

Artist's Statement

by Beth Ann Hamilton

What does an Artist's Statement do?

The objectives of the Artist's Statement are to identify, inform and educate. It should clearly describe information about the artist's work that might be of interest to consumers, judges, show committees or other artists. As an educational tool and conversation starter, it should ensure that the viewer understands what is being seen, who made it, and how it was produced.

What should be included in the Statement?

- A photograph of the artist and contact information. The photograph may be a portrait but it is preferable to show the artist at work. It is important that the artist is identifiable. In the case of collaborative work, the photo should include both artists.
- Identification of medium and processes/techniques used. This should be simple - certainly not a disclosure of trade secrets or proprietary processes, i.e. "painted wood" is probably enough rather than disclosing the special kind of paint you developed over the years.
- Specific explanation of how the work is produced.
- If paid employees, assistants or apprentices are used, a concise and complete description of their involvement should be included. If you don't use assistants or apprentices, state that none are used.
- Where appropriate, identify material and methods of handling those materials. Again, this need not entail disclosure of propriety processes.
- It should be stated if an outside source such as a foundry or printing lab is used.
- Resume-type information such as awards, exhibitions, collections, etc., should NOT be included in this statement. If you like, you can post this information separately in your booth.
- Any other educational information could be included, but the overall statement should not exceed one page.

What sort of output should this be in?

An 8 1/2" x 11" format is suggested for uniformity in handling and ease of reproduction.

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