

DELIVERABLE: Text file that includes **three** versions of narrative text (your bio, artist statement, and “about me” section), and **two** versions of your CV.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this assignment is to learn to write about yourself in different ways, to use more specific words to describe your personality and your core strengths, and to create material that can be used in different contexts and for different professional opportunities.

"Identity is performatively constituted by the very *expressions* that are said to be its results."
Judith Butler

OVERVIEW: Identity is about narrative. Hone a story about your practice that shapes all your decisions about your portfolio, and serves as a concise, useful, and provocative gloss on who you are professionally. What story would you tell about yourself (In relation to your career vision statement):

- Where are you coming from?
- What are you doing & What you can do?
- Where you want to go?
- What sets you apart from the other people doing similar work?
- What significant projects have you been involved in ?
- What you're interested in doing & learning?

Everything about your portfolio should communicate something about this narrative: layout, organization, visual style, text copy, logo, signature or logotype, and other design details.

1. BIOGRAPHY (+-150 words)

A biography is factual. is about the 'whens', 'wheres' and 'whats' of your emerging career. The biography isn't as detailed as your Curriculum Vitae/Resume, and not as personal and philosophical as your statement. Under some circumstances, it is required to have the bio and the statement written as 2 separate texts (which often overlap in terms of content but are distinct in terms of writing strategies). For example, a formal biography is a required piece of documentation when submitting works for grad school, a festival, a gallery show/residency or a competition (it is always written at the 3rd person). A bio usually includes:

- Where you are from and where you currently live and work.
- What are you working on (key themes/subject matter).
- Your inspiration, the techniques/medium you often use.
- A short list of events, shows, residencies, projects you were part of.
- Prizes and grants, if any.
- Your education and other important work-related experience.

2. ARTIST STATEMENT (+-250 words)

An Artist statement is a general introduction to your practice. It is always written at the first person. The artist's statement is your proxy to the viewer, reader or jury and perhaps your one chance to explain what you're doing. It should provide the reader/viewer with a clear sense of what you create, what techniques do you use, what your works look like, what your challenges are and what your work philosophy is. An Artist's statement is often seen alongside the biography to provide a degree of personal insight from the artist/designer/maker.

The artist statement usually includes a first paragraph opening with the practice's key themes/principles/subject-matter. A second paragraph should provide clear and concrete examples of how these ideas are embedded in your work. You can include some of the following points:

- Your overall vision.
- How your current work relates to your previous work.
- How your work fits in with current contemporary art/design/practices.
- Sources and inspiration for your work/installation/games etc.
- Artists/Designers/makers/thinkers who influences you or how your work relates to other artists' work.
- How this work fits into a series or longer body of work.
- How a certain technique is important to your practice or a specific work.
- Your philosophy of making.
- The final paragraph should summarize the most important points in the statement.

3. "ABOUT ME" SECTION OF YOUR WEBSITE (+-150 words)

This section is a combination of bio and artist statement. In relation to your professional target, the text can be formal/informal, serious/playful and written either at the 3rd or 1st person. Remember the language you use is part of your narrative.

Tip: Identify one (or a few) companies or persons whose career you admire and wish to emulate. Think about what you would say to them about yourself if you had ten minutes of their time. Re-read your career vision statement, then write a full page, throwing in everything you can think of, and finally edit down to the essence.

Look at some examples from inspiring role models and local company bios such as Dpt. and Pix Mob (all founded by a CART grads) and Moment Factory (employs several CART grads.)

4. CV

Draft **TWO VERSIONS** (each one with a different focus/vibe) of a one-page Resume/CV that highlights your professional skills, education, and experience (including non-paying gigs). This document need not list everything you have ever done, but rather reinforce and complement the narrative you are building in an easy-to-read format. If you're planning to promote yourself as a graphic designer, consider in the next assignment (branding) developing an infographic-style résumé as a way to brand yourself.

Resume may include (adapt headings according to your practice):

- Personal Information: Include Name, Phone Number, Email, and Website...
- Skills:
 - Technical skills
 - Conceptual skills
 - Personal skills
 - Other skills
- Grants and Awards: List any awards, prizes or mentions won in competitions as well as grants, fellowships, scholarships and other recognitions.
- Works Produced: List your accomplishments as an artist/designer/maker.
 - Exhibitions (solo, group)
 - Events (game jams, music, theatre,),
 - Projects and Prototypes (specify your role and skills aquired)
 - Brainstorm various things you've done over the years, including freelance work, school projects, productions, performances, recordings, games, films, videos, animation. Choose the ones that are consistent with the narrative you want to create...
- Volunteer Work
- Education: List all the academic degrees you've earned (or under completion). Additional studies and workshops can be included.
- Residencies: List any creative residencies in which you have participated and remember that these should be separate from education.