

Artist Statement and Artist Biography Basics

The 'Artist Statement versus the Artist Bio' is one of the most confusing tasks that an artist deals with when preparing for an exhibition. The challenge of writing one may seem quite daunting, although please read further to be enlightened on what this means for you. The artist's biography is a required piece of documentation when submitting works for a show or gallery. Unless you are a world-famous artist, most people won't know you all that well, and you'll need to help explain who you are, why you're here, and why people should be interested in you. You may want to take the opportunity to flaunt your credentials, or your education. You may want to describe your solo shows, or your inspiration, or your artistic technique. The biography does not need to be detailed or granular as your Curriculum Vitae, and not as personal and philosophical as your Artist Statement. An Artist Bio does not exceed 100 words.

The Kamloops Arts Council requests both an Artist Bio and an Artist Statement about your exhibition for promotional purposes.

With this in mind, here's a list of what you need, at minimum:

For your Artist Biography-

Always written in third person (i.e. he, she)

Where you are from

Where you currently live

What you are creating

Your experiences

Your art related education

Your current projects

Your past projects

Your future plans in your art career

For your Artist Statement-

The Kamloops Arts Council highly recommends you display at least one Artist Statement about your entire exhibition, or create an Artist Statement for each piece you are exhibiting. This should also be done in group exhibitions. The Artist Statement tells the viewer all about each piece, or your exhibition on the whole.

Remember, if you're not present when your work is being viewed, the artist's statement is your proxy to the viewer, and perhaps your one chance to explain what you're doing. When writing your statement, imagine talking to a potential customer while standing in front of your best work. Next, imagine explaining the piece to them. Here are some helpful tricks to writing an Artist Statement:

Always written in first person (i.e. me, my, I)

What inspired you to create this piece

What this piece means to you

What your work is like

What your challenges were with this piece