TITLING ARTWORK



Have you ever encountered a book, a movie or piece of music without a title? No, so art should be no different!

HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON TITLING ARTWORK

- Use a thesaurus to help with variations of words.
- Explore other artists titles for ideas. Be sure not to steal one.
- Be original (search the web to see if your title has already been used)
- List a few words or phrases that describe your artwork.

HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN DECIDING A TITLE

- What is the most important thing about the artwork?
- What do you want others to understand or see? This may be the theme, an object, a feeling etc.
- Do you want the title to keep the viewer in suspense?
- Do you want to portray the meaning or keep it a mystery?

MUSEUM "OBJECT" LABELS AND GALLERY TEXT

OBJECT LABELS:

They describe the individual object (artwork)

Standard information included:

- 1. The artist's name (bold)
- 2. The title of the work (italics)
- 3. The date of the artwork (same line as title)
- 4. The medium of the artwork and on what support
- 5. The size of the artwork in inches

Vincent van Gogh The Starry Night, 1889 Oil on canvas 29 in × 36¼ in

Example of an Object Label

GALLERY OR EXHIBITION TEXT

In an exhibit it hangs as a wallboard next to your artwork

Gallery or exhibition text is a narrative of your art that tells a story and supports the artwork. It is a brief outline of the original intentions of the work. It is a description that gives information about the piece to help the viewer understand your it.

- Write about what inspired you to create your work of art and how it relates to the theme. (Reflections project)
- Make the text thought provoking so don't write about technique, process or skill.
- Talk about your choice of imagery and how it may be symbolic to your meaning.
- Write about what influenced your work.
- Try to capture your own speaking voice reflective of yourself and your work.
- The tone may depend on the context and where it will appear and who your reader is. It can be emotional, theoretical, academic, analytic, humorous, antagonistic, political, or professional
- Avoid repetition of phrases and words.
- Make it clear and direct, concise and to the point.

GALLERY OR EXHIBITION TEXT

THE FORMAT: Template available on Haiku

- Must be TYPED
- Use the template provided
- Written in 50-100 words
- Written in paragraph form, a minimum of 3 sentences.
- Typed using 10 12 point type
- Basic/plain font
- Single-spaced

WHY VISITORS READ GALLERY TEXT

 Context and understanding: Gives the viewer knowledge of what they are seeing.

 Historical context: The viewer may want to know what was happening in the year something was made, something about the artist.

- Meaning and appreciation: Audiences have their own impressions of art, but when they read art labels they get a new point of view - look at something in a new light.
- Orientation: Helps the viewer place themselves in the space.
- Enjoyment:

If there is something the viewer is really interested in, they might read the gallery text since it typically adds to their enjoyment.



Vincent van Gogh The Starry Night, 1889 Oil on canvas 92.1 cm × 73.7 cm (36¼ in × 29 in)

One morning I saw the countryside from my window a long time before sunrise, with nothing but the morning star, which looked very big. In the blue depths the stars were sparkling, greenish, yellow, white, pink, more brilliant, more sparklingly gemlike than at home. I saw an enclosed square of wheat and I watched the sun rise in all its glory.

This is an excerpt from writings in his letters to his brother.



Susan Keith Joy Comes in the Morning, 2016 Watercolor on Hot Press Paper 36 in × 22 in

I absolutely love still life. I have a fabulous window in my bedroom that gets amazing morning light. I set up all my still life's there and photograph them over a two-hour period. Reflective surfaces have always been a challenge and I enjoy the nostalgia of the classic Ball Jars.



Lindsey Warren Family, 2018 Graphite 8 in × 10 in

Pictured in the drawing are my grandparents, eighteen and twenty years old on their wedding day. After three kids, nine grandchildren and fifty-five years of marriage, they are still happy and thriving today. As a tribute to their anniversary, I wanted to draw this picture of them and capture the moment when our family began.



Sophie Steinbock The Shy Flower, 2018 Colored Pencil on paper 8 in × 10 in

On a warm afternoon, I was playing outside with my younger sister. I could see the sunlight glimmering in her eyes as she ran through the short green grass. She began to pick flowers, giggling and having fun as her hair was swept away by a cool breeze, I noticed the colorful environment and was immediately inspired. I grabbed my phone and began to take pictures as she posed and continued to play under the clear blue sky. Flowers are given to show love, friendship, and appreciation and their beauty can express much more than any words.



" I want to convey the idea that as we recall memories, they come to us as fragmented pieces. The hazy shapes hide some of the detail, reflecting our imperfect memories" -Susan Cox