

How to write an artist statement:

An artist statement is a key piece of information that can speak on behalf of your artwork so the viewer may read further about your work.

An artist statement contains:

- the name of the artwork
- the year it was made
- the artist's name
- the medium(s) the artwork is created out of
- the size
- the price.

An artist statement is:

1. A brief – **no longer than 150-200 words** – representation in SUPPORT of your work, therefore offering some understanding for the viewer.
2. Conversational grammar with some contextualising and big words
3. Displayed in the gallery next to your work. You have the option of having a longer version in the catalogue if desired.
4. Written in the first person – from the artists point-of-view
5. Again – no longer than 150-200 words

An artist statement is **not**:

1. One sentence
2. A biography about your work or career
3. A running description of what the artwork is and looks like
4. So abstract the reader cannot connect your artist statement to the work and vice versa

All this information needs to be accurate so that both yourself, and the purchaser, knows all relevant details of the work.

See the example on the following page.

EXAMPLE:

Construction Worker

Rose Cole

2011

Silver Gelatin print on fibre paper

42 x 59.4cm

(Title of work)

(Artist's name)

(Year made)

(Medium(s))

(Size in cm)



The process of getting into character for my photos is one of disassociating myself from my usual identity. I no longer identify with the person in the photo as myself. From the moment I am getting ready I become a blank slate, and during the process I focus on becoming that particular character.

Inspiration for my characters can come from something as simple as seeing a particular item of clothing or a certain space that sparks my interest. Imagining what kind of person would wear the clothing, what character they would be, what would their personality and attitude be like and what would be happening in the setting. The environment informs the character, as does the clothing within the space.

The above artist statement example gives contextual insight into the photograph and details some of the process that drives the end result – the photograph. It does not self-explain that it is a construction worker and the fact it is a woman.

If you are stuck on what to say in your artist statement, imagine you are a viewer and you haven't seen your work before. Consider what questions a viewer may ask; what is the artist trying to say through your work (be general, not direct).

Ask yourself what influences your work, how do your methods of working (techniques, style, decisions made while making the artwork) support the content of your work?

Once you have written your artist statement, re-read it. And then again, the next day. If you have a friend, you can run it past, do so. It can be helpful to have another person's perspective.

And if you are truly stuck, you can email me at addisonlaneservices@gmail.com

Addison
SwoA Side Kick