

How to Write an Artist Statement

Special Projects Digital Photography I PHO 2453
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Artist statements are generally very difficult for an artist to write. Often, it is difficult to know where to begin, or what topics to cover. Depending on the situation, you may need an artist statement that is only a few paragraphs, or several pages. I have assembled some of the best tips and topics for writing your statements and compiled them below.

Write in the first person.

It is generally best to write these in the first person because it is *your* interpretation of *your own work*. **For the book, you are required to write this in first person.**

Who are you and what is your background (relevant to this work)?

“How did your ideas develop? What did you initially set out to explore, investigate and discover? How did this perspective change as your work took shape?”

Be careful not to let this turn into your Artist Bio! Any info you list should all be relevant to **this specific photography series**. Think of it as an introduction to your work, but not an introduction to you as a photographer. You must keep it specifically relevant to the work displayed. Your Artist Bio will be displayed in a different section of the book, but your Artist Statement immediately precedes your photo series.

Audience, occasion or situation:

What is your purpose or motive?

“The reasons why you have produced a work or art can be extremely varied.”

In our case motive is introduced to the viewer with the format **of the exhibition**

The purpose for your series is to interpret the theme that was selected. **Again, it is absolutely vital that you mention the theme and discuss how you are interpreting it with your photography series.**

“Whether it is obvious or not, your purpose, or reason for producing a work of art is usually reflected in the process. If you were interested in presenting an image or an idea in a particular way, then you may want to explain how the work grew out of that interest, what you became aware of through the process of putting the show or work together. Your interests, your ideas, your creations, your intentions, your ex-