a single body of work or a lifetime of artmaking. Below are some examples of different formats.

One Piece

Explains and describes a single piece.

One Project or Series

Addresses the development and execution of an entire series.

Several Projects

Discusses the connections between several projects.

Philosophy/Manifesto

Serves as a manifesto of your work.

Proposal

Written before the execution of a project, highlighting your goals and plan for progress.

Biographical - Narrative

Combines traditional prose with the discussion of methodology and process.

CONTENT

Artist's statements can include a variety of information. Below are some potential subjects for your statement, as well as example starter sentences.

POTENTIAL SUBJECTS

Process/Technique

What kind of techniques are significant in your work?
How do you make decisions about the progress of a piece?

Subject/Content

Are there consistent themes or subjects in your work?
Does it connect to contemporary issues?

Medium

What materials do you use and why are they significant?

Personal Experience

Are there experiences in your life that are relevant to your subject matter?

Goals

What are your goals for an individual piece or series?
What messages should the viewer get from your work?
What do you want the viewer to experience or feel? How do you accomplish this?

Sources

What are the sources for the imagery or ideas in your work?
How do the sources dictate the final product?
Are there other artists who do work in the same vein?



EXAMPLE SENTENCE STARTERS

- My work attempts to... (how it affects the viewer)
- I am interested in exploring... (subject of work)
- I draw on... (explanation of influences or sources)
- I use (materials or strategies) to generate... (intent)
- In my next project, I plan to continue... (connect work)
- This piece features... (explanation of style choices)
- My work examines/investigates... (content)
- My processes and materials directly connect to the subject matter in that... (process)
- (Topics, messages or ideas) ...are conveyed in my work.
- The images that are incorporated into my work are symbols of... (sources)
- I assemble these images by... (process or technique)