

# Artist Statement

Artist statements are short texts, written by the artist, that commonly are an introduction to the artist's artwork; including their ideas, subjects, materials, and art-making process. Although, they may address a specific body of work or a specific project. Artist statements are used in art exhibitions, on artist websites, and in applications for exhibition opportunities and jobs. They may be written in first- or third-person.

Artist statements are not an autobiography or biography.

## Examples

### **Stephanie Syjuco**

**[www.stephaniesyjuco.com](http://www.stephaniesyjuco.com)**

Stephanie Syjuco creates large-scale spectacles of collected cultural objects, cumulative archives, and temporary vending installations, often with an active public component that invites viewers to directly participate as producers or distributors. Using critical wit and collaborative co-creation, her projects leverage open-source systems, shareware logic, and flows of capital, in order to investigate issues of economies and empire. This has included starting a global collaborative project with crochet crafters to counterfeit high-end consumer goods, presenting parasitic art counterfeiting events, and developing alternative vending economies, and other speculative propositions.

### **Dianna Frid**

**[www.diannafrid.net](http://www.diannafrid.net)**

My recent work is situated at the intersection of text and textiles. It takes the form of artist's books, sculpture, site-bound installations, and two-dimensional works. It varies considerably in scale and form, from the intimate size of a hand-held object to interior space alterations. Either explicitly or in nuance, my work engages with themes of time, process, death, and the transformation of matter.

The Latin root of the words textile and text, *texere*, means, "to weave." This shared root invites us to reflect on how weaving is a seven-thousand-year process of coding akin to writing. My approach is technically closer to drawing, embroidery and sculpture than it is to weaving, yet it engages with the interconnected experiences of the linguistic, the visual, and the material in ways that cloth has done across cultures past and present. I understood this intuitively growing up in Mexico City where I first experienced the resonance of coded textiles in garments worn by Zapotec and Mayan women who came to the capital for subsistence. Later I became aware of Anni Albers' writings on weaving and her contagious curiosity for pre-modern textiles as complex forms of writing and craft. These points of reference, just two among many, have been helpful in situating my work alongside diverse lineages that honor non-hierarchical relationships between art and craft, between concept and form.

Over time, I have come to recognize how texts are sensuous experiences that embrace syntax but also exceed it through substance, color and form. This is how I am equally aware that as much as my work intersects with and borrows from written language, it also wrestles with language and its limits across the less verbal aspects of art.

### Prompt

You are artist Robin Rhode, David Goldblatt, Zanele Muholi, or Nicholas Hlobo. Now write us an artist statement!

### Parameters

- Write an artist statement for one of the four artists presented in the Art21, season 9, episode: Johannesburg. Write as if you were the artist.
  - <https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s9/johannesburg/>
- Use only the Art21 video and information on the artists from the Art21 website as reference
- Write artist statement in first person
- Length: one paragraph, no shorter than 5 sentences
- Write in 'Popular' or 'Academic' style
- Do not quote or plagiarize from the artist or the Art21 website
- You will need to paraphrase what the artist is saying, but also look at the artwork and write about what you see and interpret
- Address the follow in the artist statement. "Your" artworks:
  - major concepts & subjects
  - major formal themes
  - personal background, if relevant to "your" artwork
  - process and/or materials, if relevant "your" artwork
  - how these elements are related
- Write well (edit your work), use correct grammar and punctuation
- No works cited page
- Label at top with your name, the name of the artist your writing as, and your crew

### Writing Help

SHSU Writing Center

<http://www.shsu.edu/centers/academic-success-center/writing/index.html>

### Due Dates

Full Draft:      October 5, 9:30am      (typed and printed)

Final:            October 19, 9:30am      (typed and printed)