**How I wrote my artist statement in less than an hour…** *By Whitney Rolfe of DarcRainbow Creations*

Writing an artist statement is not always easy, especially when you haven’t written very many. I found the basis of my artist statement by asking myself a few questions based on my art and the processes behind it. Ask yourself these questions about your current works, and write down the answers (in one or more sentences):

* Why do I like to make art?
* What makes my art special to me?
* Who or what inspires me? Why?
* What materials/techniques/processes do I use? Why?
* How is my work different from others?
* What does my art look/feel like to me? What does it say or do?
* What limitations/rules do I give myself? Why?
* What did I learn from making this art?

*The content within these answers will help you to start to fill in the details of your artist statement.*

Your artist statement needs to be at least three paragraphs and no longer than a page. Make sure to speak in the present tense (“I am” not “I was”). Also make sure to speak from the first person (“I, me, my”) perspective. Your artist statement should include words and terms that everyone can understand, and should be a true representation of you and your artwork. Be nice to yourself and your art, save the critiquing for the critics! The general outline of a simple artist statement can look as follows:

1. **General Information**
   1. Why you do what you do
   2. What you want your work to say or do
   3. Rules and limitations you give yourself, or why you don’t
   4. Influences and themes within your works
2. **Specific Information**
   1. How you make your art: processes/methods/techniques
   2. What your art looks likes: colors/themes/marks
   3. What makes your art different from others
   4. How you make decisions through the process of creating your art
3. **Summary Information**
   1. How this work grew out of prior work or experiences
   2. Why this art is special to you
   3. Obstacles and lessons learned through making this art
   4. Reflections on this work
4. **Biographical Information (OPTIONAL)**
   1. Age, Region, Early influence/start
   2. Education
   3. Other personal tidbits or awards (but save most of it for your Artist Resume!)

Start filling in the information you have from your answers above, and extrapolate from there. You should have a concise and accurate artist statement in no time at all! Read it through out loud, to a friend, make sure it sounds like you, and explains your art to anyone. Good writing and happy creating!