

## Artist's Statement Workshop

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### STEP ONE

1. Take five minutes and think about why you did what you did. How did you get into this work? What are your favorite things about the work? Jot down short phrases that capture your thoughts. Don't worry yet about making sense or connections.
2. Make a list of words and phrases that communicate your feelings about the work and your values. Include words that you like, words that make you feel good, words that communicate your interests, values, and fascinations.
3. Answer the following questions as simply as you can.
  - What do you like best about what you did?
  - What patterns emerge in your work? Is there a pattern in the way you select words? In the way you use color, texture, or light?
  - What connections do you see between this work and the rest of the course?
4. Look at your word list. Add new words suggested by your answers to the questions above.
5. Choose two key words from your word list. They can be related or entirely different.
6. With your key words in mind, select the creative piece or combination of pieces that you will present in your final portfolio.

### STEP TWO

Writing from the role of artist and/or poet, compose a three paragraph artist's statement focused on the piece(s) of creative work you have selected. Strive to keep your sentences precise and sincere. It is conventional to write in the first person and use the present tense (*e.g.*, "I am," not "I was," "I do," not "I did.") Be brave: say good things about what you've made and bold things about why.

Use your notes from above and the suggestions below to structure your initial draft and then feel free to revise as you see fit. In three to five sentences per paragraph:

- **First paragraph.** Begin with a simple statement of what motivated you to do this work (*i.e.*, why you do the kind of work you do). Support that statement, telling the reader more about your purposes and aspirations.
- **Second paragraph.** Tell the reader how you make decisions in the course of your work. How and why do you select your techniques and themes?
- **Third paragraph.** Tell the reader a little about the context of the work. How it grew out of prior work, other people's work, or life experiences. What are you exploring, attempting, challenging by doing this work?