MFA Show FAQ

When I register for the MFA Show in Slideroom what kind of work samples should I submit? Do they have to be samples of work that I plan to show?

You should register with work that you feel is representative of your art practice. The samples that you submit during registration are to give the curatorial teams and staff at the Sullivan Galleries a general idea of your practice. We understand that you'll most likely be creating work for the MFA Show during the spring semester and that it has the potential to be quite different from the samples you submit at registration.

What if I want to show my work alongside a group of my friends?

That's great! There are two options:

1) If you are already a part of a confirmed group of artists that would like to show together and work as a collective with a curatorial team, then list the names of the artists in your group in the Confirmed Groups field when you register in Slideroom. Then you and your group members will be assigned to the same curatorial team as a single collective. Just note, all members of the group must enter identical lists of the confirmed members on their own individual registration forms.

2) If there are other artists that you might like to show your work in proximity to but are not a confirmed group, then you can just enter their names in the Suggested Groups field when you register in Slideroom, regardless of whether or not you have talked with them about showing together.

These preferences will be noted as conversations about the exhibition proceed with your curatorial team.
Can I be in the IMPACT Performance Festival or the FVNMAS Festival and the MFA Show?

No, graduating students can only participate in one of these thesis presentation options in the spring semester.

However, MFAW students can participate in both an MFAW Reading event and one of the three other presentation options.

When will I find out about which curatorial team I’ll be working with?

Participating artists will be contacted by the curatorial team assigned to work with them for the MFA Show on or before November 17, 2015.

What if I have questions about the windows, walls, floors, ceilings, etc. in the gallery?

If you have questions about your work and the physical aspects of the space in the Sullivan Galleries, please let one of your curatorial assistants know. He or she can work with you through those questions, as well as direct you to the appropriate Sullivan Galleries’ staff member as needed. If you have questions about the gallery space before you know your assigned curatorial team, please feel free to contact Kate Zeller at kzeller@saic.edu.

When will I know more about the exhibition floor plan? And when will I know exactly where I will be showing my work in the MFA Show?

In mid February, after the first several studio visits with your curatorial team, you will begin to discuss exhibition space needs. By early March your curatorial team discuss with you placement possibilities for your work. Then you and your curatorial team will continue to meet to discuss the floor plan—revisions will be made in response to these conversations. Note that your placement may change several times during this process, as the curatorial teams try to best respond to artists’ needs as these conversations progress. The final floor plan should be determined by the last week of March.

How often can I expect to meet with my Guest Curator?

Guest Curators and curatorial assistants will be present for your initial studio visit to get to know you and your practice. One or more curatorial assistants will conduct subsequent studio visits and they will be your main advocates and contacts throughout the exhibition process. The Guest Curator’s primary role in the overall MFA Show process is to serve as an
advisor to the curatorial assistants as they work with the artists to create the MFA Show. Guest Curators should be available to artists for subsequent conversations as needed during the process, and will be present for several days during exhibition installation.

**What can I expect from my curatorial assistant?**

You can expect your curatorial assistant to be your main advocate and contact during the MFA Show process. Throughout the spring semester they will schedule studio visits to get to know you and your practice, and to have a continued conversation about your work as it develops. Your curatorial assistant will work collaboratively with you, the other curatorial teams, other artists, and act as a liaison with the staff at the Sullivan Galleries to create and produce the MFA Show. Curatorial assistants will also be responsible for developing content on the MFA Show webpage, thus they may contact you for information about your work or to conduct an interview about your practice.

Your assistant will also be present for the majority of exhibition installation, and be otherwise on-call and available during this phase of the process.

**What if I decide that I don’t want to be in the MFA Show and that I would prefer to participate in one of the other festivals?**

That’s no problem, just email your curatorial team and they will direct you to the appropriate staff member who can help you make this change. Please note that there may be more challenges to this process if the decision to transfer to a different presentation format is made late in the semester, but staff and curatorial teams will work to make the best possible accommodation.

**What if I think my work might have safety or security concerns?**

If you think that your work for the MFA Show may have safety or security concerns, talk to your curatorial assistant right away. He or she will be able to direct you to the appropriate staff member. Please be aware that some safety and security concerns may need to be addressed by Art School Considerations (see the PDF link on this webpage).

**What if my work drastically changes the week before installation begins?**

Sometimes installation plans and art work changes right before exhibition installation begins. If this should be the case for you, talk to your curatorial assistant as soon as possible so that they can work with gallery staff to meet the new needs of your work as best as possible.