

James Meyer

Artist Statement

I use audio, video, and text to create autobiographical personal narrative works that explore my time in the military and the physical and emotional consequences of being a combat veteran. I incorporate combine video and stills from my time in the military, both flying combat missions in the Middle East as well as during down time between missions with other original content sources to share the external world of combat and contrast that with my internal experiences.

Much of my time is devoted to writing short stories that act as a catalyst for creating video or installations. Looking through my extensive archives of stills and video clips will help me crystallize the ideas I want to communicate. I will then elaborate as needed to tell the story.

I am continually influenced by the video artist combat veterans that have gone before me. Especially meaningful to me are those artists who created works that document their war experiences and how those experiences affected their personal lives during and after combat. Tim O'Brien, Betty and Ken Rodgers, and Marc Waszkiewicz are artists from recent as well as distant wars who have influenced me and validated my own experiences which are often unrecognized by the society at large.

Currently, I am working on video installations that convey the conflicting emotions that I currently have as a result of my time in the military.

I started by shooting architectural street documentary using 4x5 camera

Then I moved into autobiographical Personal narrative and story telling

include sources, ideas, and materials in my current practice

what are the key ideas, issues, struggles, goals within my work

Set work in time and space - Other artists that documented the wars they were in

While deployed, I hung a video camera behind my seat on the C-130. I shot hundreds of hours of video with audio from the aircraft comms.

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The Recipe:

Paragraph One:

This is your thesis statement. In the opening lines (1-3 lines of writing) you should incorporate the what and why (sometimes also how) of your work. Define the central line of inquiry. Example: "My body of work combines (the how) photography and original writing (the what) to investigate themes of time and memory (the why)."

Paragraph Two:

Start off describing the materials and/or forms you use in your work. This should be only a few lines. Next, briefly mention artistic influences (1 -2 sentences). These influences can be a scientist, artist, religion, etc. The influence you mention should be what best corresponds with you work too. When you mention your artistic influence, talk about why it inspires you. Lastly, take 1-3 lines to describe an example of your work and how it encompasses your thesis statement from earlier. You should also choose a work to talk about that fits nicely into the points you have mentioned, like materials you use and artistic influence.

Paragraph Three:

Conclusion. Tie your artist statement together from the previous paragraphs and highlight events on the horizon. You can mention current or in progress work/projects. You could also mention upcoming projects or exhibitions. Remember your artist's statement should stay within 3-4 paragraphs and 1 page maximum.

Here's a starting list:

1. Who is your audience?
2. Who are your influences?
3. Explain your work to a child.
4. How do you make your work?
5. How do your materials inform your concept?
6. How is your work unique?