ARTIST BIOS AND STATEMENTS

What is an Artist Bio?

An artist bio is a summarized, narrative version of your CV, but shorter and with more personality. Bios can be used in your professional documents, as part of a catalogue at an exhibition, in publicity and printed programs, and/or other promotional materials. An effective bio conveys a vibrant, distinct impression of you and your work. It communicates who you are as a person and what your aesthetic sensibility is. A well-written and composed artist bio helps a reader connect to the artist and provides a means for a viewer to interpret the artist’s work. It is always written in the third person.

Key Information to Include in Your Artist’s Bio:

- Your name
- The medium you work in
- A line about the key themes, concerns of your practice
- Your showing history
- Your art related education (degree level onwards)
- Other interesting information relevant to your practice or career as an artist (e.g. collaborations or arts collectives, other areas or aspects to your career that inform your practice)

Keep your bio up to date with any new work, influences and experience that may have changed you, you art and your artistic perspective. Make sure that you have an up to date image of yourself to include when necessary. Also, update your bio on any websites and art forums where you post and show your artwork.

Example of an Artist Bio:

Sarah Powers is an artist based in Raleigh, North Carolina whose mixed media work focuses on industrial and rural landscapes and landscape details. Her work has been featured in galleries across the U.S. including Rhode Island’s RISD l works, The Sarah Doyle Gallery at Brown University and The Mahler Gallery, The Collectors Gallery, Long View Gallery, Rebus Works, Vision Gallery, The Greenhill Center and Artspace in North Carolina. Powers is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design. She is a past recipient of a United Arts Council Project Grant and a former Chair of the Raleigh Arts Commission. Powers is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design.

What is an Artist Statement?

Your artist statement is your opportunity to communicate why you created your art. It should enrich the viewer’s experience of your work and allow them to dig a little deeper into your process. It’s a tool for gallery directors, reviewers, teachers, and curators to understand and evaluate your body of work.

Key Information to Include:

- Why you have created the work and its history
- Your overall vision
- How your work fits in with the history of art practice
- Where your work fits in with current contemporary art
- Sources and inspiration for your images
- Artists you have been influenced by or how your work relates to other artists’ work
- Your philosophy of art making or of the work’s origin
Keep your statement simple and direct. Unlike a bio, it’s written in the first person (e.g. I, me, my). You do not need to include information about exhibits, education, collections, awards, etc. Those belong to your CV/resume, and sometimes bio.

**Example of an Artist Statement:**

A lot of my inspiration for my work is drawn from critical view of social, political and cultural issues. I abstract the American dream, fairytales, and lullabies that are part of our culture. These themes are combined into installations that feature mundane domestic objects painted blue, juxtaposed with whimsical objects, and often embellished with stenciled text. The color blue establishes dream-like surreal quality and calmness. It formally unifies the disparate objects in each installation. The texts provide clues to content and interpretation.

**Further Resources and Examples:**

- Getting your Sh*t Together: The Ultimate Business Manual For Every Practicing Artist, Karen Atkinson
- Your Better Bio: Vivid and Engaging
- How to Write an Artist Statement, wiki how
- Also make sure to visit museums/galleries to collect your own examples

*Be sure to share your draft with your mentor or career counselor to get feedback. Remember that both your artist bio and statement are living documents and will continually change with your work as it develops.*