



HOW TO WRITE AN ARTIST BIO

What is an artist bio?

An artist biography summarizes an artist's life and career leading up to the present moment. A person working in fine arts, music, theater, film, poetry, and literature may be asked to submit an artist bio for a printed program, book jacket, or a press release, or on a website.

What is the difference between a bio and a statement?

1. Artist bio: This is a biography of the artist covering career highlights or education, and a summary of their work to the present day.
2. Artist statement: An artist's statement is a piece of writing that accompanies a selection of new art and explains the artist's process and motivation as they created those artworks.

Your bio for Path with Art's website should be;

- A brief summary that gives the reader more information about you as an artist, and a mini introduction to your work. If a bio was part of a meal, it would be the appetizer—something small.
 - 3–5 sentences in length or maximum 100 words
-

Okay, let's write your bio!

1. **The 1st sentence describes a little bit about the artist—typically this means what kind of artist they are / work they make, where they were born, or where they are currently living.**

Pro Tip: You do not have to list your location if that is information you do not wish to share! It is a common way to start a bio, but certainly not the only way :)

Examples:

- a. Emily is a visual artist living in Seattle, WA.
- b. Howard is a primarily self-taught multidisciplinary artist working in photography and ceramics.
- c. Bethany is a writer who was born and raised in Bellingham, WA.

2. **The 2nd sentence briefly describes a little bit more about the work of the artist. Some questions you might want to answer are; what is your art made of (words, photographs, music)? Very briefly, what is the goal of your work?**

Pro Tip: IT IS OKAY to not have a goal. You can enjoy making art for the sake of your own well-being, because it is your passion, or it gives you a moment to pause. Whatever the reason,

that is valid!

- a. Her work focuses on 2D collages made from discarded or found materials including magazines, newspaper, cardboard, and paint.
- b. His photography work and ceramics are snapshots of everyday life—scenes of life at home, urban landscapes, and objects carefully recreated in clay speak to his interest in the beauty in the ordinary.
- c. Her writings span poetry, and short stories that speak of her experiences as a woman of color growing up in a rural community.

3. The 3rd–4th sentence can expand on the goals of the artwork or list artistic accomplishments.

Pro Tip: You are absolutely NOT required to have a list of exhibitions or publications you are part of. This is not a competition. You are ENOUGH as an artist and a long list of accomplishments is not necessary.

Examples:

- a. Emily's work has been shown in group exhibitions at Path with Art. Her joyful use of color and pattern are a representation of the world through her mind, or the world as it could be.
- b. Howard's work is meant to be absorbed—it is an invitation to slow down and recognize the beauty around us.
- c. Bethany enjoys making work for her own well-being and to be in a community of artists.

4. You got it! Now let's put those all together. Here are the examples we wrote;

Emily is a visual artist living in Seattle, WA. Her work focuses on 2D collages made from discarded or found materials including magazines, newspaper, cardboard, and paint. Emily's work has been shown in group exhibitions at Path with Art. Her joyful use of color and pattern are a representation of the world through her mind, or the world as it could be.

Howard is a primarily self-taught multidisciplinary artist working in photography and ceramics. His photography work and ceramics are snapshots of everyday life—scenes of life at home, urban landscapes, and objects carefully recreated in clay speak to his interest in the beauty in the ordinary. Howard's work is meant to be absorbed—it is an invitation to slow down and recognize the beauty around us.

Bethany is a writer who was born and raised in Bellingham, WA. Her writings span poetry, and short stories that speak of her experiences as a woman of color growing up in a rural community. Bethany enjoys making work for her own well-being and to be in a community of artists. She is currently living in Seattle and takes classes every quarter at Path with Art.