

The Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts
IDSVA

Statement of Intent Guide
Updated January 2023

Your Statement of Intent should be a direct and clear reflection of your interests and intentions regarding research in the coming years of study. It should be written in formal English; do not write an informal personal essay, or in experimental prose. Lengthwise, it should consist of two single-spaced pages. Be careful and check for spelling and grammar. Since the statement demonstrates your writing skills there should be no mistakes.

Some of the questions to address are the following:

- Page one: what kind of ideas, artists, and themes have preoccupied you thus far in your education and your practice? What have you studied in the past? Feel free to mention specific names, books, and theories.
- Page two: What interests you about IDSVA and how do your interests match with our program (at least as far as you can see that now)? What kind of topics or ideas preoccupy you presently that you might want to research for your PhD?

The IDSVA PhD is a rigorous research-based doctoral program. The dissertation consists of an academic project, with the final deliverable being an 80,000 – 100,000 words manuscript on a topic of your choice. It is therefore important that you address in your Statement of Intent some concepts or themes that you think you would research in depth in the following years. We accept any topic that develops a philosophical interpretation or critique of art from various angles – whether visual arts, sound arts, performance, dance, architecture, etc., especially as they relate to other concerns within the humanities.

Note that the admissions committee would like to know what issues in art, philosophy, or society at large you find particularly interesting. That is to say, those ideas that drive your practice and, perhaps, your future scholarly and artistic preoccupations. At this stage, your ideas do not have to be well developed, but you should demonstrate intellectual curiosity and an inclination toward some theoretical problem. It is this curiosity that will lead you to become one of the foremost experts on the topics you have researched and written about, and to develop new knowledge at the intersection of art and philosophy. This is the aim and the mission of IDSVA's program and the journey that you are about to embark on.