

MFA PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO AND RELATED MEDIA

ORIENTATION HANDBOOK

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CONTACT INFORMATION

As you well know, our department is housed in an intimate space with little privacy allotted to any individual (staff, faculty or student). It is with the utmost kindness that we ask you not to enter any office without receiving permission. The best way to speak with Charles Traub is to make an appointment via email with Kelly Sullivan. You can reach her at ksullivan4@sva.edu.

Web Address: <http://mfaphotovideo.sva.edu>

MFA Photography Mailing Address: School of Visual Arts
MFA Photography, Video & Related Media
209 E. 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

MFA Photography Administration:
Charles H. Traub, Chair 212-592-2360
Kelly Sullivan, Asst. to the Chair 212-592-2360
Randy West, Director of Operations 212-592-2362
Michelle Leftheris, Systems Video Admin 212-592-2374
Seth Lambert, Systems Administrator 212-592-2364
Adam Bell, Academic Advisor 212-592-2361

Facilities:
Digital Output Center (DOC) 212-592-2369
MFA Equipment Cage 212-592-2399
6th Floor Equipment Cage 212-592-2330

SVA Administrative Departments:
OPERATOR 212-592-2000
Academic Advisement 212-592-2540
Student Accounts 212-592-2415
Financial Services 212-592-2030
Library 212-592-2669
Nurse 212-592-2146
Registrar 212-592-2200
International Student Services 212-592-2143

Special Note

To contact any faculty member, please use <http://my.sva.edu> to access faculty email addresses. The Department will not give out any phone numbers or mailing addresses.

GENERAL BUILDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Access to 214 East 21st Street

MFA Photo students have the privilege of 24-hour access to the 214 E 21st Street building. However, once the security guard has locked the building, students can no longer enter the facilities. Students can enter the building until 11:00 PM Monday through Friday, and until 10:00 PM Saturday and Sunday.

Building Hours:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Students who are in the building after the doors are locked must sign the registration book at the Security Desk, and sign out when they leave. This is a fire regulation. The building must be exited through the front door.

Guests

Guests are welcome in the department, but are not allowed to use the facilities or equipment. All guests without an SVA ID must sign the registration book at the Security desk in the lobby. If you wish to have a visitor in the department at any time (friend, family, model, etc.), **you need to complete a Request for Access form**, located in the binder of the same name, in the lounge. Completed forms must be submitted to Kelly Sullivan in office 113 **at least one weekday in advance of your visitor's arrival**.

Because all visitor requests require signed approval from the Director of Security prior to submitting the form to the 21st Street security desk, we cannot approve visitors on shorter notice. If we do not have sufficient advance notice, it is likely that we will not receive Security's approval and that you will have trouble getting your visitor past the guard. Any questions regarding this process may be directed to Kelly.

Door Codes for MFA Photo

Combination codes for all doors operate on the honor system. Do not give out the combination for any door to anyone outside the department. Periodically during the year, the combination may be changed, and a sign will be posted to notify students of the change. If you notice someone you do not recognize in the department after hours, ask them who they are. Security is everyone's responsibility. Remember: you will not offend someone if they belong there, only if they do not.

Posted Notices, Mailboxes and Email

Read all posted notices, check your mailbox, and read your SVA email daily!

Your mailbox slot will be emptied every year by the last official day of class. No exceptions. Do not use your mailbox slot as storage. Do not put any food or bottles in your mailbox.

Your email will likely be your first initial and last name @sva.edu. If you prefer to use a private email, make sure your SVA email is forwarded to your private address. All announcements, last-minute schedule changes, and reminders will be communicated through your SVA e-mail account. It is your responsibility to keep abreast of official announcements and correspondence.

Office equipment (fax and copy machines, printers and phones) is not for student use.

First Aid Kit

There is a First Aid Kit in the Student Lounge and Equipment Cage.

Student Lounge

The first floor lounge is only for use by MFA Photo/Video students, their guests, and guests of the department. Since it is yours for relaxing and socializing, we ask that you be conscientious and mature, and that you always clean up after yourself.

Students are welcome to use the two refrigerators in the lounge, but please remember to label your food with your name and the date. Cage personnel will throw out any unlabeled packages. Fridge will be cleaned out completely every Friday evening at 5PM. Any food marked earlier than that day's date will be thrown out.

The microwave is for general use. Make sure to clean up after yourself.

Bulletin Boards are for internships, employment opportunities, exhibitions, and general information. Please note that only the latest job offerings remain posted.

Lockers

Every student will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the year. Please see Kelly if you have not yet received your combination. For security reasons, you must use the lock provided, and you may not replace the provided lock with one of your own. Your locker must be cleaned out by the announced deadline after graduation or the day you are no longer a matriculated student.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2011-2012

Fall Semester 2011

September 2011

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday, September 5 | Labor Day, College closed |
| Tuesday, September 6 | Undergrad and graduate classes begin |
| Thursday, September 8-20 | Fall Course Adjustment Period |

October 2011

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, October 3 | Administrative withdrawal for students without financial clearance for the fall 2010 semester |
| Wednesday, October 5 | SEVIS registration deadline for international students |
| Thursday, October 6 | SVA-sponsored student Health Insurance Fee waiver deadline for fall 2010 |
| Monday, October 10 | Columbus Day, no continuing ed. class |

November 2011

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, November 1 | Last day to officially withdraw from fall 2011 semester undergraduate and graduate courses without incurring a failing grade (academic progress and financial liability may be affected) |
| Thurs-Sun, November 24-27 | Thanksgiving recess, College closed |
| Monday, November 28 | Registration for spring 2012 and summer 2012 semesters (by appointment with departmental advisors) |

December 2011

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, December 1 | Due date for spring 2012 semester tuition |
| Friday, December 2 | Financial Aid deadline for submitting all loan applications for students registered for fall 2012 only |
| Friday, December 9 | Deadline for OPT application and program extension request for international students in their final semester of study. |
| Tuesday, December 20 | Thursday undergrad and graduate classes end |
| Wednesday, December 21 | Undergraduate and graduate classes end; last day of Friday undergraduate and graduate classes; Check-out SVA residence halls for non-returning students |
| Thurs-Mon, Dec 22-Jan 2 | College closed |

Spring Semester 2012

January 2012

Wednesday, January 4

Late registration for spring 2012 and summer 2012 foundation semesters (by appointment with departmental advisors)

Monday, January 9

Check-in SVA residence halls for new students

Wednesday, January 11-23

Undergraduate and graduate classes begin

Monday, January 16

Spring Course Adjustment Period

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, College closed

February 2012

Friday, February 3

Administrative withdrawal for students without financial clearance for the spring 2012 semester

Wednesday, February 8

SEVIS registration deadline for international students

Thursday, February 9

SVA-sponsored student Health Insurance Fee waiver deadline for spring 2012

Monday, February 27

Last day to officially withdraw from spring 2012 semester undergraduate and graduate courses without incurring a failing grade (academic progress and financial liability may be affected)

March 2012

Monday, March 5-11

Spring break, no classes

Friday, March 9

Staff holiday, college closed

March 19-30

Registration for all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students for 2012-2013 academic year (by appointment only).

Saturday, March 31

Thesis Orals (subject to change)

April 2012

Friday, April 6

Deadline for OPT application and program extension request for international students in their final semester of study.

Monday, April 16

Financial Aid deadline for submitting all loan applications for fall/spring or spring only students

Monday, April 30

Undergraduate and graduate classes end: last day that the Registrar's Office will accept grade changes for the fall 2010 semester

May 2012

Friday, May 11

Commencement (tentative)

DEPARTMENTAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

The MFA Photography, Video and Related Media department is committed to an atmosphere that promotes the highest level of creative endeavor and exchange. As such, all members of the Department are encouraged to take initiatives, and offer positive suggestions that further these ends for the common good of the entire department. The Department is always mindful of your personal needs but not at the expense of others' needs.

The Departmental Code of Conduct is the system that maintains the common good, to ensuring that each student upholds certain standards and supports fellow students in doing the same. Professional conduct is the assumed behavior at all times, and it requires that colleagues, faculty and staff shall be accorded their due respect.

It is the responsibility of every student to maintain proper financial status with the school. Timely payment of bills is essential; any problems that delay prompt payment must be brought to the attention of the Financial Aid Office and/or Office of Student Accounts. Keep copies of all transactions for your own records.

City ordinance, courtesy, and cleanliness require that smoking and eating be allowed only in designated areas. Smoking is allowed only outdoors in the designated smoking area to the left of the building's front entrance. Under no circumstances will smoking be tolerated in the back courtyard. Food and drink are prohibited in classrooms, working spaces, and computer or video rooms.

For the safety and benefit of all concerned, students are responsible for maintaining a secure environment. The facility, including all workspaces and equipment, should never be left unattended or unlocked at any time.

Students are assigned equipment, appointments, workspaces and administrative deadlines via specific time allotments. Out of respect for fellow students these schedules must be strictly followed.

Sign-up sheets and checkout forms are a binding agreement between the student and the Department. Failure to meet the terms of those forms can result in fines and/or loss of privileges. All equipment may be checked out for a maximum of 48 hours. The student assumes responsibility for theft or damage until the appropriate personnel check in the equipment. Equipment not returned within 48 hours is subject to fine, collectable by the Office of Student Accounts.

Students should not be in departmental offices except when conducting business or with express permission. Office equipment and telephones are not for general use. Further, the Equipment Cage is a restricted area and should be entered only by authorized personnel.

The use of facilities and equipment is for currently enrolled students only. Students have the privilege of 24-hour access to the facility. After the security guard has locked the building, there are no further in-out privileges, and the building must be exited via the front door.

Students will not disclose the combination codes or duplicate keys and will not remove any departmental property from assigned locations.

All spaces must be left clean and orderly after student use: chairs put back; papers thrown away; and equipment returned to its proper place. Do not remove equipment from any facility without specific written permission from appropriate staff. Personal items shall not be left in the facility and are subject to disposal if left behind.

Attendance to classes, general meetings, and lectures is mandatory. Failure to properly notify either staff or faculty of inability to attend, for medical or other legitimate reasons, will result in an absence. Tardiness will be treated as an absence. Do not enter a class late. Two absences and you can be withdrawn from the class.

You may not attend classes that are closed (due to enrollment) or any class in which you are not registered or for which you do not appear on the attendance sheet.

The Department adheres to the guidelines, rules and regulations outlined in the official SVA handbook, as well as the specific regulations of other departments. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed and to act accordingly. When in doubt, ask before acting.

Violations of the code of conduct, the school's regulations, or the guidelines stated above are considered to be serious infractions by the Department. A student in violation of any may be placed on probation for violating these rules. Records of violations will be sent to the Director of Student Affairs and a hearing may be called for the student's dismissal from the school.

COURSE ADJUSTMENT POLICY

In order to make the course adjustment period run smoothly, we have devised a departmental policy about dropping and adding classes. While the official course adjustment period for the Fall 2011 semester runs longer, our department will require that students alter their schedules by no later than September 10th. We hope that these arrangements will allow everyone to get settled by the end of the first week of classes in order to decrease class disruption. A similar schedule will be devised for the spring semester.

All course adjustments will be handled in individual meetings with Adam Bell. Adam will have sign up sheets on his door for add/drop appointments.

If space opens up in a class, any waitlisted students will be notified via email and will be given the opportunity to adjust their schedule at that time.

No course changes will be permitted after September 10th.

AUDITS

All full-time students with accounts in good standing may audit two undergraduate or continuing education classes per year (one per semester, and/or 1 over the summer). Students cannot audit graduate classes. The audit will appear on the student's transcript (AU). As auditors, students will not receive a grade. However, each student will be responsible for "participating" in the class. In some cases instructors will want students to complete the reading assignments and/or pass course exams. Each student must come to an agreement with the instructor about what will be required in order to successfully audit the class.

Any student that would like to audit a class must fill out the correct Audit Form. In addition, Continuing Education auditors need to pay any applicable lab or materials fee (paid by check, money order or credit card). Please see Adam Bell, Student Advisor, for forms and return the completed audit form(s) and payment to him directly. Audit forms are available in the mailbox on Adam's door.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE; PART-TIME MATRICULATION

The MFA Photography, Video and Related Media Department at the School of Visual Arts is an accredited, full-time graduate program. Admittance to the Department assumes that students fulfill the highest level of academic and creative work in the field. The curriculum is specifically designed to guide the student through several areas of study that leads to the fulfillment of a thesis project and the culmination of the degree.

Because the course structure is designed with an inherent continuity and flow in relating activities within the department, it is generally not permitted to fulfill the MFA obligations by part-time participation. Only in rare instances will it be allowed; such cases are reviewed and only granted with the permission of the Chairperson.

Similarly, a leave of absence is generally frowned upon as it disrupts the continuity of work and the maturation process necessary to complete the thesis. In particular circumstances, a leave of absence has been granted to accommodate an emergency issue, and then, only under petition and with advance notice! It is the decision of the Chairperson to grant either a part-time status or leave of absence. Please keep in mind that a leave of absence and part-time matriculation may also jeopardize existing scholarships, visas, financial aid and assistantships.

END OF YEAR EVALUATIONS

Near the end of each year, all students will be asked to present a portfolio to a review committee. This process will allow students to receive valuable critical feedback that will assist and guide their artistic development. Students will present their work and feedback about the work they have accomplished this year. Students will also be asked to submit a written statement and be able to discuss their tentative thesis plans. Students will then receive written evaluations accessing their progress, thesis plans, and any technical or conceptual areas in need of improvement. This evaluation will inform how students proceed in the program. Occasionally, some students--who may need an extra push or more direct attention--fall through the cracks, and arrive at their thesis year unprepared for the task that lies ahead. This evaluation process aims to prevent these cases as well as generally provide constructive critical feedback during each phase of a student's graduate studies. There may be cases where the evaluation process will determine that a student should not be in our program. However, our goal is not to create a fearful or competitive environment. Rather, we seek to create a milestone that marks students' successful progress through the program. In plain terms, the end of the year evaluation will:

- Provide both a technical and conceptual assessment of student progress
- Provide concrete feedback that students can apply toward their artistic development
- Aid in student advisement and the appropriate choice of coursework and critique instructors

INCOMPLETES

Students should make every effort to finish the work of one semester within the allotted time. When students fail to finish their semester requirements, projects pile up against one another and work becomes daunting and even more difficult to complete. Therefore, our department strongly discourages incompletes. If a student **MUST** take an incomplete, he/she is required to finish the work six weeks into the new semester. If you do not complete the project within this time frame, you will receive a permanent failing grade for the course and need to make up additional coursework the next semester or with an extension.

SUMMER ACCESS

During the summer months, students can have access to the department's facilities if they pay a lab fee (approximately \$600). Any student wishing to check out equipment from the cage after the last day of the semester is required to pay the Summer Access fee, regardless if he or she uses the other facilities. Summer Access runs from June 1 through July 31. To register for this service, please see Student Advisor Adam Bell at the end of the spring semester.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

THE SALON

Key to your growth at SVA is exposure and feedback from your instructors and peers. For several years now, students have organized informal student exhibitions titled Salons. The Salons—held at the mid-point of each semester—are excellent opportunities for students to get to know each other's work. The Salons help students discover classmates with similar interests and concerns in a more relaxed and festive environment. Again, the Salons are highly informal events and tend to showcase student work-in-progress. Everyone is strongly encouraged to participate. Salon dates are announced a few weeks after the start of each semester.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

In order to get the most out of your graduate school experience outside of class time, we recommend that students create semi-formal discussion groups around topics of mutual interest. These informal groups can explore topics of a technical or conceptual nature. Together students can explore current practices (such as digital photography) or the history of specific subject matter, or screen and discuss important films and videos.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE CRITIQUES

Throughout the academic year the department will hold department-wide critiques. One student from each of the thesis critiques will be asked to present work to a panel of 3 faculty members and the student body. It is the intention of this critique for all students to be involved in the discussion but most importantly to witness and learn from the faculty's agreements as well as disagreements regarding art. You will be notified of the days and times via email. Your attendance is required.

GUIDELINES FOR THESIS CANDIDATE STUDENTS

Understanding and adhering to the guidelines discussed here and in thesis meetings will help insure a successful project. There may be changes to this information, which will be distributed promptly. Students are responsible to attend all meetings, meet all deadlines, and stay aware of all updates as they occur.

What is a Thesis?

The thesis project is a creative endeavor, an original investigation of a specific viewpoint. It follows as a result of the candidate's thesis proposal as a unique body of artwork, demonstrating their capacity to push the limits of what is possible in the multi-faceted realms of the lens arts.

Because the MFA degree is a terminal degree in this field, it is expected that the project will measure up to the highest level of artistic achievement. It must be a cohesive body of work. It must bear up to the scrutiny of the professional creative community, and further our understanding of its area of specific investigation. The candidate's thesis critique instructor, thesis advisor, thesis forms instructor and the Chairperson will evaluate the finished project. While subjectivity is inherent in such judgments, be assured that the committee's demand for quality will be unbending. Any student who does not pass an oral examination of their work by committee and the chairperson will not be eligible for degree conferral.

The main component of the thesis is a body of work completed by the student during the thesis semester that employs photographic, video, film, computer-generated images, or related practices. Accompanying this portfolio is a supporting paper that documents and assesses the development of that work.

Preparation

Together a thesis proposal, portfolio and thesis paper reflects two year's worth of intensive exploration and accomplishment. The spring semester of your second year is an intense period during which creative work and production develops into a cohesive whole. But the process begins long before, during the summer of your first year at the latest. By now you should be examining your work critically and considering what creative direction you might be headed and where you realistically can be in six months. Discuss your work and ideas with the Chairperson, peers, critique instructors, and other sources of creative inspiration. Get your creative juices flowing and focus your thinking into a committed concept for your project.

Fall Semester

In the fall semester, students should follow the outline for thesis development, available as a PDF in the "Student Resources" section of our website: <http://mfaphoto.sva.edu>.

THESIS DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Monday, November 14, 2011 - Students must have submitted a final draft of their Thesis Proposal to their Thesis Forms and Master Critique teachers. Students will be judged "ready to enter thesis" by consensus of the Chair, student's critique teachers as well as one additional faculty member to be determined. A decision will be made based on a variety of factors including artwork, academic standing and thesis proposal.

Monday, December 5, 2011 - Students will be notified of the committee's decision with respect to their written thesis proposal. Any student judged at this time to be insufficiently prepared to undertake a thesis project (based on their proposal) will be asked to complete additional course work, postponing the thesis until their progress justifies it. A thesis semester extension will be recommended.

Tuesday, December 12, 2011 - Students must submit the final thesis proposal with appropriate signatures (critique and forms instructor along with the additional faculty assigned to review) to Adam Bell.

Students entering thesis must also have completed all required coursework, have a B+ average to date (3.3 GPA), no outstanding incomplete grades, and no student account "holds" for failure to meet financial obligations.

Thesis Paper

The thesis paper is a supporting document and should not eclipse the artwork. Nonetheless, an MFA degree requires verbal evidence of both intelligent, creative decision-making and an awareness of the historical and contemporary context of the work. This paper must hold to the highest standard and mastering of writing skills expected of a graduate student in a superior American academic institution.

Thesis Forms II

Thesis Forms II, a required three-credit class in the spring, provides a structure for you to continue working with your Thesis Forms instructor who will track the progress of your work and its relationship to your proposal and ideas, provide editorial feedback and evaluate your final paper.

You will be given a thesis format, thesis portfolio format, and sample title page detailing specific presentation requirements for the thesis project. You will also find it helpful to look at selected graduates' thesis books, not as models to imitate, but as evidence of the great variety of approaches to presentation and writing acceptable within these guidelines.

Thesis Oral Presentation

Each candidate will be required to present and orally defend their work in a twenty minute closed session before a committee of three faculty members (a master critique instructor, a thesis forms instructor, and one other faculty member) on **Saturday, March 31, 2012**.

Completion

A completed thesis project must be presented to Adam Bell on **Friday, April 27, 2012**. This consists of:

- *Finished* creative work
- Two copies containing your completed thesis paper and visual documentation of the work (the department will bind for archive purposes)
- *Signatures of your master critique instructor, and thesis forms instructor* on the cover page of both packets. The thesis books containing your work and your written thoughts will become permanent records of the school, available for review by the public and future students.

Be aware of a number of important administrative prerequisites for graduation established by the school. A list of the school deadlines will be distributed early in the spring semester. Failure to meet any one of them will prevent you from graduating in May.

The **April 27, 2012** deadline is firm. No exceptions will be made. Failure to complete any of these requirements by semester's end or to obtain final project approval by unanimous decision of the thesis committee will necessitate continuing the thesis into the following semester. In this case, the student must register for a thesis extension, (3 credits), and pay the corresponding tuition and fees.

A secondary goal of the thesis process is to produce a body of work that is both compelling and polished enough to present to the gallery, museum, or media worlds as a platform for career growth and recognition. However, the main purpose of the thesis is to create a finished body of work, not an exhibition or screening. The Visual Arts Gallery is located at 601 West 26th Street, 15th floor. The SVA Theatre is located at 333 W. 23rd Street. These spaces sponsor our thesis exhibitions for a two-week period during the summer. Other exhibition spaces are available throughout the school. Inquiries should be made to the staff at the Visual Arts Gallery. As an artist, you should also realize that it is in your interest and within your capabilities to pursue non-student venues for the realization of your individual and collective accomplishments. Finally, your advisor, other faculty members, your peers and the Chairperson are your richest resources. Seek their advice and feedback when you have the need.

MAXIMS FROM THE CHAIR

THE DO'S

Do something old in a new way.

Do something new in an old way.

Do something new in a new way, whatever works...works.

Do it sharp, if you can't, call it art.

Do it in the computer, if it can be done there.

Do fifty of them—you will definitely get a show

Design it yourself.

Edit, when in doubt shoot more,

Edit again.

Read Darwin, Marx, Joyce, Freud, Einstein, Benjamin, McLuhan, and Barthes

See Citizen Kane ten times.

Look at everything—stare.

Connect with others—network.

Do celebrities—if you do a lot of them, you'll get a book.

Do it big, if you can't do it big, do it red.

If all else fails turn it upside down, if it looks good it might work.

If you don't know what to do, look up or down—but continue looking.

Bend your knees.

Construct your images from the edge inward.

If it's the "real world" do it in color.

If it can be done digitally—do it.

Be self-centered, self-involved, and generally entitled, always pushing—and damned to hell for doing it.

Break all rules, except the chairman's.

THE DON'TS

Don't do it about yourself—or your friend—or your family.

Don't dare photograph yourself nude.

Don't look at old family albums.

Don't hand color it.

Don't write on it.

Don't use alternative processes—if it ain't straight do it in the computer.

Don't go to video when you don't know what else to do.
Don't photograph indigent people, particularly in foreign lands.
Don't whine, just produce

THE TRUISMS

Good work sooner or later gets recognized.

If you walk the walk, sooner or later, you'll learn to talk the talk.
If you talk the talk too much, sooner or later, you are probably not walking the walk (don't bullshit).

Every generation re-discovers the art of photography.
Photography history gets reinvented every ten years.

Photographers are the only creative people that don't pay attention to their predecessors' work—
if you imitate something good, you are more likely to succeed.
Whoever originated the idea will surely be forgotten until he or she's dead—corollary steal
someone else's idea before they die.
If you have to imitate at least imitate something good.
Know the difference.

Critics never know what they really like.
Critics are the first to recognize the importance of that which is already known in the community
at large.
The best critics are the ones that like your work.

Theoreticians don't like to look—they're generally too busy writing about themselves.
Given enough time, theoreticians will contradict and reverse themselves.
Practice does not follow theory.
Theory follows practice.

All artists think they're self-taught.
All artists lie, particularly about their dates and who taught them.
No artist has ever seen the work of another artist (the exception being the post-modernists
who've adapted appropriation as another means of reinventing the history).

The curator or the director is the one in the good suit.
The artist is the messy one in black.
The owner is the one with the money.
The gallery director is the one who recently uncovered the work of a forgotten person from his or
her widower.
Every gallerist has to discover someone.
Every curator has to re-discover someone.
The best of them is the one who shows your work.

Galleries need to fill their walls—corollary thus new talents will always be found.

Gallerists say hanging pictures is an art.

There are no collectors, only people with money.
Anyone who buys your work is a collector—your parents don't count.

All photographers are voyeurs.
Admit it and get on with looking.
Everyone is narcissistic; anyone can be photographed.

Photography is about looking.
Learning how to look takes practice.

All photography in the right context at the right time is valuable.
It is always a historical document.
Sooner or later someone will say it is art.

Any photographer can call himself an artist.
But, not every artist can call himself a photographer.

Compulsiveness helps.
Neatness helps too.
Hard work helps the most.

The style is felt—fashion is fad.

Remember, it's usually about who, what, where, when, why, and how.
It is whom you know.

Many a good idea is found in a garbage can.
Don't gild the lily— a.k.a., less is more.

The best exposure is the one that works.
Expose for the shadows and develop for the highlights.

Cameras don't think; they don't have memories.
Learn to see as the camera sees; don't try to make it see as the human eye.

Though the computer can correct anything, a bad image is a bad image.
If all else fails you can remember again to either do it large or red,
Or, tear it up and tape it together.
It always looks better on the wall framed.

If they don't sell, raise your price.
Self-importance rises with the prices of your images on the wall.
The work of a dead artist is always more valuable than the work of a live one.
You can always pretend to kill yourself and start all over.

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the MFA Photography and Related Media Department, I understand that I am given unique privileges and independence within the school, and that as a representative of this department it is assumed that I will conduct myself at all times in a responsible, ethical and professional manner.

It is my responsibility to read the departmental guidelines (found on the Department's website), as well as the SVA Handbook, and to understand my obligations and responsibilities to the rules outlined in these documents. I further acknowledge that I am expected to report in writing any violation of such to the departmental staff.

My signature acknowledges the high standards of academic and creative endeavor that this department represents, and signifies my commitment to the well being of my colleagues who similarly pursue these standards.

Signed in good faith,

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

SIGNATURE

DATE