THE LIFECYCLE OF AN ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT THE FABRIC WORKSHOP AND MUSEUM Claire Mehta Scott '25

FIELD SUPERVISOR:

- Judson Browning
 FACULTY SUPERVISORS:
- Monique Scott
- Sylvia Houghteling PRAXIS COORDINATOR:
- Tiffany Stahl

BACKGROUND:

- The Fabric Workshop and Museum is a contemporary art institution whose mission is collaborating with artists to reveal new possibilities.
- Founded in 1977, FWM is free to the public and hosts Artist-in-Residence alongside high school and adult apprentices.
- FWM prioritizes experimentation with new materials, focusing on screen printing fabric and producing yardage.

MY PROJECTS:

AIR & Exhibition Standard Operating Procedure:

- Conducted interviews with various department heads within the workshop/museum to create an exhibition timeline that identified collective needs and prompted further crossdepartmental communication, standardizing the process of hosting an artist in residence (AIR).
- Identified the possibilities with which an AIR's time at the workshop could conclude, then delineated each possibility into its own phase or sub-phase, i.e. renaming Phase 3 (previously "exhibition") to "completion" which contains 3a: "exhibition" but does not require it. New phases include Phase 4: "performance," and Phase 0: "orientation" which enables each department to have face time with an AIR at the beginning of the process, hopefully minimizing future communication blocks.

Exhibition Checklist for Softcover:

- Created an exhibition checklist for Softcover which will be used when traveling the show.
- Listed each Artist's name, the work's date of creation, material, dimensions, and number of editions.

AIR Welcome Packet:

- Produced a Welcome Packet for visiting artists-in-residence.
 Wrote copy that introduced the institution and area to those unfamiliar with Philadelphia and the Fabric Workshop at large.
- Welcome Packet includes grocery stores, restaurant recommendations, a guide to Reading Terminal Market, museums, and a SEPTA guide.

LEARNING GOALS:

- To engage in intermuseum/workshop collaborations.
- To (use art to) act in service to external Philadelphia communities/partners.
- To learn more about the relationship between Museums and their patrons and theorize solutions for diminishing the existing binary (see curatorial activism).



TAKEAWAYS:

- Institutions often live longer than people doindividual contributions exist far beyond any one person's time. This is both empowering and emphasizes the importance of succession planning.
- There are so many awesome and wonderful people who make FWM run! I learned so much about what positive interactions in a work setting look like & I got to giggle a lot and drink tons of tea:)
- I would 100% do praxis again if I could!



Current FWM Artist-in- Residence: Lisa Alvarado!

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