Statement of Faith in Professional Practice

In 2011, I embraced my passion for music and became a performing artist, adopting the stage name *Temper-Mental MissElayneous.* From a young age, I had been writing lyrics and poetry, deeply influenced by the cultures of hip-hop and punk. My father, a musician, and my mother, a trade union leader, instilled in me a commitment to social and political messages, as well as the power of self-expression through song and lyric. Witnessing their engagement with society through their respective crafts profoundly shaped my artistic journey.

As I ventured into the music scene, I identified as a Straight Edge rapper and often described myself as "Christ-curious". Even in my earlier works, including those featured on my remastered album, launched in 2025, you can hear my search for God through Christ and the church. These songs, written as early as 2009, reflect a period of seeking and spiritual exploration, as well as a strong condemnation of sin and secular influences.

My newer works stand as an even greater testimony to where my faith and artistry now fully align—as a baptised, fully committed, Bible-reading, Bible-believing Christian. Throughout my career, I have been committed to serving the community. This has included visiting prisons, youth work centres and Youthreach education centres, as well as performing at various festivals and community events.

My journey in education—from returning to complete my Leaving Certificate to pursuing a BA in Fine Art and a Professional Master's in Art & Design Education—has been foundational to who I am today. As a second-level educator, I continue to recognise the importance of creativity, expression and education in supporting young people and engaging with wider society. I am also currently undertaking an MA in Art & Social Action, further exploring socially engaged artistic practice, community participation, collective action and the role of creativity in social transformation.

Balancing my life as a visual artist, rapper, lyricist, spoken-word poet and educator, I have sought to empower others and challenge societal norms, embodying the intersection of hip-hop, punk and creative liberation.

I have also established MissElayneous Press, an independent publishing imprint through which I bring together visual art, poetry, writing and collaborative creative practice. In July 2026, I released MISCELLANEA, a multidisciplinary, four-volume publication bringing together my visual art, poetry and creative writing, alongside contributions and reflections from fellow artists, writers and collaborators. Its conceptual framework draws on 1 Corinthians 12:12–20 and the biblical understanding of the Body of Christ: that although a body is made up of many parts, those parts form one body. This passage speaks to the value of individual contribution, diversity, interdependence and collective belonging. These ideas resonate deeply with my understanding of artistic collaboration, community and the place of individual creative voices within a wider whole.

Having navigated the fine art world, the music industry, poetry and literary circles, as well as both higher education and informal learning, I have witnessed firsthand how deeply secular influences pervade these fields. Now, working in public education, I see the same patterns. Yet I remain steadfast in my faith, recognising the hope that exists in continuing my practice through music, lyric writing, poetry, visual art, teaching, publishing and service to both the community and the church. I see this as an opportunity for transformation, believing that all can find renewal and redemption in Christ.

Reflecting on my journey, I see how Christ was present throughout, guiding me even when I was unaware of His presence. My faith has become central to my identity, shaping my creative and teaching practices and inspiring me to live out my values with compassion and purpose.

Today, I am not a closeted Christian. I am not afraid to celebrate and worship Christ in my poetry and music. In fact, I recognise that, for me, this is now the only thing of real value: to revere, to meditate on and to offer as a worthy sacrifice to God.