January 12 or 14
The Written Thesis: An Opportunity

Dean of Graduate Studies Patti Phillips opens our series by offering her thoughts—as an arts writer, curator, and educator—on the significance of the graduate written thesis. Anne West will discuss the opportunity of the thesis, official guidelines and schedule, and a range of possible structures and formats, using the The Master’s Written Thesis handbook and exemplary past theses as reference points. For this workshop, please bring your copy of the The Master’s Written Thesis handbook (it’s red + white).

January 19 or 21
Escaping Tunnel Vision: The Values of Research and Documentation

For creative makers and thinkers, research has broad applications and implications. From the perspectives of an artist-librarian (Ellen Petraits, RISD Fleet Library) and an artist-writer (Andrew Raftery, Printmaking), we will explore ways to focus and deepen your studio practice and build context around your work by engaging meaningful research. Practical issues of documentation will also be addressed.

January 26 or 28
Building an Outline / Testing an Abstract

Every thesis requires an abstract and a table of contents. The first is a concise summary of your thesis that tells your readers essential information and compels them to read on; the second outlines the content of your thesis document. These two parts require ongoing reflection and synthesis. In this workshop, our goal is to generate the first draft of an abstract and a thoughtful working outline through active writing and reading aloud.

February 2 or 4
The Anatomy of a Book: Design and Images

Art publication designer Julie Fry will walk us through the basic considerations of book design—from format to font to binding—with a special emphasis on aligning form with content. Lisa Young (PT faculty, Photography) will discuss narrative strategies for presenting images of not only of your own work, but snapshots and visual ephemera from your personal “image bank.”

Questions? Contact Jennifer Liese, Coordinator, Writing Center: jliese@risd.edu