

How to Write an Artist Bio

Special Projects Digital Photography | PHO 2453

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The Artist Bio is intended to give the viewer/reader more information on an artist whose work they have viewed. It is not, however, an opportunity to tell your life story! Keep it to the point and interesting. The following are tips for writing an interesting Artist Bio.

First-person or third-person?

- Artist Bios can be written in first or third-person. First-person is considered more casual and conversational, third-person is more formal. **For the purpose of the Special Projects Book, Artist Bios should be in first-person.**

Be Brief

- Be succinct and keep your reader's interest. This is all relevant to the specific audience, situation or occasion. In this instance, you will be part of a book featuring approximately a dozen or so different photographers. Your Artist Bio will be one of several that they will read, so being brief (and not boring the reader) is extremely important. On the other hand, if the book *only* featured your work, your Artist Bio would need to be much more extensive.

Keep it positive

- Don't mention what you can't do or what you're not interested in. Focus on positives. Don't give the viewer any reasons to not take you seriously.

List facts, not wishes

- Tell the reader facts about your life and photography, but don't tell them how great or how novice you are—that is for them to decide by viewing your work. In general, it is also best not to describe your hopes of what type of photographer you will be in the future. Keep the Artist Bio relevant to now. Instead, try describing how you are currently working toward a particular goal.

List relevant experience

- In this instance, your experience should be primarily photography-related and may include how you became a photographer. Have you traveled for photography? Do you have any professional experience? Has your work been published?

Belong somewhere

- Are you a member of any organizations or clubs related to photography? [PPA](#), [ASMP](#), [ArtServe Michigan](#), [DAM](#), [Hatch](#), etc.? This lends a sense of professionalism to the perception of your work.

Give it some personality

- Include one or two bits of information about you that may help someone remember you next time. This can be something odd, humorous, or simply another hobby you might have that someone might not expect or know about.

Include a link for further information

- Nowadays it is pretty much expected for you to have an online presence. If you do not have one yet, there are many places to host a free portfolio. For this course you will be required to create a Flickr account and web portfolio. The link to your account should be listed at the end of your Artist Bio.

Examples

View previous editions of Special Projects at www.lulu.com/specialprojects to see examples of other Artist Bios.