Writing an Artist Statement

An artist statement is an opportunity for you as a traditional artist to share more information about your work. There is no one way to do this, and what and how much you decide to communicate is completely up to you. It is important to remember the audience you are communicating with, and the venue your statement will be read in. Many artists will develop different statements over time that might serve different purposes. You might have a multi-page statement for a solo exhibit, a short paragraph for a demonstration table at a fair, or two sentences included in a group exhibit catalog. Your statement also can share information about you as an educator, cultural presenter, or demonstrator. Ultimately your artwork will speak for itself, so try to provide insightful information, but leave room for personal interpretation. Share your statement with someone you trust and ask for feedback on what is clearly being communicated. Here are some questions for you to think about when deciding what to include in your statement:

How did you learn your art form?

Is this a traditional art form?

How long have you been making this art form?

Where are you from & where do you live? Is this important to your art making?

What motivates you to make art?

What is a common thread throughout all your work?

> How does making art or crafts fulfill you personally?

Will you be working in an educational setting or demonstrating? Who is your audience, and how will you best share your artistic skills and cultural knowledge with this audience? Do you have special qualifications to work with this audience? How could this audience benefit from learning more about your art form?

Where will your artwork be shared? In a gallery? As a demonstration? In an educational exhibit?

How does location change how your work is experienced?

What is important to YOU about your art? Name 5 words that describe the look and feel of your artwork

> Name 5 words that describe the motivation behind your artwork

> Name 5 things you hope your artwork conveys



Heritage & Traditional Arts Program