

WRITING AN ARTIST STATEMENT

Information in Cleveland Institute of Art Library

Writing Guides

Adamson, Glenn. "When Artists Write About Their Work," *American Craft*, V. 72 # 3 (June/July 2012), 22-23.

This excellent, short essay attempts to answer the questions what are the purpose and elements of an "ideal" artist statement and is recommended by the CIA ceramics faculty. Available in print in the library & online as a PDF (if you search for it by title using [Art Source](#) - - CIA only access).

Bernstein, Mashey and George Yatchisin. *Writing for the Visual Arts*. [N 7476 .B47 2001](#)

See the 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](#)

Peggy Hadden's article from chapter 3, [Make a Statement](#), is also available on-line.

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 to write about these ideas in a way that connects with an audience.

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 the artist's statement with several examples.

Sayre, Henry M. *Writing About Art*. [N 7476 .S29 2009](#) [library also has several older editions]

The focus of this book is on writing about someone else's art, but the appendix "A Short Guide to Usage and Style: The Rules and Principles Most Often Violated in Writing About Art," can be helpful when writing about your art.

Helpful online guides

[Writing an Artist Statement](#) (Cleveland Institute of Art's Writing Center)

[Writing an Artist Statement](#) (Writing Centre at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design)

[Writing An Artist's Statement](#) (by Nita Leland)

[Writing Your Artist Statement](#) (by Molly Gordon)

Finding examples of artists' statements

Examples of artists' statements can be found in books, exhibition catalogs, and periodicals, and can provide useful models when writing your own. Some ways of finding these are as follows:

- ❖ For statements of 20th century artists, try this index:
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, and the citation will refer you to a publication listed in the bibliography (pages 1-45).
- ❖ For books and exhibition catalogs that include artists' statements, check the library's online [catalog](#). To find books that include artist statements, you can search "artists' statements local" as an exact phrase and using quotes. Using the "Advanced Search" option, you can refine your search by typing "artists' statements local" in one of the dialogue boxes and then the name of an artist (such as Mendieta or Baldessari) or a medium (such as photography or jewelry) in one of the other boxes.
- ❖ Artists' statements can also be found in the library's online databases -- [design and applied arts index](#) and [Art Source](#) (both are CIA access only). Each database includes different publications, so you may want to try more than one. The following are some tips for searching:
 - If you search the phrase "artist statement" or "artists statement" as a subject, you will find articles ABOUT this topic.
 - If you do a keyword search using either of these phrases, you may get different results searching the singular or plural form (e.g. artist statement or artists statements). You will also probably get too many results.
 - If you are looking for a statement by a specific artists or an artist working in a specific medium, you can combine one of the phrase with the name of the artist (e.g. Mangold, Warhol) or medium (e.g. ceramics, sculpture) to refine your search and narrow your results.

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



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