**What Is The Artist’s Biography?**

The Artist’s Biography serves to provide the reader with a story about you as an artist and learn about your career credentials.

A biography is not the same as a résumé. It contains much of the same information as a résumé, however, where a résumé or CV (curriculum vitae) is written in a listing format, a biography is written in an editorial style.

It is also not the same as an Artist’s Statement, which is more about your creative inspiration, materials, style, and artistic vision.

**STEPS TO WRITING A BIO**

* Before you begin, write a list to plan what is important and not important to mention.   
   - Education and degrees, self-taught?   
   - Study done with well-known artists  
   - Goals as an artist. Influences   
   - Current projects, recent exhibitions, galleries that represent you  
   - Awards you received, reviews or articles written about you   
   - Is your art in any important collections?  
   - Have you served in other art related capacities, such as curator, art writer, or artist's advocate?
* Start with an introductory sentence that has your name, the medium that you work in, where you are from and when you were born.
* Next include background information such as where you studied or important exhibitions or awards you have received.
* Then mention projects that you are currently working on or recent exhibitions.
* If you have upcoming exhibitions, residencies or study plans these can also be included here.

* Make sure that you only include information that is relevant to your artistic practice, and is written in the third person i.e. you never refer to yourself as I, instead you use the pronouns he/ she or you can use your surname.
* Keep the biography short, simple, descriptive and avoid value judgements about your works. This means you should only give facts about your work.
* Proofread your biography many times or give it to someone else to make sure there are no spelling and grammatical errors.

**More Quick Tips**

• On your website limit your Artist’s Biography to approximately 200 words or less.

• Avoid writing about intimate experiences that are not related to your career or artistic vision.

• Avoid the use of jargon, colloquialism, and esoteric language that will alienate most potential buyers.

**Sample Artist’s Biography**

Mary Jones is a New York City contemporary realist pastel painter of flowers. Her artistic process began as a child during frequent excursions to the Botanical Gardens and Nature Conservatories. Now, her primary source of inspiration for her richly diverse subject matter comes from maintaining a rooftop garden. Her art is characterized by vibrant colors, contrasting shapes, and bold compositions.

Ms. Jones is the recipient of an Award of Excellence from Manhattan Arts International, New York, NY. The juror, Renee Phillips stated, “Mary Jones demonstrates a highly developed sense of color and composition and a keen attention to detail. She illuminates qualities that often go unnoticed by the casual observer.”

She has exhibited her art work in group exhibitions including the International Artists Organization’s “Nature” exhibition, in Roslyn, NY, in which she won the Second Place Award.

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*Sbo Ndlovu was born in Durban, South Africa in 1970. Ndlovu works predominantly in the medium of painting, but includes video in his large scale installations. Ndlovu completed an MFA with distinction at the Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town in 2006. He has had solo shows in Cape Town at Blank Projects, Bell-Roberts Gallery and the South African National Gallery, the KZNSA in Durban as well as the Fondazione Bevilaqua La Masa in Venice.*

*He is represented in the collection of the South African National Gallery. Ndlovu is the newly appointed judge of the Spier Contemporary 2010. He lives and works in Cape Town*

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Diane Tanchak grew up in Buffalo, NY. Her interest in drawing and painting began in early childhood. She moved to New York City to study with artist Nell Blaine. Subsequently, she received a scholarship to Southern Illinois University where she completed an MFA in drawing. She has worked as a muralist, graphic artist, illustrator, and pursued her own vision in drawing and painting urban and rural landscapes in an expressionist, abstract-realist style. Her work currently focuses on the darkness of night and winter in urban New York City, as well as the light of the Pacific West Coast and its trees, all representative of life, death and the promise of rebirth. <<http://www.dianetanchak.com/artist.html>>