

Queens College
Art Department / Photography & Imaging
PHOTO 377
Senior Photography Thesis
Prof. Greco

Assignment #1 – Artist Statement:

An artist statement is a written document that serves as a look into the creative process of an artist. It is a carefully crafted explanation of an artist's vision, motivations, and conceptual underpinnings. In an artist statement, artists often speak about their artistic journey, the influences that have shaped their art, and the philosophical, psychological, societal, cultural, or emotional concepts they aim to explore in their work. It offers a bridge between the artist and their audience, providing context and insight that enhances the viewer's understanding and appreciation of the artwork.

Artist statements come in all different types - from poetic to academic – there is no correct way to do it. However, for the purposes of this course we want to start with a statement that is straight-forward and accessible to most audiences.

An artist statement is something that grows and changes over time and can be general enough to cover your entire artistic practice or focused enough to talk about a specific work. We will work toward a more general statement that speaks to your overall work as an artist.

Objective: In this assignment, you will create a general artist statement. This statement will not only serve as a valuable reflection of your artistic practice but also provide an insight into your creative process, motivations, and core themes that drive your work.

Instructions:

Step 0: Let's ask ChatGPT We can use some new tools to help us get started.

- Think of 3 words that describe you as an artist (or person).
- Navigate to <https://chat.openai.com/> and create an account.
- Ask ChatGPT to write you a two-paragraph artist statement using the 3 words as a prompt. For example, here's what I might write; "please write a two-paragraph artist statement as a sculptor that is influenced by science, human behavior, and humor." (see the results on the examples page).

Step 1: Reflect on Your Artistic Journey Begin by reflecting on your personal artistic journey. Consider the following questions:

- What initially sparked your interest in art, and how has your passion evolved over time?
- Are there specific life experiences, people, or events that have profoundly influenced your artistic development?

- How would you describe your creative process? Do you have any rituals or techniques that are integral to your work?
- What keeps you coming back to the studio, day after day?
- What's the best way someone has responded to your artwork (comment in a guest book, at an exhibit, etc.)
- What questions are you asked most frequently about your work?
- What's your artist story?

Step 2: Identify Core Themes and Motivations Think about the themes or concepts that consistently appear in your artwork. These might be emotions, ideas, or experiences that hold personal significance for you. Ask yourself:

- What do you aim to communicate or convey through your art?
- Who do you believe to be your audience?
- Why are these themes or concepts important to you?
- Are there any messages or stories you wish to share with your audience?

Step 3: Craft Your Artist Statement Using your ChatGPT results as a framework, take your reflections from Steps 1 and 2, and draft a half page artist statement. This statement should be a well-crafted narrative, approximately two paragraphs in length, that offers a glimpse into your artistic practice. Consider some of the following:

- Begin with a captivating introduction that draws readers into your artistic world.
- Share your artistic journey, highlighting key milestones or experiences that have shaped you as an artist.
- Discuss the core themes or concepts that permeate your work and explain their significance.
- Reflect on your artistic practice and the techniques you employ.
- Conclude with a message to your audience, inviting them to engage with your art on a deeper level.

Step 4: Review and Revise After you complete your draft, we will take the time to review and revise it together in class. Ensure that your language is clear, concise, and reflective of your artistic identity. Seek feedback from peers or mentors to refine your statement further. Send to me as a shared document to review and revise inline before next class.

Step 5: Final Version Format your artist statement professionally. It should be easily readable and free of grammatical errors. You will incorporate this into your website and use for your portfolio or exhibition materials to provide context and insight to viewers.

Submission: Submit your final version to me as a Word doc and PDF. Format file name as follows: "first initial lastname_artist statement_fall 2023_final.docx" for example "mgreco_artist statement_fall 2023_final.docx"