Advice for Writing an Artist Statement:

To accompany each of your projects in this class, you will be asked to write an artist statement. Artist statements are short pieces of writing that accompany an artwork to provide a greater context, and help direct a viewer’s interpretation. Artists write statements about individual artworks, about a series of artworks, or to describe the trajectory of his or her career. In this class, you will be writing statements to focus on each of your critique projects. Artist statements are used in writing grants and to accompany exhibitions, or any place an artist wishes to provide more information about what they are doing, when he or she cannot be there to talk to the viewer and answer questions in person.

An artist statement can be a short, straightforward statement about your approach and intentions, but it doesn’t have to be!

Artist statements could have a clear relation to the artwork they are about, or the relationship could be far more oblique.

Artist statements are often creative in form (a poem, a letter, a grocery list, etc.) or creative in content (tell a lie, declare a manifesto, etc.)

Examples:

An excellent source of artist statements is the “500 words” section of artforum.com: http://artforum.com/words/

Browse the artists’ statements in the archive to see how many different approaches people take! You’ll also get a chance to learn about different artists’ work.

Evaluation:

As always, your work is evaluated on achievement in the 3 C’s: Concept, Creativity, and Craft. (In this case, Craft refers to your attention to the details of good grammar, spelling, and form in your writing.)