

## **Artist Biography: write a nice story**

An artist's biography summarizes your resume in a narrative form. It can be handed out at presentations of your work, incorporated into written programs and flyers. Generally all the information included on your resume would be too much for this format, so choose your most significant accomplishments along with some personal information that may not be included on your resume. Also personal information not usually included in a resume, can be incorporated into the biography.

Below are two examples.

### **BIO FOR EXHIBITIONS**

Maria Waverly (artist's name) collaged paintings (media) explore the realms of transformative dreaming (brief content and /or concept of the work, 1-3 sentences). Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and Europe (where shown) and is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, NYC and the DeMenil Museum, Houston (public collection). She is the recipient of many awards including a Fullbright Fellowship, 2005, and a Creative Capital grant 2007.

Ms. Waverly was born in San Antonio, TX, 1980. In 1998 she moved to Houston to attend Rice University where she received a BFA. In 2003 she moved to Chicago to earn her MFA from the Chicago Institute of Art. During this time she became more interested in working with orphaned children and participate in various programs bringing the arts to orphanages. Her Fullbright Fellowship allowed Maria to travel to India to develop a body of work in collaboration with orphans of Madras.

Today, Maria Waverly lives between Madras and Chicago and maintains a studio in both locations.

### **BIO FOR PROFESSIONAL WORK**

Maria Waverly is an artist and activist who creates collaged paintings (media) that draw from her experience of working with orphan children in both Chicago and Madras the two cities where she currently resides. Her work has been exhibited internationally.

Maria's works have been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; San Antonio Contemporary Museum and the Museum at Madras University. Recently she was included in the Whitney Biennial, a national showcase of innovative art. She is a Visiting Professor of Art at the Chicago Institute of Art. And in Madras, India she works as an Art instructor at a city orphanage where she has become a note worthy advocate for the arts in the lives of abandoned children.

## **TIPS**

- If you have a great artist statement (25 words or less) include that in the narrative.
- Try to keep the length of the biography to one page.
- Create a one paragraph biographical summary (similar to the example above) for insertion into printed programs, publicity flyers, etc.
- Include interesting information, such as where you were born, raised, have lived, traveled, especially if it has influenced your art.
- The best bios are the ones that are written like a story. Some small publications will run it as is.

Adapted from Bronx Museum of the Arts, The Artist in the Market Place Program (AIM)