

Tips for Writing Your Artist Profile Statement

For many artists, writing about yourself can be uncomfortable or challenging! A strong artist profile statement is important to communicate who you are as an artist and making sure consumers and dealers appreciate the value of your art and culture.

Here are some ideas to help you think about what to include in your profile.

In the first paragraph, you might include answers to these questions:

- Where are you from? What Country are you connected to? Where are you working from?
- How long have you been making art? What inspired you to start creating art?
- What mediums do you mainly work in?

In a second or even third paragraph you might include answers to these questions:

- What stories or themes does your work depict?
- What inspires you as an artist?
- Where has your work been exhibited?

The voice you choose to write is completely up to you. You might decide to write in the first person like Ruby Djikarra-Alderton has done for her lartC profile:

I am a Yolngu woman from Yirrkala in North East Arnhem Land. As a child, I spent a lot of time with my mother while she was creating her art. Later, as a teenager, she then encouraged me to help her paint her bark paintings, create her prints and edition them with her. This led me to work at Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Arts Centre as a printmaker and arts worker for 3 years.

Now I am living in Newcastle and am an independent artist. For the past 4 years, I have been working with Artback NT & Buku with a touring exhibition from Yirrkala, *Balnhdhurr – A Lasting Impression*.

My art has always had a huge influence from my Yolngu heritage. What I create is both old and new stories using traditional and non-traditional mediums. I only paint the Rirratjingu clan designs, which is my mother's clan and the designs and stories that I inherited. I love to be able to share my knowledge and culture whenever the opportunity arises.

Or you might like to speak in the third person, like Lauren Freestone has done for her lartC profile:

Lauren grew up surrounded by the art of her father and grandfather so naturally she too picked up the brush. Lauren is a proud Wiradjuri woman and a Newcastle based artist, but grew up in small coastal village on Gumbaynnggirr Country surrounded by the bush and the beach.

Her work explores her connection to country, her family and their history. Although following in the footsteps of her father Lauren has developed her own contemporary style using textured resins and mediums with acrylic on canvas.

The length of the profile is for you to decide. Try for somewhere between 50 and 150 words if you can.

This kind of writing takes practice, but the more you do it, the more confident you'll become. Having confidence and understanding the value of your art and artistic practice is important in ensuring you get a fair go.