



Art Academy  
of Cincinnati  
College of Art & Design

## Senior Thesis Resource Book 2016/17

### OVERVIEW

The Senior Thesis is comprised of two parts, a written statement about your work and a visual thesis that can take a variety of forms as discussed below.

The written statement is initiated in the Senior Seminar class in the fall and completed, with the help of your Thesis Advisor and Thesis Readers, in the spring semester. It is to be completed on or before the first Monday in March with final copies delivered to your Thesis Advisor, Thesis Readers and Senior Seminar at that time. Visual thesis exhibitions are scheduled in the fall semester, during Senior Seminar I, along with forming the exhibition groups. You will work within a group whether you are part of a thesis exhibition or decide on one of the alternative options for the visual component.

The purpose of the Senior Thesis is for the student to demonstrate that they have achieved the Educational Objectives of the Art Academy of Cincinnati and may therefore be considered for being awarded the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. The written statement is designed to help students thoroughly examine the intentions, influences, processes, and concepts involved in their work. The process of writing the statement is an important experience intended to help students more fully understand and focus on pertinent issues in their work while learning how to articulate their artistic/creative concerns.

Students are expected to work closely with their Thesis Advisor in developing the written statement and creating a visual thesis comprised of current work. Students should plan to meet regularly with their Thesis Advisor during the first half of the spring semester. Students may also wish to meet a couple of times with their Thesis Readers in order to gain approval for the written statement prior to the final thesis review.

The student's visual thesis may take a variety of forms. A common format is a group exhibition scheduled and developed through the Senior Seminar and Advanced Tutorial classes. Each student is responsible for displaying their own work in cooperation with the other participants. The work presented for the visual thesis should have a successfully developed and realized concept (and/or communication objective), display originality, imagination, and risk-taking along with appropriate presentation and craftsmanship. The public presentation of the

work is an important means for the student to connect to the community, both internally and externally.

Work can be presented in a variety of formats/venues that include but are not limited to, displaying in one of the three AAC galleries, creating a portfolio, producing a body of work or extended project that can be printed and mounted, projected in slide form, video form, presented in the context of a finished website or on a portfolio host site such as Behance. Multimedia, video and animation based works can be projected in one of the galleries or in an alternative negotiated space.

The Thesis Advisor and Thesis Readers comprise the student's thesis committee, which is responsible for the evaluation of the written statement and the visual thesis. Students must successfully complete both components as a requirement for graduation.



Buck

### **Art Academy of Cincinnati Mission**

To create and sustain radical, forward-thinking, contemporary visual artists and designers whose creative contributions make a substantial difference in all the lives they touch.

## Art Academy of Cincinnati Educational Goal and Objectives

### **Universal Educational Goal**

*To empower students with the intellectual and technical tools they will need to navigate a life of creativity, curiosity, individuality, education, history and community.*

### **Universal Educational Objectives**

#### **Creativity**

*Students engage their imagination, invent new forms, take risks and solve visual problems in unpredictable, surprising ways.*

#### **Curiosity**

*Through their commitment to inquiry, research and experimentation students define the formal and conceptual interests related to their own artistic process and vision.*

#### **Individuality**

*Students articulate a unique and rebellious voice in their work in relation to the past, present and future of art and design.*

#### **Education**

*Students employ and integrate the technical skills, strategies and critical thinking necessary to create cutting-edge works of art and design.*

#### **History**

*Students determine and defend the role of art and design history in relation to their work and contemporary culture.*

#### **Community**

*Through their creative practice, students make meaningful connections with the diverse communities in which they live and work.*



Santiago Carrasquilla

## **SENIOR THESIS STATEMENT 2016/17**

*(For all students except Art History Majors)*

The Senior Thesis Statement is a written description of the work leading up to the Visual Thesis. It addresses the relevant concepts, theories, influences, and experiences that form the basis of a student's work and development during his or her time at the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Writing this statement is a requirement for graduation.

### **The Thesis Statement must include the following information:**

- A written discussion of both the development of the work's content (as it pertains to creativity, curiosity, invention, and cultural/historical contextual awareness) and its formal and technical elements (including appropriate media selection and application).
- The relevant, important creative, and scholarly influences on the work.
- A description of process, including, but not limited to: research, exploration and experimentation, ideation, time and project management, critical thinking and analysis, and risk taking.
- A statement concerning post-graduation near, intermediate, and long-term goals, which demonstrates a commitment to creative practice beyond the AAC, and provides a plan for making meaningful connections with the diverse communities in which the student lives and works.
- A detailed discussion of a minimum of 5 specific works, including their description, analysis and interpretation. (These works may, or may not, be a part of the student's final exhibition).

### **Additionally:**

- Standard MLA format for all papers will be followed, plus a cover page as required by the AAC faculty.
- The thesis statement should not exceed 12 typed pages (double-spaced in 12pt Times New Roman) including the cover page and Works Cited.
- Each student will submit 10 images of his/her work, properly labeled, to the appropriate Drop Box as directed by the Senior Seminar 2 faculty.
- A minimum of 10 images will accompany the document including images of 5 works discussed plus images documenting at least 5 additional recent works, including all works in the thesis exhibition. These images should be 8.5 x 11" printed color reproductions properly labeled with Artist/Designer Name, Title and/or client, Year Completed, Media, Dimensions (if appropriate), and must be included with the final written statement given to your principal Advisor, Readers, and Studio Program Chairperson.
- The Advisor and Readers must accept the thesis statement and visual thesis for the student to be eligible for the awarding of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree.

## VISUAL THESIS AND REVIEWS

Part of the thesis requires students to present an exhibition, special display, portfolio, body of work or extended project for evaluation. The work should demonstrate the student's abilities to develop a successfully realized concept, displaying creativity, formal qualities, appropriate craftsmanship, visual impact, and appropriate presentation.

The work presented for the visual thesis is ultimately the responsibility of the student. However, the student and Thesis Advisor should work together to manage the aesthetic, professional and conceptual goals of the work and determine the proper venue for the presentation of the work. It is advisable to keep your thesis committee informed about the development of your work throughout the year.

Thesis groups will be formed and assigned dates through a lottery to determine when the visual thesis, be it an exhibition or some other form of presentation, will take place. The lottery will occur near the end of the fall semester during a session of the Senior Seminar 1.



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Each group is responsible for organizing the presentation of work in the 3 gallery spaces, Pearlman, Convergys, and Chidlaw (or in a pre-agreed upon alternate space). Each group must submit a completed Gallery Exhibition Contract to the Senior Seminar faculty on, or before, the first Friday in March. Failure to submit a contract will result in non-reimbursement for exhibition expenses. Students presenting the visual thesis in a form other than an exhibition must nevertheless

work with a group and within the group's due dates and general timeline for the completion of the visual thesis

All works must be completely installed or prepared by Monday of the week the show opens at 12:30pm.

Exhibitions will have closing receptions on Friday from 5pm to 8pm

All works must be removed and gallery walls patched and painted by Saturday at 2pm. **Each group is responsible for leaving the gallery in exhibition condition.**



Adam J. Kurtz

### **Installation and De-installation of Thesis Work**

Early in the spring semester Senior Seminar Faculty will spend additional time on all aspects of preparation, publicizing, and documenting the visual thesis. Seminar faculty, in consultation with the Director of Facilities, will demonstrate the proper methods for installation and de-installation of exhibitions, ideas for projecting work, presenting screen displays and special installation including appropriate labeling, signage and branding.

### **Thesis Exhibition Rules and Policies**

Emphasis will be placed on following all Gallery Rules as stated in the Senior Thesis Resource Book

The Senior Seminar faculty prior to a student group's exhibition must approve installation and de-installation plans. The plans should consist of an installation

schedule, the approximate works to be installed and their location using floor plans and wall profiles, the method of installation, tools required for the installation, means of removal, a lighting plan, and a schedule to return the space to exhibition quality standards by 2pm Saturday.

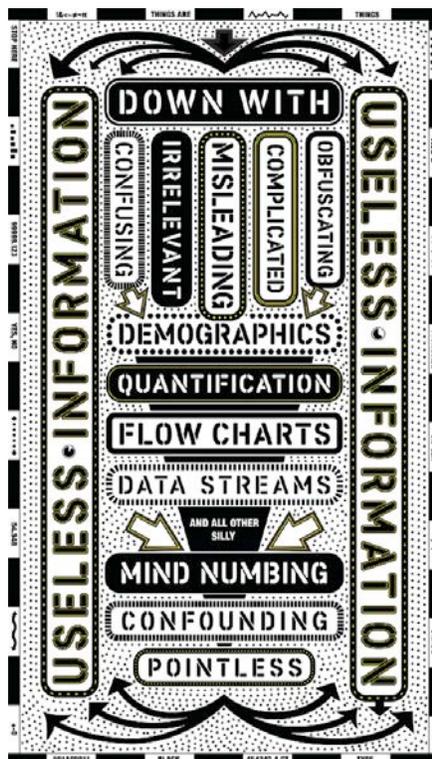
Students are responsible for installing and de-installing their exhibitions according to the schedule outlined in the Senior Thesis Resource Book.

The school will provide sandpaper, drop cloths, paint, rollers and roller covers, brushes, and spackling to return the space to exhibition quality standards for the next group. These materials will be kept in the Pearlman and/or Chidlaw Gallery closet and can be accessed with the assistance of a Security Guard. The Director of Facilities will monitor and replace these materials in a timely fashion as necessary.

Students must provide all other necessary tools and materials required for proper installation and de-installation of their exhibition.

Your failure to meet any and all of the following expectations may result in failing the Senior Thesis experience and/or not graduating.

- Meet with your Thesis Advisor concerning your exhibition
- Provide a plan and schedule to install and de-install your exhibition
- Be prepared with the proper hardware and tools
- Plan for any AAC technology to be used in the exhibition and return of same to the Director of Information Technology
- Properly mount your exhibition
- Failure to leave the gallery ready for the next artist by 2pm on Saturday will result in the forfeiture of the \$100 thesis expense allowance.



Paula Scher



Sam Francis

## Announcements

Senior Seminar faculty will verify that brand standards are followed in the creation of a thesis announcement card, if the thesis groups choose to do one. Announcement cards are not required. The address side of the card will be designed by the Art Academy and may not be altered. All cards must comply with United States Postal Service regulations. Senior Seminar faculty must approve the reverse, or image side of the card. Once approved, it may not be altered.

The design, printing, addressing and mailing of announcement cards is the responsibility of the thesis exhibition group. Costs of announcement cards are eligible for reimbursement up to the allocated amount as stated in the Senior Thesis Resource Book. A list of suggested gallery, museum, and media contacts may be obtained through Denise Watson. The Art Academy does not provide mailing labels or postage.

## Reimbursement of Visual Thesis Related Expenses

Each Thesis group has approximately \$100 per person to spend on authorized exhibition related expenses. Alcoholic beverages are NOT an authorized expense. Designate one person in the group as the treasurer who will be responsible for monitoring the budget. Turn in the total and all receipts to the Studio Program

Chairperson for reimbursement by attaching all receipts to a single Check Request Form (available in the Faculty Mailroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South). Allow at least two weeks for processing. Requests for reimbursement must be received before 5pm on the Friday before graduation. Requests received after that time and date will not be processed.



Man Ray

### **Exhibition Receptions Are Not Parties.**

Students should be reminded that thesis exhibitions and presentations should be represented in a professional manner and should be organized in such a way. Students are responsible for all set up beforehand, and all clean up **immediately following the reception**. Trash should be carried to the dumpster. The student commons should not be used to store dirty plates and dishes. The school alcohol policy must be enforced.

### **Thesis Review Committee**

The Studio Program Chair will assign Thesis Review Committees. The Thesis Review Committee will consist of a student's Thesis Advisor and two Readers.

The purpose of the Thesis Review Committee is to aid the student in successfully completing the written thesis statement and the presentation of a professional visual thesis that provides the committee with proof that the student has achieved the AAC Educational Objectives and is eligible for the awarding of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

A student may request faculty to serve on their Thesis Review by completing A Request Form. The Studio Program Chairperson will assign readers to students that do not submit a Request Form by the due date. The Studio Program Chair will attempt

to assign Thesis Readers based on requests; however, assignments must be distributed evenly amongst the full-time faculty.

Each student must give, his or her, Thesis Advisor a draft of his or her thesis prior to the winter break. The thesis should include a cover sheet that has the student's name, title of the thesis (if any), and the date of the draft. Each successive draft should be re-dated accordingly. Thesis Readers will be given revised versions in February of the spring semester (see Senior Thesis Schedule).



Hannah Hoch

## Thesis Reviews

***Students are responsible for organizing their own Thesis Review with their Thesis Committee during their scheduled group week.***

Students must submit a final draft of the Written Statement to their Thesis Advisor and Thesis Readers no later than the second Monday in March.

Reviews are to be conducted in the determined venue (gallery, studio, conference room, alternative space or agreed upon meeting space) with all work present and complete. The Thesis Advisor, committee and student must also be present. Each student should contact his or her review committee to schedule a review as soon as possible after the thesis group schedule is determined. The week before presentations/exhibitions, students should confirm the time of their review with their Advisor and Readers. Additional people may be present only if agreed to by the thesis committee prior to the review. Tape recording of the review may be done if approved by the committee prior to the review.

Students should be prepared to present a brief explanation of the work they display and should engage in a discussion about the written statement and work presented. The discussion should not exceed one hour.

The Thesis Review Committee is responsible for completing the Thesis Review Forms, which will become part of the student's permanent record. The committee may ask the student to leave the gallery while the evaluation is completed. **Approval and acceptance of the Written Statement and the Visual Thesis by the Thesis Review Committee is required for completion of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.**

Students who fail to meet the minimum standards of the Written Statement and/or the Visual Thesis are considered to be deficient in meeting the educational objectives of the Art Academy and are not eligible to be awarded the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Students may petition their Thesis Committee to be granted a specific time period to make the necessary corrections for resubmission to the student's Thesis Committee for approval.

In the event that a student strongly disagrees with the evaluation by the Thesis Committee, the student should submit such disagreement in writing to the Studio Program Chairperson for review. The Studio Program Chairperson may reconvene the Thesis Committee or additional faculty to determine if a reconsideration of the evaluation is warranted. If the Chairperson determines that reconsideration is not warranted, the student may ask the Academic Dean to convene Council of Adjudication to address the student's grievance.

All determinations, acceptances and approvals of the Written Statement and the Thesis Exhibition must be completed and submitted to the Studio Program Chairperson and the registrar at least one week prior to graduation.



John Craig

## SENIOR THESIS SCHEDULE 2016–2017

October 31	First draft of thesis due to Senior Seminar—2 copies
November 14	Second Draft due to Senior Seminar. Draft should reflect a substantial improvement from the previous draft acknowledging peer review comments.
November 28	Second draft of thesis returned with comments
December 5	Third draft due to Senior Seminar and Thesis Advisor. This draft should contain a discussion of 5 specific works.
January 23	Fourth draft due to Senior Seminar and Thesis Advisor..
February 13	Thesis Advisor returns fourth draft to student.
February 27	Final draft due to Senior Seminar, Thesis Advisor AND both Thesis Readers for comments. This draft should be complete.
March 6	Thesis Advisor and Readers return final draft to student with comments.
March 13	Final Thesis due to Senior Seminar (1 copy), Thesis Advisor and Thesis Readers. Thesis exhibitions begin.



## THESIS ADVISORS and READERS REQUEST FORM

Fill out the form below stating your choice for Thesis Readers. You will have a Thesis Advisor (your current advisor unless you change) and two Thesis Readers. Every effort will be made to select Readers from the five choices below.

**Please make your selections from the list of faculty provided in Senior Seminar\***. Students are required to ask faculty in advanced of submitting this form if they will serve on their committee. Adjunct faculty may only be chosen when special circumstances warrant and listed below with their permission and signature.

**Return this form to Paige Williams' mailbox on or before October 17, 2016.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADVISOR \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_

Minor (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

READER #1 \_\_\_\_\_

READER #2 \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE #1 \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE #2 \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE #3 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Senior Seminar will provide the names of eligible faculty

### Visual Thesis Group Request Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

We, the undersigned have agreed to form a Visual Thesis Group.

Print Name

Signature

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**ART ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI  
SENIOR THESIS EXHIBITION CONTRACT**

**Due to Senior Seminar before the first Monday in March**

Not required if you are presenting work in portfolio form or in an alternative form)

We, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAMES HERE

Agree to do the following for our Visual Thesis Exhibition:

**Follow the Rules for the Art Academy Gallery** spaces and to have someone in the group take responsibility for clean up or share it equally. (Name of person responsible to be entered in brackets for each duty listed below):

Have the proper tools (brooms, mops, sponges, buckets, cleaner, etc.) available to clean up after opening [\_\_\_\_\_]

Leave the gallery and lobby clean and free from trash, garbage and food, etc. [\_\_\_\_\_]

To have trash bags available and to take trash to the dumpster. [\_\_\_\_\_]

To recycle cans, bottles, etc. if possible. [\_\_\_\_\_]

To schedule after opening events AFTER the space is cleaned and all garbage is taken to the dumpster. [\_\_\_\_\_]

To clean up spills and dirty floors [\_\_\_\_\_]

A penalty may be imposed if the school is left dirty after student openings. The exhibition group could have up to a 50% deduction from allowable reimbursements.

Reminder: Do not ask the security guard to help clean up.

Signatures

Date

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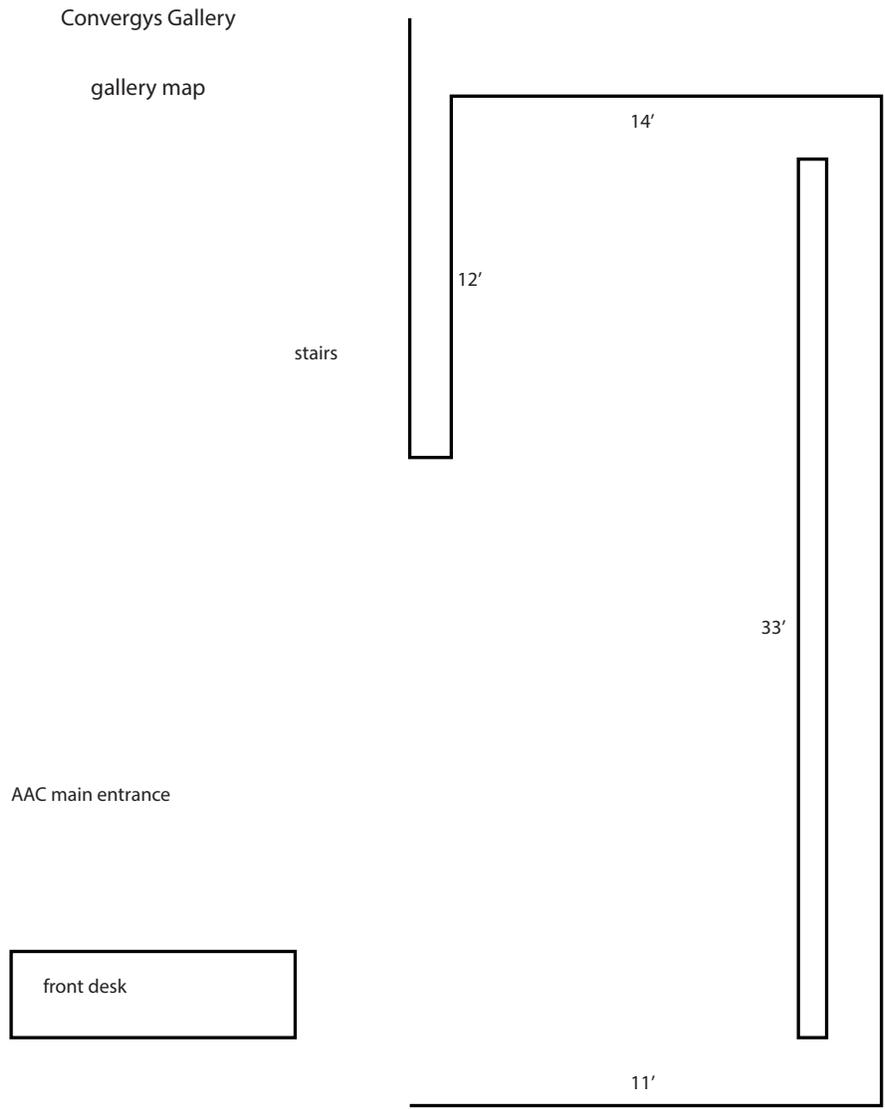
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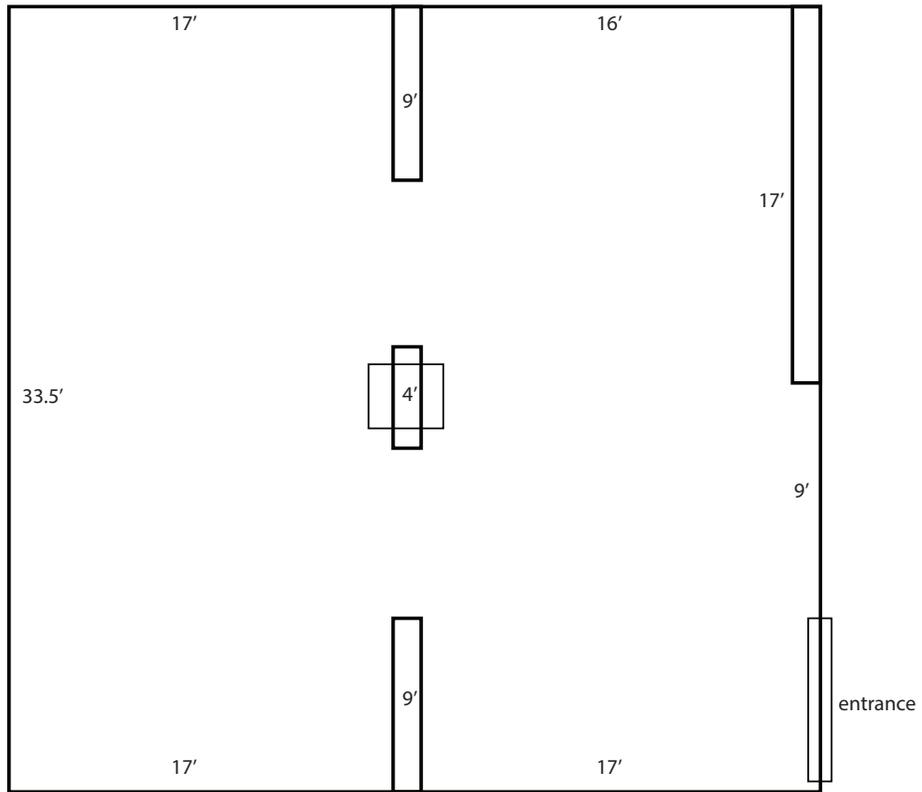
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## GALLERY RULES

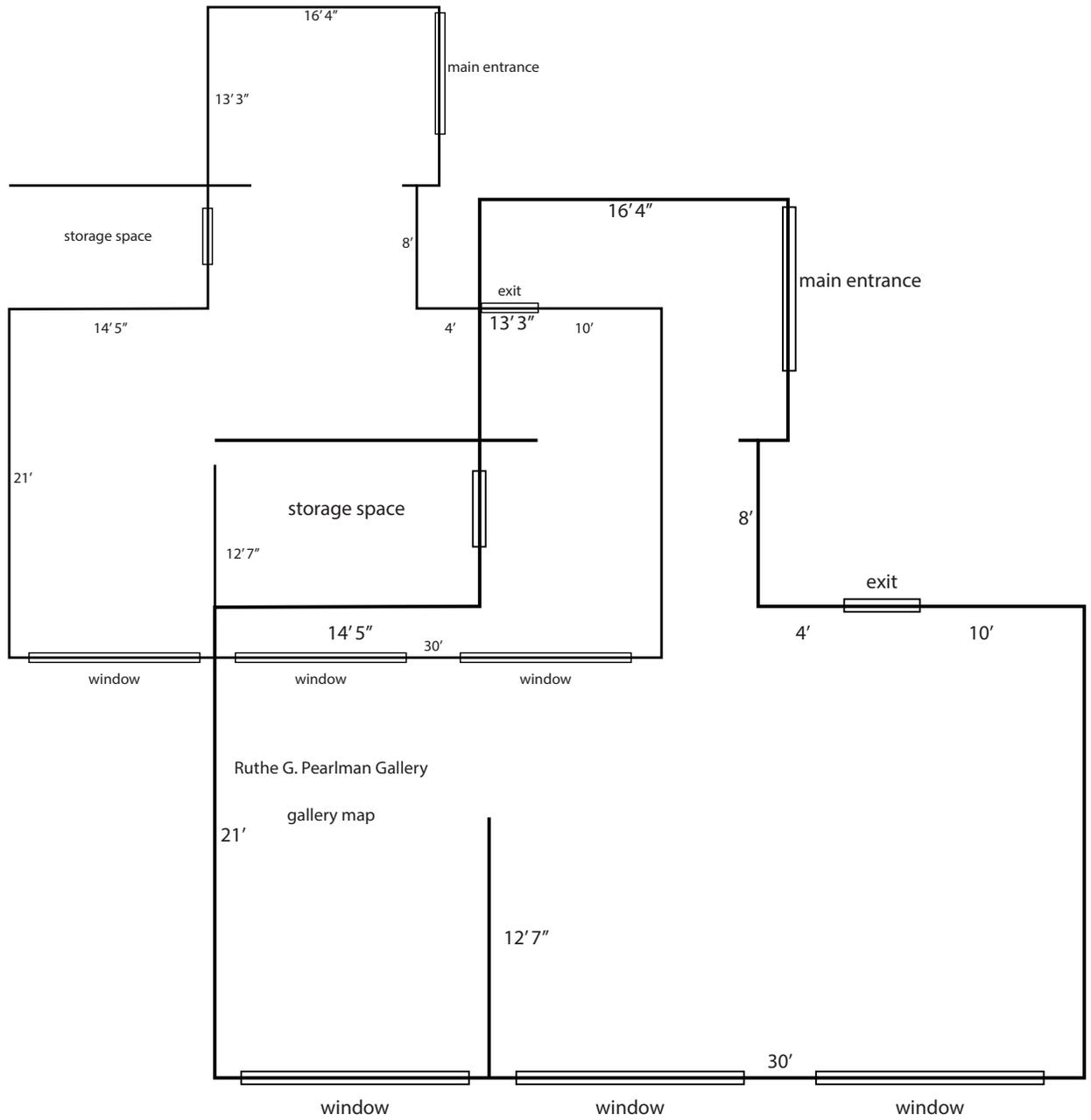
1. The galleries must be returned to their original state after your exhibition. All walls must be patched with spackling compound, sanded, primed (if necessary), and painted with the original wall paint. Use a drop cloth or paper on the floor under where you will be painting. You must attend a demonstration of the proper way to spackle, sand, and paint.
2. You may only paint the walls and pedestals with FLAT LATEX paint. NO SEMI-GLOSS, NO GLOSS, NO ENAMEL, NO OIL BASED PAINTS. Clean all brushes, roller handles and trays. Properly dispose of used roller covers. Any brush marks or tape lines must be sanded, primed, and painted.
3. A paint cart with some hanging supplies and tools is available in the Pearlman or Chidlaw storage closet. However, it is recommended that tools for installing your show be supplied by you. Most often this requires a hammer, level, tape measure, installation hardware (nails, hangers, screws), screwdriver. You may also need an electric drill, drill bits, extension cord(s), and other hand tools. Tools removed from the paint cart(s) must be returned before 2pm on Saturday. Cost of replacing missing tools will be deducted from the exhibition stipend.  
**Tools from the Woodshop are not available.**
4. 3D work may be displayed directly on the floor or on pedestals. You may paint pedestals as needed. Use a drop cloth or paper on the floor under the pedestals to be painted. Use only FLAT LATEX PAINT. After your show return pedestals to the place you found them and return to original color if needed.
5. The ceiling may be used to suspend lightweight work using monofilament, string, or wire. Hanging off pipes and lighting fixtures is prohibited. Consult with Facilities, if planning to use a projector or hanging anything from the ceiling.
6. NEVER paint, or attach objects with nails, screws, or other fasteners to the ceiling. Never cut holes in the walls.
7. NEVER paint or otherwise change the color of the floor.
8. NEVER attach objects directly to the floor using any kind of fasteners.
9. Do not use colored stickum, foam double-stick mounts, carpet tape, duct tape, or any other double-stick tape to install artwork or labels. Velcro may be stapled to the wall; also Scotch brand mounting squares and white artist tape may be used.
10. The use of water, or any liquids in an artwork may only be installed with the permission of Facilities. Also no open flames.
11. If you need to block out window light in the Pearlman Gallery, draw on the walls, or alter the gallery spaces in any major way, consult Facilities.





Chidlaw Gallery

gallery map



Ruthe G. Pearlman Gallery

gallery map

## SENIOR THESIS STATEMENT | WRITING STANDARDS FORM

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluate student's writing using a scale of 10-1: **Excellent (10, 9) A; Proficient (8, 7, 6) B; Adequate (5, 4, 3) C; Unsatisfactory (2, 1) D.** Place a number in the appropriate box for I, II, III. For each category, check the corresponding elements in which improvement is required.

**I. Elements of Content Development** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Content responds to assignment
- \_\_\_ Content organization and coherence
- \_\_\_ Tone and style
- \_\_\_ Reasoning and idea development

**II. Elements of Standard Written English** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Spelling, punctuation
- \_\_\_ Grammar
- \_\_\_ Sentence structure
- \_\_\_ Vocabulary choices
- \_\_\_ Paragraph development

**III. Research** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Works Cited/Consulted
- \_\_\_ Usage of MLA documentation

**Accepted** \_\_\_\_\_

**Not Accepted** \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Committee Signatures

Thesis Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments/suggestions on back of form

cc: Student, Advisor, Liberal Arts Dept. Chair, Studio Program Chair, and Registrar



Art Academy  
of Cincinnati

**Studio Review Form | 2017**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Advisor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major \_\_\_\_\_  
 Minor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Review Team \_\_\_\_\_

**Review Level** \_\_\_ **First Year** \_\_\_ **Second Year** \_\_\_ **Third Year** \_\_\_ **Thesis** \_\_\_ Accepted  
 \_\_\_ Not

Accepted

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>Fail</b>
<b>10/9</b>	<b>8/7/6</b>	<b>5/4/3</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>0</b>
A/A-	B+/B/B-	C+/C/C-	D+/D	F

*Check indicates improvement needed*

**I. Formal and Technical Skills** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Composition*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Media dexterity*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Perceptual skills*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Craft*

**II. Artistic Process** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Creativity*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Critical Thinking*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Ideation*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Experimentation*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Risk-Taking*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Contextual Awareness / Research*

**III. Content Development** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Vision*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Voice*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Communication*

**IV. Personal Accountability** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Attendance*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Participation*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *Time Management*

**Comments:**