

Ron Martin

Ron Martin lives and works in Toronto. He is an established visual artist, arts editor, and freelance journalist.

Making A Statement



I have always assumed that the purpose of making an artist's statement is to demonstrate who and what the artist is. The objects the artist makes certainly provide part of the answer: that artists make art objects should mean that they are conscious of their reasons for making art, and appreciate the value of transmitting to others their intentions. A written contribution can also help to prevent an artist's ideas from being distorted and/or misrepresented by those who write about art.

Many artists have been conditioned to believe that it is not acceptable to describe the creative process or the dynamics of art making. Some hold that a written description of their work detracts from that work. Why they ask, should an artist write a description of something that is self-sufficient and self-evident?

Art objects are not self-sufficient, nor are they necessarily self-evident. Moreover, by themselves they do not provide all the answers. For example, our understanding must include a consideration of the historical period in which an art object is made, which may not be obvious to all those who look at works of

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art in a museum or gallery. And why should it be? Why should artists assume that viewers will understand the terms of reference applied to the making of art objects? Does an art object provide nothing more than an isolated, direct experience of that object?

Many artists refuse to write about their creative activity as they regard such statements as unnecessary self-justification; yet viewers attempting to appreciate their art naturally turn to the artist's information. Other artists want to describe why they are doing what they are doing, and value the discipline of transposing the pattern of their creativity into written texts. Such a text in conjunction with an exhibition of their art might aid viewers to make the critical distinctions that make possible knowledge and insight.

Just as learning from books does not give us the rich understanding that comes with experience, so it is with the understanding of art objects. Artists and viewers teach themselves about art by developing skills and knowledge: artists intentionally submit works of art so that the works will undergo critical examination; viewers look at art to exercise and develop their critical sensibilities.

3.

Artists who submit works of art for critical examination invite viewers to question the validity of what the artists are doing. In the visual arts, it is particularly easy for art marketers to pull the wool over the eyes of vulnerable and suggestible viewers. Worse, there are artists who have only a vague idea of what they are doing. Still worse is "cultural service-industry syndrome," in which spectators are encouraged to consider art as entertainment and discouraged from initiating an independent exploration of art.

When artists place their work in a public forum, they provide viewers with the opportunity to examine self-consciously how they are seeing what has been created. Artists who question conventional assumptions about art making likely believe that others will share their fascination with the unknown. The unknown can be approached only by those who have the desire to examine issues more specifically than has been done in the past. (The possibility of creating a new work of art may very well depend on whether an artist can refine the means of transmitting the issues to others.)

The traditional, fundamental purpose of an artist's statement in relation to an exhibition of art objects is

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to offer the public a means of extending the art-viewing process. In other words, its function is to cultivate the autonomy of the spectator and the capacity of that spec-

tator to look at art

self-consciously and to appreciate it spontaneously.

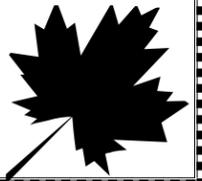
Statements most often appear in association with reproductions in a catalogue or a show installed in a museum or gallery. I certainly regret having allowed certain texts to be written and presented as an "explanation" of the work I have done. The only way of rectifying this problem is for artists (and those few art writers who explore rather than merely catalogue art) to provide new information that will compensate for the errors we have allowed in the past. Artists and art writers who provide accurate information introduce viewers to a discourse that might otherwise be forgotten.

The advantage of writing is that it provides the means to look more deeply into what you are doing as an artist. This will have an influence on how you see what you are creating. One must overcome unconscious resistance to knowledge before it is possible to entertain the idea of radically reformulating a form.

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It is not possible to go forward by standing still; therefore a challenge to create a new form will necessitate a change in how we view the conventions of art making. For instance, if artists decide they are ready to redefine painting they must ask, what are the issues in relation to the fundamental needs of a contemporary audience? To answer this question we must look outside the narrow confines of a literal preoccupation with formalism.

One of the techniques I use to create is to listen to myself talk to others about my ideas. I let this information influence the way I develop a concept. In hearing, listening to myself, I am moving from within - the ear - to



Irish Foreign Minister Condemns Israeli Atrocities

Jan 14th, 2009 by kawther.salam

The office of the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin T.D., sent me an answer following the fax I sent to the EU Ministries of Foreign Affairs, asking them to assume their michael_martin responsibilities toward the Palestinians under international laws and treaties which their countries had signed. What is this that suddenly international treaties and even national laws are worth nothing? Are the Jews above the law? Why is Livni not thrown in jail when she goes to France? Does France not have a law specifically against genocide? what is exactly what this disgusting woman is doing as a part of her electoral campaign?

Minister Martin has made a number of public statements expressing his concerns and those of the Government, attaching priority to ending the violence and meeting the humanitarian needs of the victims. I attach for your information copies of those statements.

The Minister continues to believe that it is imperative for the two sides to accept the basic outline of an end to the conflict set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1860, and agree an immediate ceasefire. Work to persuade the parties continues both at the UN in New York and particularly in the region, in particular through the good offices of the Government of Egypt. Ireland and its EU partners will continue to be actively engaged in supporting these efforts. The Irish Ministers Statements are here as PDF: "minister-statements-on-gaza".

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Condemns Israeli Military Incursion into Gaza

Commenting further on the Israeli ground offensive launched against Gaza last night, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., has repeated his grave concerns about the heavy civilian casualties and suffer-

ing resulting from Israeli military actions.

"As has been stated already, the military incursion launched by Israel last evening represents an extremely dangerous escalation of the situation. I condemn this disproportionate use of force by Israel which, as United Nations SG Ban has pointed out, will only further complicate the search for peace and an end to this appalling conflict. I again urge an immediate cessation of hostilities by all sides and the establishment of an effective and sustainable ceasefire. This must include the ending of all rocket attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian militants on southern Israel as well as the opening of crossing points for the urgent delivery of humanitarian supplies and the facilitation of humanitarian access."

Minister for Foreign Affairs Condemns Latest Atrocity in the Gaza Conflict

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin, has today issued a strong condemnation of the Israeli air and artillery strikes on two United Nations-run schools in the Gaza strip which resulted in at least forty people killed, including a number of children.

"I am appalled by these indiscriminate attacks by Israeli forces which has resulted in so many civilian fatalities, including of children, who were simply sheltering from the conflict taking place around them. The death and suffering, as well as the humanitarian depriva-

tion, now being inflicted on the people of Gaza as a result of the continuation of the Israeli Operation Cast Lead cannot be justified in any way and must now be brought to an immediate end."



Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin T.D.

"I extend my deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to the United Nations staff involved. I know from my continuing contacts with UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency) and its Irish Field Director, John Ging, to whom I have spoken today, of the incredibly difficult environment in which humanitarian organizations are now forced to act and of their very real fears that a major humanitarian catastrophe will unfold in Gaza if the current violence does not end soon."

"I again would like to make the strongest appeal for an immediate cessation of all violence in and from Gaza and for the putting in place of an effective and sustainable ceasefire and the facilitation of urgent humanitarian access. The international community must re-double its efforts to halt the carnage now taking place in Gaza. Ireland will continue to work closely with our EU and international partners to achieve the earliest diplomatic resolution of this crisis."

Minister for Foreign Affairs Welcomes the Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution on Gaza

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., has today warmly wel-

comed the adoption by the UN Security Council of a Resolution calling for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire.

"It is extremely important that the UN Security Council, as the body tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security, has now acted and asserted its wish to see an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire implemented in Gaza."

"I earnestly hope that Israel and Hamas will immediately respond to this call and agree to cease all hostilities in Gaza or directed against the people of southern Israel. The appalling humanitarian situation now prevailing on the ground in Gaza demands no less than this. I also want to commend the other diplomatic initiatives underway, particularly those undertaken by the Governments of Egypt and France, aimed at ending the violence and ensuring a sustainable ceasefire."

The Minister also commented on the actions of the Israeli military which yesterday compelled UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency) to suspend its operations in Gaza, following the killing of a UNRWA truck driver by Israeli tank fire.

"I am gravely concerned that UNRWA has been forced to take this action. I would remind all sides to the conflict in Gaza of their obligations to comply fully with international humanitarian law, including as regards facilitation of humanitarian operations and not impeding those humanitarian actors seeking to assist the injured and dying."

"The civilian population of Gaza have already suffered to an appalling degree in this dreadful conflict. Their welfare, through the urgent and unimpeded provision of all necessary humanitarian supplies and an end to the violence, must be the priority now in ensuring that the ceasefire provided for in Resolution 1860 is put in place as speedily as possible."

Yup, makes sense why lots of students find the idea of writing a personal statement intimidating. Framed like the above, it could almost sound, I don't know, unreasonable. The personal statement is a great place to discuss critical events or experiences in your life that catalyzed you to become the person you are now, or various aspects of your identity that strongly influence the way you interact with the world around you. It's also an opportunity to introduce readers to your most important interests and values. Definition of make a statement in the Idioms Dictionary. make a statement phrase. What does make a statement expression mean? Definitions by the largest Idiom Dictionary. Make a statement - Idioms by The Free Dictionary. <https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/make+a+statement>. Printer Friendly. Dictionary, Encyclopedia and Thesaurus - The Free Dictionary 12,780,891,342 visitors served. Making a Statement. November 23, 2016. Want more advice from Karen Kelsky? Browse The Professor Is In archives or check out The Quick and Relatively Painless Guide to Your Academic Job Search. I would like to know the difference between the teaching statement, the research statement, and the diversity statement. There are five major document genres associated with the academic job application: the CV, the cover letter, the teaching statement, the research statement, and the diversity statement. Make a statement definition at Dictionary.com, a free online dictionary with pronunciation, synonyms and translation. Look it up now! Create a certain impression; communicate an idea or mood without using words. For example, The furnishings here make a statement about the company. [Mid-1900s]. QUIZZES.