

Objective

To develop complex, open-ended inquiry questions and generative statements that will guide your personal artistic exploration, connecting ideas, materials, and contexts over time.

Part 1: Understanding Inquiry

Read and discuss the difference between:

- **Closed Questions vs. Inquiry Questions**
- **Closed Statements vs. Generative Statements**

Inquiry Questions are:

- Open-ended and complex (cannot be answered with “yes” or “no”)
- Focused and specific
- Require research, experimentation, and analysis
- Encourage multiple perspectives and discussion

Generative Statements are:

- Open-ended and thought-provoking
 - Provide direction without limiting outcomes
 - Can evolve and expand as your art practice grows
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Part 2: Starting Points for Inquiry

Choose one or more of these **stimuli** as inspiration for your inquiry line:

1. **Materials + Processes** – experimenting with a specific medium or technique

2. **Design** – exploring composition, balance, or aesthetic style
 3. **Art Worlds** – connecting with an artist, movement, or theory
 4. **Art-Making Experiences** – learning through your own discoveries or mistakes
 5. **Concepts** – ideas such as identity, power, memory, or transformation
 6. **Visuals** – photographs, artifacts, places, or cultural symbols
 7. **Events + Time** – personal, social, or historical moments
 8. **Sites / Places** – the significance of a space or environment
 9. **Interdisciplinary Connections** – links between art and other subjects
 10. **Other Provocations** – anything else that sparks curiosity or meaning
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Part 3: Crafting Your Inquiry Question

Use this structure to brainstorm:

1. What am I genuinely curious about?
2. What specific aspect of that topic do I want to explore?
3. How might this connect to my artistic practice or visual interests?
4. What could others learn or feel from this exploration?

Then, complete the sentence:

“To what extent can art...?”

“How does the use of [material/process] reflect...?”

“In what ways can the depiction of [concept] in art reveal...?”

Write **3–5 inquiry questions** that:

- *Are open-ended and researchable*

- Could lead to *multiple visual outcomes*
 - Reflect *your personal curiosity and potential for artistic development*
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Part 4: Crafting Your Generative Statement

Transform one of your inquiry questions into a **Generative Statement** — a statement that opens possibilities rather than closing them.

Examples:

-  “I will study how women are represented in art.”
 -  “Exploring how the female body in art reveals shifting ideas of beauty and control.”
 -  “I want to use clay to make portraits.”
 -  “Through clay, I will explore how texture can express emotional resilience.”
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Part 5: Reflection

Answer these prompts in your sketchbook:

1. Which inquiry question excites you the most and why?
2. How can this question evolve as you continue making art?
3. Which materials, artists, or places could help you develop this line of inquiry?
4. How will this guide your **Art-Making Portfolio** development?