

## Quick guide to writing/talking about your work

The AAW's Virtual Instant Gallery Critique is a friendly way to get feedback about your work, and is open to members at all levels of experience.

New to statements? They are basically a way to introduce people to the ideas, context, techniques, and/or intentions behind your piece. There are many different kinds of statements, and the questions below are definitely not meant to cover them all, or to be a checklist: they are offered as starting points for thinking about and describing your work.

A statement for the Virtual Instant Gallery Critique is optional.

- What or who inspired your piece? Does it express an idea, personal interest, emotion, or personal or social issue?
- If it is a functional piece, what is important for you to consider in creating functional work?
- What motivates you to create work on the lathe and/or in wood? What do any additional processes or materials bring to the piece?
- What did you learn in creating this piece? Did it turn out as you originally imagined? How so? How will this piece influence your future work?

A few examples:

"I turn bowls because I like to create pieces people can use. I think wood is beautiful on its own, and I choose my blanks for their figure and grain. Maybe because I come from an engineering background, it particularly important to me that the shape and weight work together to create a bowl that the owner will find natural and easy to hold and use."

"This piece is an expression of my interest in ecology. I use wood as my medium because it conveys warmth, is beautiful, and is a renewable resource. For this piece, I used charring and rough cuts combined with smooth surfaces to suggest the fragility and resilience of our ecosystem. Using a torch was new to me, and I think I will gain more control with practice. I'm an intermediate turner, but have experience in painting and clay. I love that wood was a living and growing material, and that through my work I can give it a second life."