

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. To read an online version of this article, search the article title in [Art Full Text](#).

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/.S29/1999 [library has several 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.

Websites

[Writing an Artist Statement](#), from the 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. 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](#). Using the "Advanced Search" option, select the "Subject" tab at the top. Select the "Art/Other Subject" option and search ARTISTS' STATEMENTS. The following books contain examples of artists' statements:

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

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

Moser, Mary Anne and Douglas MacLeod. *Immersed in Technology: Art and Virtual Environments*. N/72/.T4/I48/1996

Stiles, Kristine and Peter Selz. *Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings*. N/6490/.W7/T492/1996

- ❖ Artists' statements can also be found in the library's on-line databases. Each database includes different publications, so you may want to try more than one. The following are some tips for searching:

[design and applied arts index](#)

- Using the "quick search" feature, search the phrase "artist statement" (in the singular form). Then search the phrase "artists statement" (in the possessive form, but without the apostrophe). Each of the variations will give you different results.

[Art Full Text](#)

- Search for the phrase "artists statements" as a *subject* using the "advanced search" feature. To find a statement by a specific artist, search for the artist's name and the phrase "artists statements" as *keywords*.

CAN'T FIND ANYTHING?

Ask the library staff for help.

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