

Examples of Artist Statements:

<https://blog.arternal.com/artist-statement>

Micheal Rich:

ARTIST STATEMENT

One can paint for a long time only to discover they know very little about it. I come to the canvas free of preconceptions and open to possibilities. Pictures and images are not so much the aim as a resolution, a crystallization of shape, color and mark into a whole of an experience that has resonance. I am most often lost in the process of painting, struggling to find a way out and feeling very much a beginner until that moment of clarity. For a long time now, my work has found a resolution in a kind of illuminated landscape. Spaces of color and light akin to the mountains and seas of my travels open up between tectonic plates of color and form.

Lately, my work has been picking up on the smaller moments in the landscape - not the broad sweeping vistas of the Italian countryside or the New England shore but my own backyard and garden. A period of deep introspection and personal transformation has led to looking more closely at the intimate forms of leaves, branches and lines in nature. Plants and flowers find their way into my vocabulary of paint that only recently avoided any reference to representation.

Printmaking has offered a bridge between my drawing that investigates natural forms and the paintings that work in layers of color and light. Observations in my studio garden of grasses and leaves are the basis for a series of layered monoprints in etching and woodcut. Familiar to my process of painting, these images are printed in different hues, their orientation often turned upside down, then paired with additional or repeated images in color to create depth and interactions of form. Printmaking has offered up new processes - namely that of collaboration with experienced printers - that are now feeding my painted work. An intimate, personal moment of reflection through image, now works its way through the ecosystem of art-making in a process requiring many hands and the skills of others.

The Waterlilies, painted by Monet, have served as inspiration for the larger canvases from this recent time period. Also influenced by the intimate gardens that he built for himself, Monet brought to life in paint and mark the sensual world of color and light through the romantic forms of flowers and plants near the water. As an abstract painter, that I have found myself at this moment exploring plants and flowers is an astounding development. Once again I am lost.

- Michael Rich

“In his artist statement, Michael Rich, an abstract painter and printmaker, explains his creative process and gives the reader insight into his mental state when creating. He focuses on the source of inspiration for his work and describes how he finds beauty in the small details of his own backyard. Michael also touches upon Monet and how the famous artist has impacted his work. He goes into enough detail to paint a rich picture for the reader without overwhelming the reader with too much information.”

Michael does a good job of painting a picture for the reader without overwhelming them with too much detail. The main key here is to be precise but detailed.

Fred Wilson:

Artist Statement

The Mete of the Muse

After finding the originals these two sculptural figures I immediately bought them. Both were made of plaster, though I found one in an antique store and the other in a plaster sculpture studio which produced statuary and decorations for gardens and homes. They sat in my studio for a while, but soon I knew they needed to be together. They were opposites, but had similarities. Both were about the same size and both of females. To my mind they distinctly represented Africa and Europe, however their color and countenances were different, one to another. Placing them together heightened their differing "personalities". Finding the exact distance apart was the most important creative act I could do. It often is, in my work. The subtle relationship is created by objects' adjacencies. I can safely say, juxtaposition is the strongest component in my art. It flows through the artworks I produce, as well as my museum installations and interventions. For me, simple shifts in the relationship of objects can change meaning demonstrably. It often is so subtle it might not be noticed as the catalyst for meaning. I am thoroughly engaged and enthralled with this process. The word "Mete," of the title, is usually used as a verb. As a verb, I am using its archaic (and biblical) meaning: to measure. As a noun I am interested in the word meaning "boundary" and again in Old English "metan," which is related to the Dutch "meten" means "measure". For me, the precise distance between the figures perhaps reveals their personalities and dispositions. The fact that they represent two different parts of the globe could refer to their world view. These bronzes are the colors that the original plasters were when I found them. Retaining their original colors was important to me. It was completely fortuitous, as the figures' close proximity intrinsically and noticeably reveals contemporary meanings to the colors black and white.

“Fred Wilson’s statement is about a specific artwork. He explains how he came across the sculptures he uses to create this piece and how he eventually paired them to create this work. He then describes his conceptual process and the significance behind the title of the work. He also provides the reader with insight into his process of creation. By focusing on the cultural and conceptual themes he explores in his work, he provides the reader with more context and a greater understanding when viewing this work.”

I liked that he used cultural and conceptual themes in his work and that he explained that in his artist statement. This is a great reference for my statement because I will also be dealing with cultural themes along with political themes. Again he was precise and specific.

Helen Frankenthaler:

“There are no rules. That is how art is born, how breakthroughs happen. Go against the rules or ignore the rules. That is what invention is about.”

She was mostly talking about the philosophy of her artwork. She is specific and concise. She doesn't use any extra information and she avoids using big and complicated art words. She is very specific about how she feels and how she wants the audience to feel about her work and her process. She shows her emotions and personality through her statement while continuing to give her audience context and insight into her thought process during her work.