**What, Why and How to Write a CV**

By Krista Zeghers

**What is a CV?**

A CV is a “curriculum vitae”, which is Latin and loosely translatesto “course of life”. Compared to a resume, a CV is more of a record of *accomplishments* such as exhibitions, publications, and awards.

**Why should you write a CV for yourself?**

A CV is a requirement when applying to galleries, grants, open calls and residencies. It is used to give galleries, critics and the public a quick, dispassionate overview of your career for reviews, websites, books or appraising your background. Also, it enables you to see your fibre art qualifications, awards and art pieces listed in one location. You will be amazed to see the fibre artist you are when you see the information accumulated in one spot!

**How do you write a CV?**

Your CV should be written in easy-to-read fonts and in a type size that helps facilitate reading.  A CV is a summary, not a biography, so it is in point form. Start with your personal information. You should place more important, relevant, and recent information near the beginning of the CV. The following is a template that you can use to build your own personal artistic CV. Good luck!

**Fibre Artists CV Template**

**Personal information** – Name, address, phone number, email address, web site (if you have an artist web site)

**Education**- if relevant to your art career, otherwise omit this part

**Exhibitions**- Begin with the most recent and work backwards. Categorize by Solo, Duo, Invitational, Juried and then Group exhibitions.

**Publications/Media** – Articles you authored or co-authored and publications in which you or your art has appeared. List the title of the magazine, author, publication, volume and page# or if featured on the cover of a magazine, etc. list the Title, Cover and Date. For example: National Juried Show Catalogue, Canadian Quilters’ Assoc., Cover, 2014

**Collections** – If your art is in a collection. List names, only if the people have given permission, otherwise say Private Collection and the city name.

**Commissions** – List any public or private commissions you have done. List the most recent first.

**Collaborations** – list any art work with others; list title, year and your role in the collaboration.

**Teaching** – some institutions require this section, but most don’t

**Curatorial** – if you have had any experience in curating exhibitions

**Notes:**

For those with an extensive CV, it is recommended that they do a Selected CV (titled as such) and highlight the main exhibits, etc. rather than including everything they have ever done.

<https://thepracticalartworld.com/2011/02/12/how-to-write-an-artists-cv-in-10-steps/>

<https://thepracticalartworld.com/2013/04/09/how-to-write-an-artists-cv-when-you-dont-have-much-or-any-professional-experience/>

<https://hamiltonartscouncil.ca/blog/writing-your-artist-curriculum-vitae>

**A Sample CV**

Below is my most recent CV. I keep it in my computer files as a word document. I reread it and update it (if needed) each time I use it. I find that keeping it to one page is difficult, but worthwhile. As you can see I have used the categories that pertain to me and have ordered the information beginning with the most recent. Good luck creating your own CV!

**Krista Zeghers**

**Fibre Artist**

**Personal Information:**

Box 131, Treherne, Manitoba R0G 2V0

204-526-0976

[quiltaz@hotmail.ca](mailto:quiltaz@hotmail.ca) [www.travelingteacherfromholland.blogspot.ca](http://www.travelingteacherfromholland.blogspot.ca)

**Education:**

Studied Under National and International Fibre Artists:

Coreen Zerr, Patt Blair, Betty Busby, Mary Pal, Martha Cole, Hollis Chatelain

**Exhibitions:**

*Waterlily Reflection,*Botanical Reflections, forthcoming 2017-2019

“Featured Artist”*,* Fall Festival of Quilting 2016

*Magical Thinking Woman,* Ekphrastic Exhibit 2016-2018

*Windy Point,* Canadian Quilt Association June 2016

*Serengeti Moment,* World Quilt Show 2016

*Serengeti Moment,* Grand National Quilt Show 2015

*Windy Point,* Arizona Quilt Show Feb 2015

*Serengeti Moment,* Manitoba Prairie Quilters Show March 2015

*Serengeti Moment,* Canadian Quilt Association June 2014

*Sioux Narrows Triptych,* Manitoba Prairie Quilters Show March 2013

*Mesa Sentinel,* Manitoba Rural and Northern Show Sept 2012

*Mesa Sentinel,* Central Region Juried Arts Show May to June 2012

**Teaching Experience:**

Tiger Hills Arts Association December 2016

Mad Bs Quilt and Sew 2016, 2017

Fibre Art Divas June 2015

Cypress River Quilt Retreat April 2014

Treherne Collegiate Institute October 2014

**Affiliations/Memberships:**

Fibre Arts Network

Canadian Quilt Association

Manitoba Prairie Quilters

American Quilt Society

Arizona Quilt Guild

Mavericks Fibre Art Guild

Tiger Hills Arts Association

Fibre Artists Meet and Exchange

Textile and Fibre Artists of Manitoba

**Private Collections:**

Manitoba – Holland, Lake Metagosh, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg

Spain – Catelonia

United States – Mesa, Arizona

**Awards:**

*Serengeti Moment –* Manitoba Prairie Quilters, Viewers Choice Award, 2015

*Serengeti Moment -*Canada Quilt Association, National Juried Show, First in Realistic Representation, June 2014

*Sioux Narrows Triptych –* Manitoba Prairie Quilters, First in Artistic Wall Quilts, March 2013