

WRITING AN ARTIST STATEMENT

Information in the Gund Library

Guides to writing an artist statement

Bernstein, Mashey and George Yatchisin. *Writing for the Visual Arts*. N/7476/.B47/2001
See chapters "How to Write About Your Art," "How to Revise and Peer Review," and "Writing Art Manifestos: Expressing Your Philosophy."

Getting the Word Out: The Artist's Guide to Self-Promotion. N/8350/.G4/1998 [library has several editions]

See Peggy Hadden's chapter on the artist's statement, also available on-line at <http://labweb.education.wisc.edu/artcommunity/artisttips/makeartiststatement.asp>

Goodwin, Ariane. *Writing the Artist Statement: Revealing the True Spirit of Your Work*. N/8351/.A7/G66/2002

Goodwin's informal style differs significantly from the other books. She coaches and encourages you through a variety of exercises to help you identify the ideas in your art and write about these ideas in a way that connects with an audience.

Katchen, Carole. *Promoting & Selling Your Art*. N/8600/.K37

Although somewhat dated, Chapter 2: Putting Yourself on Paper includes useful advice on career statements and statements of personal philosophy.

Lang, Cay. *Taking the Leap: Building a Career as a Visual Artist*. N/8350/.L36/2006

Chapter 2: Creating Your Artist's Packet includes a section on artist's statements as well as example statements.

Sayre, Henry M. *Writing About Art*. N/7476/.S29/1999 [library has several editions]

Although most of this small book is geared to writing about someone else's art, the appendix "A Short Guide to Usage and Style: The Rules and Principles Most Often Violated in Writing About Art," is also helpful when writing about your own art.

In addition to these books, here are a couple useful web-sites:

<http://www.eciad.ca/wc/artstate.htm>

<http://www.nitaleland.com/articles/statement.htm>

http://www.artistsfoundation.org/art_pages/resources/resources_arts_statement.htm

Finding examples of other artists' statements

Artists' statements can be found in a variety of books, exhibition catalogs, and periodical articles and can provide useful models for you. Here are some strategies for finding artists' statements in the Gund Library.

Robertson, Jack. *Twentieth-Century Artists on Art: An Index to Writings, Statements, and Interviews by Artists, Architects, and Designers*. Gen. Ref. N/6490/.W7/R59/1996

Look up an artist's name in the main section. The citation will refer you to a publication listed in the bibliography (pages 1-45). The Gund Library call number is written in.

Use library's online [catalog](http://catalog.case.edu) (<http://catalog.case.edu>) to find recent books and exhibition catalogs that include artists' statements. Select the "Subject Heading Search" option, and then look for the phrase ARTISTS' STATEMENTS using the "Specialized Art Subject Search." Some examples of books with examples of artists' statements are:

Negotiating Small Truths. ND/212/.N336/1999

Beyond the Obvious: Rethinking Jewelry. NK/7312/.B49/1999

Immersed in Technology: Art and Virtual Environments. N/72/.T4/I48/1996

Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings.
N/6490/.W7/T492/1996

You can also search the library's on-line periodicals indexes (free access if you use a CIA computer) to find additional artists' statements. Each index covers a different selection of periodicals, so you will want to use several indexes. Here are some searching tips:

[Art Full Text](#)

- Use the "advanced search" feature and search for the phrase "artists statements" (without the apostrophe) as a *subject*.
- To find a statement by a specific artist, search for the phrase "artists statements" (without the apostrophe) as a *keyword* and the person's name as a *keyword*. Use the "pick lists" to select these categories.
- To limit your results to the periodicals we own, put a check in the library holdings box. Keep in mind there may be a PDF or full text version of an artists statement in a periodical we don't own, so you may not want to limit your search this way.

[ArtBibliographies Modern](#), [design and applied arts index](#), [Design PRoFILES](#), [DAR: Design Abstracts Retrospective](#)

- Use the "quick search" and search the phrase "artist statement" (without the apostrophe and in the singular form).
- Although this is the best way to find artists' statements with these indexes, be prepared for some "false hits."

CAN'T FIND ANYTHING? **Ask the library staff for help.**



www.cia.edu/library