



Artist's Statement Worksheet

Tips for writing this statement:

- Two to four paragraphs long
- Write in the first person, as if you are talking
- Use plain English and write as if you're writing to non-artists; if you use any art "jargon" terms or talk about unusual techniques or materials, look for a way to define them

Consider devoting one paragraph each to any of the following topics that are important to you and your art:

- What are the most notable features about your work?
- How do you describe your style?

- Why do you choose the images or subjects you paint?
- What specifically inspires you about these subjects?
- What do you hope to accomplish by focusing on these subjects?

- What artistic principles and issues that are important to you?

- What is your process for creating a new work?
- Are there any special techniques you use?
- Is there anything special about your materials?
- What do you most enjoy about the act of creating art?

- How do you feel about your work?
- What do you hope others will feel/experience when looking at your work?

Artist's Statement Example (Fictitious)

Artist's Statement by Annie Artist

Vibrant color and sparkling light are perhaps the two most striking features of my artwork. All of my paintings are filled with contrasts of sunlit passages against rich shadows, of pure, vivid pigments against soft, luscious neutrals. Quite often, my color palette for a painting relies upon opposing colors on the color wheel—blue and orange, yellow and purple, red and green. All this contrast leads to drama and excitement that captures your attention and invites you into my work.

I enjoy painting a wide range of subjects, from flowers and other still life subjects to animals and people in landscape settings. All of them are based on the photographs I take when I'm traveling or even just going about my day. Whether I'm in Peru or Africa or right in my own backyard, one of my most important tools in the early stage of my creative process is my camera. When I see something that gives me a good feeling, I try to work out a really great composition and wait for the ideal light. Later, when I'm reviewing my photos, I look for those that have a strong design of interesting shapes to use as the basis for paintings.

And then the fun really begins for me. I typically apply layer after layer of watercolor, often needing as many as 20 hours to complete one painting. When I'm painting, I often think of my paint colors as my friends. I know which colors will bring a sky to life, which ones I can trust to make a good skin color, and which ones will dull down an area without deadening it. As much as possible, I also try to demonstrate a mastery of the full spectrum of techniques, applying the paint freely and nearly abstractly in some areas and juxtaposing those passages against tightly controlled areas. It's yet another form of contrast that adds drama to my work.

What my paintings all have in common is an homage to beauty, both in nature and in people. I strive to evoke in my images whatever I felt was most beautiful about the subject, be it the light, the atmosphere, or the love in someone's eyes.