**ARTIST STATEMENT**

**WHAT IS AN ARTIST STATEMENT?**

An artist statement is text that accompanies and explains the artist’s intentions of their body of work. A strong artist statement supplements the visual information in a portfolio or exhibition so that the reader/viewer can better understand it. Your artist statement should stand on its own so that the reader can imagine what your work looks like even if they have not seen it.

**Instructions:**

Write a 150-200 word artist statement about your artwork and your experience creating the artwork.

Your statement should cover the “How,” “What,” and “Why” of your artwork.

“HOW” refers to the method and techniques used to create your artwork.

“WHAT” refers to the visual elements of your artwork.

“WHY” refers to your purpose for creating your artwork and its influences.

Use the questions below to help write the statement.

The artist statement may be a traditional typed statement or a unique statement such as a comic book, but it must communicate the same information.

Keep it short and simple.

Use the template on the class website for the correct format.

**SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED:**

How:

What kind of materials did you use/are you using to create the work? Why?

What was the process of development for the work?

What kind of tools did you use and why?

What techniques did you use and for what purpose?

What:

What does it look like? (Size, colors, shapes, textures, light, objects, relationships, etc.) Make your description visual.

Is there a central or guiding image or idea?

What are its different elements and how do they affect each other or interact?

Why:

What inspired the piece and/or where does the impetus for the piece come from, personally speaking?

Talk about the work from a conceptual, thematic, and/or emotional point of view.

What does your life say about your work and/or your work say about your life?

What would be the ideal space in which to exhibit or present the work?

What symbols do you use and why?

**EXAMPLE:**

I began using a typewriter for its obvious function- to record my thoughts and ideas. Communicating is a crucial yet constant struggle for me. The more I typed, the more the letters and words on the pages began to take on a new function, a new language. My discovery of this new language created with my typewriter and paper was one made up of patterns and grids formed by punctuation marks: commas, colons, apostrophes, and brackets. It was as if the typewriter was experiencing a breakdown, and this breakdown was my breakthrough. I had discovered a new way to communicate. There is an endless source of information that can be created through a limited use of materials: paper and a typewriter. I became, and am still, intrigued by this process.

-Allyson Strafella (Taken from The Artist’s Guide by Jackie Battenfield)