

MFA in Visual Studies Thesis Guidelines

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INTRODUCTION

MFA in Visual Studies (from the Art & Design Graduate Handbook)

The written thesis will serve to document the work within the thesis exhibition and to provide a narrative description of the work's development and theoretical framework, including influences, and its significance within the discipline(s). This document should include substantial visual documentation appropriate to the media.

All Graduate MFA students must enroll in “MFA Written Thesis – Department of Art + Design” in the university’s current LMS (Blackboard or D2L). This course can be found under the Community Tab and is to ensure that you are familiar with the MFA Thesis Formatting Guidelines. You can find all templates, instructions, deadlines, quiz, and guidelines on this site. This is also where you will upload your final Thesis document.

The following guidelines conform to a standard, printed exhibition catalog format – which is consistent with the discipline of Visual Studies.

To produce an exhibition catalog documenting the thesis research, utilizing outside self-publishing services is necessary. No single company or service is required, but the following guidelines are required, so investigate services carefully to make sure they can deliver the requirements of the format! Ask the Graduate Coordinator for recommendations, if you are unsure.

FORMAT

Printing Requirements

Hard cover is required. Approval from the Graduate Program Director is needed for any type of binding other than hard bound.

Title on cover (title can be artist/design's name)

Image on cover (optional)

Size of book should be complementary to the content (size/shape/number of pages – *to be pre-approved by committee, minimum 8"x 8"*)

For books to be larger than 16"x20", pre-approval is required by the committee, Graduate Coordinator and the Dean of the Library.

Minimum pages = 32 pages, 16 leaves

Order

1. End papers (design must be considered)
2. Title Page (Title and Artist/Designer Name)
Location of exhibition
Date of Exhibition
3. Acknowledgements/copyright (back of title page)
Could be used for dedications, special thanks but *MUST include the following text:*

Missouri State University
Art & Design Department
901 South National Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65897
artanddesign@missouristate.edu
art.missouristate.edu

Publication credits
Design: Name
Photographs: Name

© 2016, Artist/Designer Full Name

The artist assumes responsibility for obtaining and maintaining the necessary rights and releases to legally publish this work, including the informed consent of any subjects identifiable in the photographic work.

(You are responsible for filing a copy of all consent forms with both the Department Head of Art and Design and the Graduate Coordinator of the MFA in Visual Studies Program.)

4. Abstract page
5. Approval page
MUST include the following text, in the described format:

TITLE OF THESIS (DOUBLE SPACED, ALL UPPER CASE, BOLD, AND CENTERED)

By

(Insert name, e.g., Roberta Rodrigues)

A Master's Thesis
Submitted to the Graduate College
Of Missouri State University
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Degree of Master of Fine Arts in Visual Studies

(Insert graduation date, e.g., December 2013)

Approved:

Name of Professor, DEGREE, (example: M.F.A.), Chair
Name of Professor, DEGREE, committee member
Name of Professor, DEGREE, committee member
Name of Professor, DEGREE, committee member
Julie Masterson, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate College

In the interest of academic freedom and the principle of free speech, approval of this thesis indicates the format is acceptable and meets the academic criteria for the discipline as determined by the faculty that constitute the thesis committee. The content and views expressed in this thesis are those of the student-scholar and are not endorsed by Missouri State University, its Graduate College, or its employees.

6. Table of contents (optional – use if appropriate to the scale/length of written work)
7. Thesis Text with Images inserted as appropriate to the content of the text
8. Reference list, citations and/or appendix (appendix is optional – use if appropriate to the scale/length of written work)
Reference Page must follow formatting of the Graduate College. See below for more information.
9. Image list
10. End papers (design must be considered)

Style Format

Image captions are required for all images.

Image list should conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style*
Title of work (italicized), date, medium, measurements.

Page numbers are required on all pages after title page or table of contents *if included*, and must be uniformly placed.

Citations' style must conform to the Chicago Manual of Style and be consistent with each other. This applies to in-text citations and reference list as well.

If you have any questions about style, ask your MFA Thesis Chair for decisions on appropriateness.

Listing References. Each reference cited in the text must be listed in the Literature Cited (Reference) section. The style and sequence or order of arranging elements within a reference will follow the Chicago Manual of Style. Similarly, the order of listing references should conform to that style manual. While an alphabetical listing is the most common method, some disciplines have their own unique approach. As with citing the references in the thesis text, the format used to list the references must be consistent; each reference listed must be in the same format.

MFA THESIS REVIEW and SUBMISSION SEQUENCE OVERVIEW

1. All Graduate MFA students must enroll in “MFA Written Thesis – Department of Art + Design” in current university LMS (Blackboard or D2L). This course can be found under the Community Tab and is to ensure that you are familiar with the MFA Thesis Formatting Guidelines. You can find all templates, instructions, deadlines, quiz, and guidelines on this site. This is also where you will upload your final Thesis document. March 1 - Deadline for the final written thesis text document to Committee
2. Apply for the Graduate College’s “Intensive Thesis Writing Workshop” usually held in late February. Contact Graduate Coordinator for more information.
3. Format the thesis electronically in preparation for printing. Add images considering the layout of the book. Consult Thesis Committee about format and style.
4. Save the PDF and distribute to committee. The Thesis Committee will review it for appropriateness of format and style and to check for format conformation.
5. April 1 - Final approval of the printed thesis book design by MFA Thesis Committee.
6. If utilized, a copy of any necessary consent forms should be submitted to both the Department Head of Art and Design and the Graduate Coordinator of the MFA in Visual Studies Program.
7. Within the MFA Written Thesis – Department of Art + Design Blackboard Course, upload final, archival, print-ready PDF.
DEADLINE DETERMINED EACH YEAR, consult with the Graduate Coordinator.
8. Submit the three final, professionally-printed copies of the thesis book to the Graduate Coordinator. This step is a graduation requirement.