

Artist Statement Guide

An Artist's Statement is an essay written by the artist that is descriptive of the visual work s/he creates. Statements provide viewers who are unfamiliar with the artist (such as gallery owners, museum curators, journalists and exhibit viewers) an introduction to the work. Equally important, the Statement can serve as a tool for the artist to learn more about where his/her work comes from and where it might lead.

Assignment

Type a one-page, single-spaced Artist's Statement that describes your work and your intentions in creating it. It is a good idea to read it out loud to your peers as you work on refining it.

Refined Draft Due

Critique Group I Week 6 / Feb. 14
Critique Group II Week 7 / Feb. 21

Final Draft

At your final slide presentation

Central Questions

Viewers will read your statement to get answers to the questions they might have about your work. Here are some questions to consider addressing in your statement.

- Why do you use the medium, scale, process, etc. that you use?
- How does your choice of medium, scale, process, etc. draw on historical forms or otherwise inform the content of your work?
- Is there a central theme or inquiry or interest from which you generate your work?
- What formal aspects interest you? Color? Line? Value? Shape? Form? Movement?
- Are there contemporary or historical images that you are influenced by or that you work against?
- How should the viewer engage your work? How do you anticipate the viewer will attend to your work?
- How do you contextualize your process or images in the greater context of image or object making?
- Is there symbolism you employ that would be useful to point out or clarify for viewers?

One note: one of the fundamental characteristics that draws us to art is its visual mystery or poetry. While it is important to help viewers engage your work, it is equally important to determine what not to tell them directly so the ambiguous qualities of the visual language remain compelling and evocative.