

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE YOUR PERSONAL ART AND STYLE

Pondering the questions below will help you look inward to explore your art-making process and the factors that influence your artistic identity and style. Once you've answered these questions, I recommend you complete a one-page summary in the form of an artist's statement. This activity will give you a deeper understanding of your work since it requires you to articulate the goals and context of your work in a clear and succinct manner.

1. Why do you make art? What benefits does the art-making process yield emotionally, physically, spiritually?
2. Who is the desired or intended audience for your work?
3. What actions or emotions do you hope your audience will take or feel when viewing your work?
4. How does your artwork reflect who you are: values, personality, interests, career, or life experiences?
5. How does your artwork reflect your identity: gender, nationality, ancestry, or ethnic background?
6. What is your favorite subject matter? What imagery and/or symbols frequently appear in your work?
7. Describe some themes, concepts, and ideas that you explore in your artwork.
8. Which media, materials, technologies, or processes do you employ in your work?
9. Do you work conceptually, abstractly, representationally, or use a blend of these approaches?
10. Describe your process of conceiving, designing, and creating artwork.
11. Would you describe your work as traditional, contemporary, or a blend?
12. Do you find inspiration in other forms of visual or performing arts such as music, dance, movies, architecture?
13. What style or art movement might you classify your work under?
14. What artists, genres, or historical art styles most influence your work?
15. When and where do your best artistic ideas come from? Are there specific times and places that inspire you?
16. When experiencing a bout of artist's block, in what ways do you overcome it and move back into creativity?
17. What role does chance, accident, and whimsy play in your artistic process; is it controlled or spontaneous?
18. What roles or responsibilities do you believe artists play and have in past, current, or future societies?
19. Do you consider your art unique and reflecting your own personal style? How could you make it more so?
20. How would you like to see your art and artistic process evolve in the future? Art skills, themes, subjects?