

Tips and Guidelines for Writing an Artist Biography

Assumptions:

- As a member of a local art association you may be participating in membership shows where your artist biography will be included in the show binder.
- These guidelines can also apply if you submit your artist biography to art galleries for their binders.
- Assume that your biography will be inserted into a page protector, therefore it is a good idea to keep it to only 1 or 2 pages.
- Please feel free to use as many or as few of these guidelines as you see fit for your own artist biography

Overall Guidelines:

- Try to write your artist biography in the 3rd person. Don't start with or include any "I" statements. Talk about yourself in the third person, it just reads better for people who want to know more about you as an artist.
- Make good use of the *Spell Check* and *Grammar Check* features on your word processing software. Avoid typos and grammar errors.

Title:

- Start by putting a bold and conspicuous name and title on your page. Use a larger font for this and consider using a color font.
- Be sure to put your full name at the top so that it is the first obvious thing that someone sees on your page.
- Once in a binder, the artist biographies are usually listed alphabetically by last name. Make sure your name is obvious on yours.
- Don't bury your name in the narrative of your text or at the bottom of the page.

Your Artist Biography:

- This is where you include a paragraph or two about your artistic process. For example:
 - How did you get involved in art?
 - How long have you been doing art?
 - Who did you study under?
 - What is your favorite medium and why?
 - What inspires your artwork?
 - What do you love about making art?
 - What message are you trying to convey through your artwork?

Photographs:

- Consider including a small image of yourself.
- Better yet, an image of yourself in front of some of your artwork.
- Or, include an image of your latest and greatest artwork.
- It's a good idea to add some variety to your bio page, and an image here and there helps to break up the text.

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Shows, Exhibitions, Awards, Publications:

- Include any awards you may have received for your art, including the title of the artwork and the year of the award.
- You can also include any art shows or exhibitions that you have participated in, including studio tours, arts & craft shows, art & wine festivals, etc.
- What about any publications that you, as an artist, may have been featured in? List the publication and the month and year of the article.
- Has your work been published in any local or national magazines? Or, have you written and published any articles or books?
- Are there any private collectors of your artwork? Don't list the collectors, but you can say where they are generally located, such as all across the US, Paris, London, Southern California, etc.
- Has your art been accepted into juried shows?

Contact Info:

- How can prospective customers get in touch with you? Provide your email address and website address.
- Phone numbers and street addresses are not recommended, but definitely provide email and website info.

Where To Buy Your Art:

- Other than the current exhibit you might be participating in, you can also provide information about where else your art is available. Include at least the name of the place and the city location. Or include the website address.

Professional Memberships:

- Include a list of all the art associations you belong to.
- Include any museum memberships, art clubs, etc.

Things Not to Include:

- Don't include too many personal details about your life that aren't relevant to your artwork. Focus on your artwork and your art-making process.
 - For example, try not to include information about pets, grandkids, non-art-related hobbies, or where you grew up, unless these items specifically apply to the types of art you create.
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- Finally, be sure to proof-read your biography several times prior to actual publication.
 - Review and update your artist biography on a regular basis.