

PORTAL 2025

ARTIST STATEMENT TIP SHEET

Artist Statements are typically between 50-200 words.

For this Portal 2025 we are looking for a **150 word statement** that acts as an **artist statement** and an **explanation of the work** on display. If selected, this will be used as interpretation material in the exhibition (i.e. labels, social media posts, printed material, website) and presented from the perspective of Llantarnam Grange.

Here are some tips to keep in mind.

1. Use third person.

Artist Statements are often presented from the perspective of the gallery or organisation. Using third person makes it more consistent with other written material. Use your full name first, then preferred pronouns and first name throughout the rest of your text.

2. Have a couple of introduction sentences about your practice as an artist / maker.

This can be general, about themes, materials, or approach you use, where you are from or based, or how you define yourself as an artist, i.e. artist / maker / textile artist / embroidery / conceptual artists / potter / ceramicist / ceramic artist / illustrator...

Try and use 50 words or less.

Example

Sophie Lindsey is an artist, writer and curator who creates work that responds to specific contexts, environments and situations.

Through a visual art, curatorial and writing practice, Sophie works across GIFs, performance, workshops, video, and public-space interventions to create projects that prioritise generosity, understanding and fun!

3. Describe what's physical there.

If you talk to much about concepts, ideas and themes, it can be hard for people to picture what you mean. Think about what will be seen alongside

your statement. What materials, techniques, or colours are being used, and how this demonstrates your interests, ideas, or feelings in your work.

4. Use simple language

People who see your work will have varying levels of interest and educations in the arts. Complex ideas can be expressed in simple language. Think about if what you are writing would make sense to your parents, grandparents, neighbours, or a stranger?

This doesn't mean 'dumbing down', think about your tone and try and be generous with what you share.

5. Don't use shorthand

When you are so close to your work it is easy to use abbreviations or phrases that are familiar or shorthand for you. This can be confusing for people who are seeing your work and learning about your ideas for the first time. Consider if any words or concepts need more explanation, or if there are words that are more common that more people can understand.

6. Be cautious with the thesaurus...

A thesaurus can be useful when you are struggling to think of words to explain what you mean, but be careful! Using words that are not regularly used, or to avoid repetition can create confusing writing. Make sure you are using words you are comfortable with, then think if they would make sense to someone else.

7. Do Research

This finally tip may be useful when update / writing statements in the future. Gather a collection of statements from artists and makers you like. Spend some time reading them and working out what you like and dislike about their writing. What tips or inspiration can you get from them?

8. Review periodically

Read your statement at regular intervals to check in. Does this still feel relevant to your work? Have new things emerged that are not included? Are you interested in different themes.

An artist statement is a living thing that gives a snap shot into your creative work at a specific moment. Nothing is set in stone. Allocate time to reflect, review, and re-write when needed.

Useful links:

<https://www.artsupport.com.au/articles>

<https://www.instagram.com/artsupport.au>

<https://thecreativeindependent.com/guides/how-to-write-an-artist-statement/>

<https://artquest.org.uk/how-to-articles/artist-statement/>