Approved:
At the meeting of the Art Doctoral Committee in the field of Fine Arts
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on 2026-10-30, No. MAR-39

# GUIDELINES FOR ART PROJECT SEMINARS FOR ART DOCTORAL STUDENTS

## 1. Preparation for the Seminar

The materials submitted for the seminar should be carefully selected, taking into account the doctoral student's year of study and the stage of preparation of their art project (dissertation) (see the Guidelines for the Preparation of the Art Project (Dissertation) for Doctoral Studies in Art).

The selection of materials and the format of their presentation should be agreed upon with both of the doctoral student's supervisors, taking into account their recommendations and feedback.

## 2. Deadlines for Submission of Materials

The prepared materials – the text and up-to-date documentation of the creative project – must be sent to the Department of Doctoral Studies (alfreda.pilitauskaite@vda.lt) and both supervisors **at least two weeks before the seminar**. This deadline is necessary to ensure that the seminar participants and the reviewer have sufficient time to familiarise themselves with the materials and prepare for the discussion.

First- to third-year doctoral students must select their reviewers from the current list of doctoral students, while fourth-year doctoral students may also invite reviewers from outside the Academy. In consultation with their supervisors, doctoral students should select and invite reviewers at least six weeks before the seminar, so that their participation can be confirmed at least two weeks in advance.

## 3. Scope and Confidentiality of Materials

- **Recommended reading length.** More extensive materials may be submitted; however, it is recommended to clearly indicate 5–7 pages of text that seminar participants should read first and focus on most closely. The reviewer and supervisors should be provided with more extensive materials, in accordance with the requirements for the relevant year of study (see the guidelines).

- **Doctoral students in the later years of study.** It is recommended that they submit the full text prepared up to the date of the seminar, allowing its structure, the development of its argumentation and the overall context of the project to be assessed.
- **Confidentiality.** Seminar participants undertake not to distribute or share the materials submitted for the seminar outside the seminar context, thereby respecting the doctoral student's authorship, the distinctive nature of their creative work and the ethical principles of research.

**4. Presentation and Discussion**

The doctoral student's presentation during the seminar should last **up to 20 minutes (up to 30 minutes for doctoral students in their final year of study)**.

The content and format of the presentation may be adapted to the doctoral student's needs. They may supplement the materials submitted in advance with new findings from their creative project or research, present the latest developments in their process, or restructure the materials already submitted to highlight the most relevant questions.

It is recommended that the presentation conclude with a specific question for colleagues, a concern or uncertainty that has arisen, or an issue the doctoral student would like to discuss. A clearly defined aim helps seminar participants provide more focused, well-reasoned and useful feedback.

**5. Focusing on the Art Project as a Whole**

It is important to remember that an Art Doctorate project consists of two interrelated and equally important components – **creative practice and the research component**. Therefore, during the seminar, it is important to present not only the documentation of the creative project or its written reflection, but also the creative practice itself, including its processes, forms and outcomes.

When preparing the presentation, doctoral students are encouraged to explore ways of demonstrating their creative practice as directly as possible, using images of artworks, video or audio materials, sketches, objects, performative elements or other presentation formats appropriate to the particular project.

With the prior agreement of the seminar organisers and supervisors, at least one seminar during the course of the doctoral studies may be held in the doctoral student's studio or in the exhibition space where their creative project is presented. This provides an opportunity to discuss the creative practice directly, taking into account its material, spatial and situational characteristics.

**6. Key Reference Document**

When preparing materials for the seminar and planning the structure of the art project (dissertation), it is essential to follow the **Guidelines for the Preparation of the Art Project (Dissertation) for Doctoral Studies in Art**.