



# **The challenge of the Artist Statement**

**Statements are hard!**





## So, why is the artist's statement so difficult?

1. The creative process is usually non-linear, intuitive and involves both conscious and unconscious thought.
2. The artist, themselves would need to have super-human levels of self-awareness and analytical ability of their own thought process to fully discuss influences and techniques
3. It is impossible to be aware of all the influences affecting creative work.
4. An artist will always have an understanding of their own work that creates an interpretive bias.
5. This creates a strategically limited and self-defeating position where
  - a. Self-praise carries little weight and comes across as arrogance, over-confidence, and is hard to back up with solid evidence.
  - b. Self-depreciation is seen as a lack of confidence, creating a lack of trust from the viewer in the artist's abilities and understanding of their work.



## Your statement is viewed as truth

This gives you a responsibility to be

- honest
- to the point
- critical
- analytical
- confident without being over the top



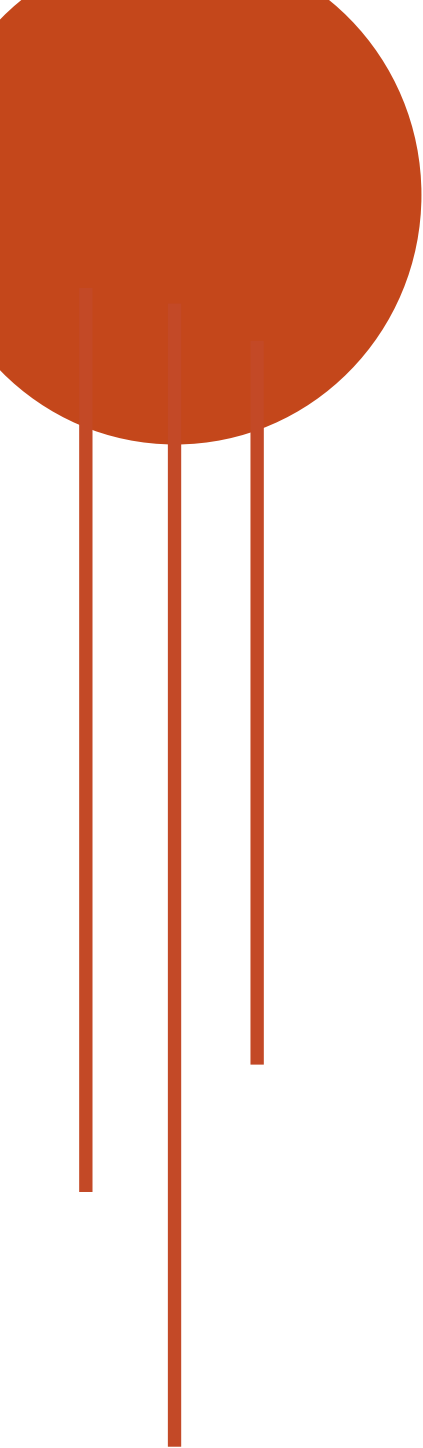
**With all that said, there are 5 major types of artist statements:**

1. The Overwritten Statement
2. The 'Artistic' Artist's Statement
3. The Up Close and Personal Artist's Statement
4. The Overly-vague, Say-Nothing Statement
5. The Well Written Statement  
(Rare the first time around)



## The Overwritten Statement

- very detailed account of the work, how it relates to history, past, present, and future
- so specific that interpretation of the work is removed from the viewer in the technicality.
- overshadows the work itself
- tend to be exceedingly long



I had been working on a series of small, luminous color fields in encaustic on panel, *Silk Road*, in which the alternating vertical and horizontal layers of brush strokes created the most subtle of grids, like a weave. I wanted to see how that chromatic grid would translate into a print, so I etched two square plates, printing one in transparent blue/green crosswise to the first, which was printed in opaque yellow green. In an “aha” moment, I oriented the square on its diagonal axis. *Soie*, in shimmering emerald, was printed as a diamond.

The print inspired a turning point in my practice. On returning to my own studio, I painted a series of diamond-shaped grids in gouache on paper. Then, as I completed new small color fields in encaustic, I hung them with the same 45-degree orientation. Larger paintings, such as *Romb*, contain patterns within the larger field. I’m thinking of these paintings now as chromatic geometries rather than color fields. Light hits the diagonal grain differently. Color appears deeper and more luminous. Formally, the diamond shape asserts itself, pushing rigorously outward while remaining resolutely poised.



## The 'Artistic' Artists' Statement

This type of statement employs lyrical and poetic statements

It leads to confusion through abstract, lofty statements.

Abstract nature adds to overall confusion

Too much interpretation from the viewer





## Artist Statement

My work explores the relationship between Critical theory and skateboard ethics.

With influences as diverse as Kafka and Francis Bacon, new variations are crafted from both explicit and implicit dialogues.

Ever since I was a pre-adolescent I have been fascinated by the traditional understanding of the zeitgeist. What starts out as yearning soon becomes corroded into a dialectic of greed, leaving only a sense of unreality and the chance of a new order.

As shifting phenomena become distorted through emergent and diverse practice, the viewer is left with a testament to the outposts of our existence.



## The Up Close and Personal Statement

Blurs the line between the work and the artists' personal identity or experiences

sometimes, a very personal work will require this type of statement.

Create personal connections to the viewer changing the meaning to something more personal.

These statements can create a lasting impression if a viewer relates to the statement and it's purpose

It can also alienate the viewer, making it something very difficult to pull off successfully.



# Artists Statement

Each and every single piece contains a fragment of myself, every piece I create is created in an effort to unearth myself. My work explores my own morbid curiosities, addressing the images that some may find odd, obscure or even grotesque. My infatuation with such oddities manifests itself within my work. Always teetering on the edge of death or darkness my artwork explores this contrasting balance; light and dark, life and death, male and female etc. My pieces have become vessels to the darkest and brightest thoughts from the dregs of my mind. They are ostensibly foreboding creatures, cultivated and conceived through the inspiration of the occult, metaphysics entwined with everyday life.

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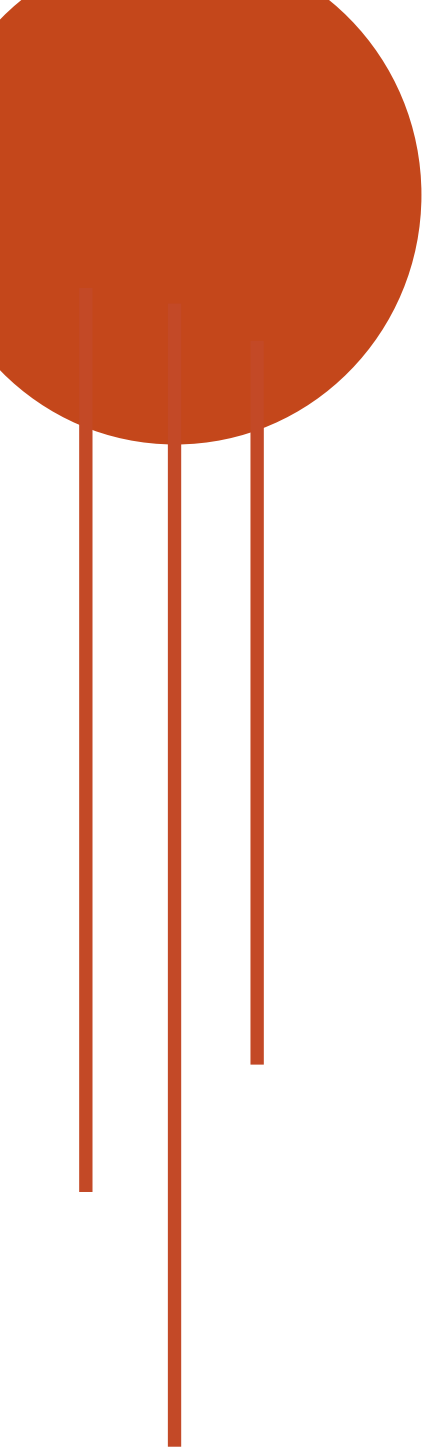
## The Overly-Vague, Say-Nothing Statement

All content is stripped from this statement

These are the statements that read like press releases or pre-fabricated statements.

They do nothing to help the viewer understand the work

This statement results in the ultimate confusion for the viewer.



### Artist Statement

Photography, for me, started out as an experimental adventure where I could explore varied approaches to problems to meet my artistic needs. Over time, I started to see many consistencies in my work. Overall, my style is very simple and organized utilizing the “less is more” approach.



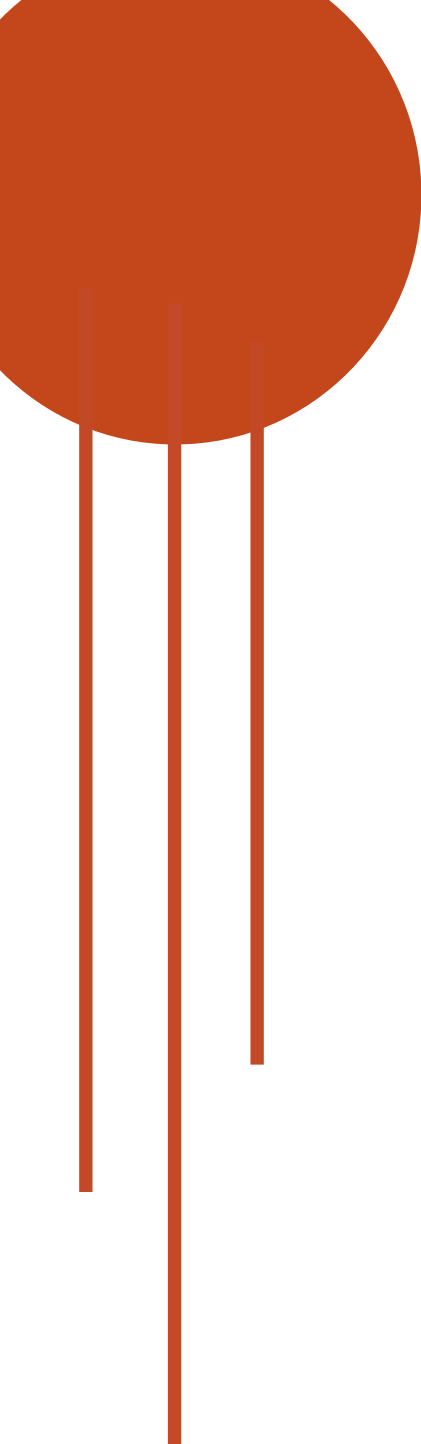
## The Well Written Statement

Honest, to the point, straight-foreword, and well-written statement.

It requires the artist to have fully thought out the meaning behind the work and somehow worked in the process and how the two work together.

The hard part of this statement is allowing the original thoughts and ideas of the artist to shine though the editing process.

Once this balance is achieved, the perfect statement is there to support the work and the viewer can interpret the artwork, gaining an understanding of the artists' intent while still interpreting the work themselves.



## Anna Hurtig - Artist statement

Photography for me is a way to tell a story and evoke a feeling. I utilize my camera as a tool to create imagery that is in both real and surreal, laced in fantasy. In my attempt to tell a story I combine my memories and observances of my everyday surroundings. The story continues to grow as I rely on my conscious and subconscious to invent and transfer those thoughts to an image. My goal is to relive a memory by arranging a scene that I ultimately have direct control over the outcome. It's from that process I find myself being most present in me.

The series "Imaginary play" is about make believe, playing and exploring our world, seen through the fresh eyes of childhood. All the magic and bewilderment that comes with growing up.



## **Statements are hard to write,**

they take a lot of thought, editing, and consideration of the connection between the visual language of the work and the written language of the statement. They need to be concise, coherent, and informative without being overly so.