

Writing your artist statement:

Grads exhibiting Fall 09: 1st draft due Sept 22 , Oct 13 (revision), Nov 10 final

3rd-4th semester grads: 1st draft: Oct 15. 2nd draft: Nov 19

1st or 2nd semester grads: (rough working statement) due Nov 24

An artist* statement is a document that places your work in context for a selected audience. The artist statement should be as individual as you are and should change over time. Statements can be as short as a haiku or as long as a novella, but should always consider the audience. (A "novella" works fine in a catalogue, but may not be as practical in a gallery).

*I'm using the term artist here as a blanket term to include fine artists, illustrators, web designers... anyone who works to communicate in a visual field. You are required to write an artist statement for this class. Your statement will be quite different depending on where you are in your education. If you are just starting, you may pose more questions than answers. If you are preparing to exhibit your work in the MA exhibition, your statement should be polished and reflect the culmination of your experience in graduate school.

Statements can be:

Personal. Explain who you are and why your work should matter to anyone else, or why they should be interested.

Historical: Explain your influences and background and how it led to where you are today. Possibly a list of exhibitions or educational background.

Technical: explain what you are doing and how.

Theoretical; explain the theory behind what you are doing.

Or any combination of the above with other elements thrown in!

As a start, imagine your audience. How can you help them understand what you do and why? Should they care? Imagine someone walking into a gallery or stumbling upon your work online. What can you tell them to help them into your work?