

How to Write Your Biography for an art exhibition, (by Mari Brown)

You may have been asked to provide Arteast a Bio for an upcoming art show, and you might be wondering what is a Bio and how do you write one.

A Bio is like a resume, yet it's less formal than a resume; it's a story about you and your artistic talent(s). No matter if you have art schooling under your belt or you are self taught, a bio is something for you to promote your artistic skills, work and to provide your contact information.

There are many types of Bio's, however the best bio to write should be short and to the point (you don't want to write a novel, as this can make future clients stop reading and lose interest fast, and that can mean loss of sales for you). **Remember Keep it Simple!**

What to include in your Bio:

- Your name, where you are from (place of birth, dates etc is optional).
- Your artistic back ground (education, self taught, courses).
- What do you like to create (what is your inspiration), small blurb about your work.
- What media do you use (is it water colour, oils, mixed media or photography).
- Your contact information (website, blog, email address, phone number etc).

If you have room, you can also include: what art groups you belong too, past artshows you took part in and if you have received awards for your work.

For Arteast Bios, we ask each member to try to keep their bio 100 words or under (one page), this way it will all fit nicely in to the Arteast Bio book and/or be included in separate Bio folders for specific art shows. Remember, this is for you to promote you and your work, and keep it simple.

Here is an example of a bio by Vincent Van Gogh.....

Vincent V. (by Maureen Rooney Mitchell)

I was born in Groot-Zundert Holland.

I started painting seriously after leaving my job as a clerk in a bookstore and then being fired as a preacher for being too zealous. This gave me the impetus to study art in Belgium.

Alas my first paintings were deemed too depressing and muted. However, I then saw some Japanese prints and a world of colour opened up. They became a great influence on my composition and colour palette.

I like to work in oil paint, often on board. I use an impasto technique and lay the paint on with thick, heavy and fast brush strokes. Sometimes I even forego the brush entirely and squeeze directly from the tube.

I can be contacted via my brother Theo, manager of Goupil's Gallery – or at Gauguin's house (don't leave a message with his wife, she disapproves of artists!)

I belong to many groups, most notably the post impressionists and early expressionists. One day I hope to sell a painting.