

Master of Fine Arts, Fine Art Printmaking Midpoint Review Handbook


This handbook contains the Fine Art Printmaking Midpoint Review requirements, planning guides, and resources. Please read through all of this information carefully before preparing your materials for Midpoint Review. If you have any questions or need clarification on any aspect of your upcoming Midpoint Review, you will find information about who to contact on page 17 of this handbook.

It is your responsibility to use the latest version of the Midpoint Review Handbook. If you are uncertain if this is the latest version, please refer to the Fine Art Printmaking page on the Graduate

Showcase: <http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/>

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 **ONLINE ICON:** The online icon will mark items that are specific to online students only.

On campus students can skip these items.

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR MIDPOINT REVIEW

A. Eligibility

Prior to scheduling your Midpoint Review, you must have done the following:

- Completed 24-36 Units
- Completed or be in progress of completing all core requirements (listed below)
- Completed 6 units of Liberal Arts

These core courses must be taken by all Fine Art Printmaking students *

- FA 610: MS: Etching
- FA 611: MS: Lithography
- FA 612: MS: Silkscreen
- FA 613: MS: Monotype and Relief Printing
- FA 630: MS: Color Theory or FA 609: Painting
- FA 631: MS: Book Arts
- FA 626: MS Chiaroscuro or FA 639: Expressive Drawing -OR-
 - FA 601: Drawing

* Core courses may be waived with academic director approval only

Note: International students who are tested into or choose to take EAP 605S or 605W: English for Art Purposes should do so immediately after taking EAP 604: MS: English for Art Purposes and before they plan to do their Midpoint Review.

Plan ahead and be prepared to present your proposal by the beginning of the semester.



2. SCHEDULING YOUR MIDPOINT REVIEW

A. Review Date

Midpoint Reviews are conducted in the spring, summer and fall semesters. Presentations typically start in the third or fourth week of the fall or spring Semester and in the second week of the summer semester. You can find the signup dates in the Graduate School Calendar:

<http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources>

NOTE: Please communicate with your Graduate Advisor about when would be the most appropriate time to schedule your Midpoint Review. It is important to know the final cut-off date for scheduling your review.

You should receive an email from the Midpoint Review Coordinator approximately one week prior to the start of the semester you will be presenting your Midpoint with details on how to sign-up. The email will direct you to the Graduate Midpoint and Final Review Showcase <http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/>.

B. Review Orientation

You are required to watch the online Midpoint Review Orientation prior to completing the Midpoint Review sign-up form online. You have the option of presenting your Midpoint or Final Review online or on campus. If you will be doing your Midpoint Review online please review the [online presentation specifications](#).

Please [contact](#) the Midpoint Review Coordinator if you have any questions.

C. Attendance & Cancellations

Midpoint Review is a required component of your Master's level program and must be completed before commencing the directed study or final portfolio portion of your program. Cancellations or postponements must be organized through the Midpoint Review Coordinator at least 5 working days prior to the scheduled review date. Late cancellations or postponements will be considered "No Show" and fail the Midpoint Review.

3. DELIVERABLE DETAILS & DUE DATES

Your Midpoint Review will consist of the following three components: portfolio, thesis book, and oral presentation. [Link to tutorial on uploading work to LMS](#)

IMPORTANT: If your Thesis Book and Portfolio are not received in time, your Midpoint Review will be cancelled and you will need to present the following semester.

Portfolio: Work from your time as a student here at the Academy of Art University.

[Link to more detailed portfolio checklist](#)

Upload/Deliver To:	Upload to the Portfolio Icon in LMS
Due Date:	Two (2) weeks prior to review date, one (1) week in summer
Format:	JPGS (10-20)

Thesis Book: Your proposal must be clear and concise. Describe your proposal in detail and ensure that it is not too narrow or overly broad in scope. Address what led you to the projects, how you expect your projects to evolve and what challenges you foresee.

Professional Editing: The proposal must be professionally executed, grammatically correct and free of spelling errors and typos.

[Link to more detailed thesis book checklist](#)

Upload/Deliver To:	Upload to the Thesis Book Icon in LMS
Due Date:	Two (2) weeks prior to review date, one (1) week in summer
Format:	Digital upload of PDF submission for both online and onsite students. Onsite students: submit two (2) professionally bound hardcopies mailed to your department. Online students: No bound book required for MPR presentation.

Oral Presentation: Academy of Art University’s Online Midpoint Review provides a means for online/offsite Academy students to present their thesis proposals via the Academy’s online meeting environment. You have the option of presenting your Midpoint Review online or on-campus.

[Link to more detailed oral presentation checklist](#)

Upload/Deliver To:	At the Midpoint Review
Due Date:	At the scheduled day/time of your review
Format:	Onsite: Original prints – 10-20 examples of your best work Online: PowerPoint
Practice and Prepare:	Practice your oral presentation in advance of your review to ensure your comfort level during the presentation. Be prepared to answer questions when you are finished.
Notes:	You may use notes, flashcards, or prompts in your PowerPoint as cues to help you remember the information during your oral presentation. Do not read your entire presentation.

[Link to online presentation details for online students](#)

4. MIDPOINT REVIEW PROCESS

A. Review Expectations and Structure

Midpoint Reviews are 90 minutes in duration. Your presentation should be 20 minutes long.

The Midpoint Review meeting will follow this structure:

Midpoint Review Panel/Student Introduction	5 minutes
Committee Review of presented work	15 minutes
Midpoint Review Presentation	20 minutes
Committee Question & Answer Session	20 minutes
Committee Discussion – closed door/offline	20 minutes
Committee Decision & Feedback	10 minutes

Review Committee: The Midpoint Review Committee is comprised of faculty and/or industry professionals approved by the Graduate School and the Department Directors.

Committee Question & Answer Session: After your presentation, questions will be asked by the Committee for clarification on your project.

Committee Discussion, Decision, & Feedback: After the question and answer session, the committee will recess in private to discuss the merits of your proposal.



B. Results

Upon reconvening, the committee will present you with one of the following outcomes:

Approved: You have passed, and can now proceed with Directed Study for the following semester.

Not Approved: You have NOT passed, and are NOT allowed to proceed with Directed Study until one of the following has been completed and the Midpoint Proposal is approved by the Midpoint Review Committee:

Resubmit: Following specific Midpoint Review Committee requirements, your project requires small changes that must be corrected and re-submitted within 3 weeks. If the re-submission meets the requirements, then the Midpoint Proposal is approved and you can proceed with Directed Study the following semester.

OR

Represent: Following specific Midpoint Review Committee requirements, you must complete additional studio work, rethink Final Project, and/or sign up for a new Midpoint Review next semester.

Please follow directions outlined in the link below to view your results and written feedback after your Midpoint Review.

http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/content/dam/Grad%20Showcase/home_page/pdf/ReviewResults.pdf

C. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The work you submit will be assessed using the Graduate School of Fine Art program learning outcomes. At the Midpoint Review the review committee is looking at your progress towards achieving the stated outcomes.

<http://www.academyart.edu/academics/fine-art/graduate-degrees>

5. CHECKLISTS

PORTFOLIO CHECKLIST

Portfolio Contents:	<p>You should have the following in your portfolio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 10-20 pieces from studio classes that demonstrate your skill set. <input type="checkbox"/> Five (5) pieces or sketches that directly relate to your proposal. <input type="checkbox"/> Additional experimental pieces may supplement more traditional editions.
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THESIS BOOK CHECKLIST

Thesis Book Contents:	<p>In your thesis book, you must include the following sections, in this order and with a separate heading for each:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Cover Page</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Influences</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Table of Contents</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Autobiography</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Midpoint Thesis Abstract</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Resume</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Midpoint Thesis Project Proposal</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Professional Goals</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio Samples</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Timeline</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cover Page	<input type="checkbox"/> Influences	<input type="checkbox"/> Table of Contents	<input type="checkbox"/> Autobiography	<input type="checkbox"/> Midpoint Thesis Abstract	<input type="checkbox"/> Resume	<input type="checkbox"/> Midpoint Thesis Project Proposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Professional Goals	<input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio Samples	<input type="checkbox"/> Timeline
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<input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio Samples	<input type="checkbox"/> Timeline										

Cover Page:	<p>The cover page must include the following:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Project title</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Identify this is your “Midpoint Proposal”</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Your Name</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Date of Presentation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Student ID Number</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Time of Presentation</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><input type="checkbox"/> Academy of Art University, Graduate School of Fine Art Printmaking</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Project title	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify this is your “Midpoint Proposal”	<input type="checkbox"/> Your Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Date of Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Student ID Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Time of Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Academy of Art University, Graduate School of Fine Art Printmaking	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Academy of Art University, Graduate School of Fine Art Printmaking									

Table of Contents:	<p>All Midpoint proposals must have a table of contents (TOC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Number each page of the proposal <input type="checkbox"/> List each topic section and its corresponding page number
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Autobiography:	<p>For your autobiography, you will briefly address the following in no more than half a page in length in a concise and engaging manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduce yourself <input type="checkbox"/> Explain how you became interested in pursuing your major <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss any personal background that relates to your thesis project <p>You may also include other information that seems appropriate or relevant to your work as an artist.</p>
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Resume : Include a formal resume in your proposal. This is a single-page professional document that lists your work experiences, skills and education. In addition, your resume provides the reader with your contact information and a list of past experience:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent or pertinent employment history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Other recent information relevant to your career as an artist including teaching experience, professional memberships, volunteer experiences, relevant skills, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone number | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail and website | <input type="checkbox"/> Dates should be listed chronologically, most recent at the top of the list |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional contact information | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recent exhibitions | |

Portfolio Samples: Include 10 - 20 studio pieces. These need to be the very best samples of your work. All artwork must be photographed and included in the written proposal. Each piece should appear on its own page.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title of artwork | <input type="checkbox"/> Class and teacher information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date(s) created | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional information |

Midpoint Thesis Project Abstract: The Project Abstract is a short but detailed summary of your proposed Thesis Project. By reading this abstract, the committee should get a solid sense of what you will be doing without having to read the full proposal. The Project Abstract should be approximately 150 words. Here are the important elements to consider for inclusion for your abstract:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area of emphasis | <input type="checkbox"/> What the project looks like |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subject matter | <input type="checkbox"/> How and why you are creating the project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reason for choosing the subject matter | <input type="checkbox"/> How you plan to present the final project |

Midpoint Thesis Project Proposal & Sketches: The Thesis Project proposal is the focal point of the written proposal. In this section of the document, you will relay the details of your proposed project to the Panel. Avoid direct repetition of your sentences from your abstract. You will want to address the following in an articulate and well thought-out manner (approximately 2 pages in length):

- Define your Thesis Project in detail – make sure there is a singular thesis concept that is substantial but can be completed during Directed Studies
- Describe what led you to the project
- Describe any challenges you expect to face with the project
- Describe how you anticipate the project evolving
- Include how you expect to spend your Directed Study time

Include:

- Five (5) pieces or sketches that directly relate to your proposal
- The approximate number of pieces to be completed
- The mediums and techniques and how they relate to your concept
- Scale of work



Influences:

The Influences section in your proposal needs to identify and describe your artistic influences in making the project. You should identify at least three artists as influences. Though this section does not need to be long, you will want to be specific in describing how and why these artists have influenced/inspired you and/or your work. You will identify:

- Who your artistic influences are (historical and contemporary)
- What part of their work inspired you
- How their art has influenced your work
- Include examples of work created by your Influences

Statement of Professional Goals:

The Statement of Professional Goals should identify the following:

- Identify your professional goals, including where you would like to be with your work upon graduation and what you would like to be doing 5 years from now.
- Identify the ways in which the development of your Thesis project, and knowledge learned in the process, may assist you in the realization of your professional goals.

Timeline:


The timeline must include the following:

- List by semester the courses that you have taken to date, including the course number, title, and instructor.
- List courses that you are considering by semester, including course title and Group Directed Study course.
- Identify your anticipated graduation date (semester/year)
- Be sure your total units add up to 63

NOTE: Ensure classes are appropriate for your track and are spaced appropriately (don't try to take all directed study in two semesters).

ORAL PRESENTATION CHECKLIST

General Oral Presentation Guidelines:

- On-campus** students must bring their studio pieces and sketches to the presentation. Prepare to display them for the panel.
-  **Online students** are required to submit a PowerPoint presentation that will be placed into an online web conference. Once you have scheduled your online midpoint review you will be contacted by the Online Graduate Studies department and provided with instructions regarding sending in your work prior to your review date. In addition, upload your portfolio to the portfolio side of your review section of your dashboard.

MIDPOINT REVIEW PDF GUIDELINES

PDF Development Guidelines:

You will need to start with an introduction/title page and end with a final page, which indicates the end of the presentation to the panel. It is best to keep your presentation's written text in bullet-point format or very short sentences. Though there is a degree of freedom in how you develop your presentation, there are some important development guidelines you must follow:

- Font:** Use standard fonts to avoid loading issues: Arial, Times New Roman or Garamond.
- Size:** Use a font size that is large enough to read.
- Color:** Use a font color that is easy to read.
- Images:** Make sure your images are large enough to be clearly seen.
- Content:** Use bullet points instead of written paragraphs. References, copyright information, and technical notes may be included at the end.

Maximum File Size:

50 MB. Files greater than 50 MB will not be accepted.



MIDPOINT REVIEW PDF CHECKLIST

PDF Checklist: Your PowerPoint should include the following pages:

- Introduction Page
- Portfolio Pages
- Thesis Project Pages
- Influences (or Style/Technique) Sample Slides
- Conclusion Page

Introduction Slide: The introduction/title page must include the following items:

- Your name
- Your student ID
- Department Name
- Project title
- Date of the presentation

Portfolio Slides: The portfolio pages must include the following items:

- Project images
- Title of project
- Class, semester and instructor information

Thesis Project Slides: Include the following in your PowerPoint Presentation:

- Bullet points describing the important aspects of the project
- Photographs of the five (5) sketches or studio pieces in .JPG format

Influences Slides: In your Influences slides, be sure to include:

- Names of your Influences
- Pictures of the influencing artwork in .JPG format

Conclusion Slide: This slide should clearly indicate that you are finished with your presentation. You may choose to include the following:

- Your Name
- Your Project Title
- Thank you.

6. PREPARATION TIMELINE

3 to 4 months before your review	<p>Read Fine Art Printmaking specific Midpoint Review Handbook</p> <p>Watch the Midpoint Review Orientation</p>
2 to 3 months before your review	<p>Check graduate website for Midpoint Review sign-up schedule</p> <p>Solidify your Thesis Project Concept</p> <p>Set up 30 minute meeting with department director to review abstract of thesis concept.</p>
6 weeks before your review	<p>Prepare your thesis book</p> <p>Work with an editor or contact ARC to make sure your thesis book is grammatically correct and typo-free.</p>
1 month before your review	<p>Prepare your written Thesis Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create your PowerPoint/PDF slide show <p>Organize and create notes for your oral presentation</p> <p>Work with a friend, colleague or ARC on your oral presentation</p>
3 weeks before your review	<p>Send to your department four (4) identical bound copies of your Midpoint Proposal</p> <p>Practice your oral presentation out loud and with a timer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review the online-specific requirements and test all of your equipment ● Email your PowerPoint or PDF presentation to Online Graduate School
2 weeks before your review	<p>Onsite students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ verify your equipment works prior to your actual presentation date ○ submit two (2) professionally bound hardcopies mailed to your department <p>Upload your PDF of your portfolio and thesis book to your home page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet online with your Online Graduate Department Learning Coordinator to review your presentation room setup and use
1 week before your review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Send your PowerPoint presentation to Online Graduate School via email <p>Plan your attire, dress professionally</p> <p>Practice your presentation in front of a live audience</p>

Tips for the day of your review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get plenty of rest the night before ● If you will be using a cellphone, make sure the battery is charged Have a glass of water available during your presentation Arrive at your Midpoint Review on time and ready to go Greet your committee members prior to beginning your presentation Listen to the committee’s advice and take notes Maintain professionalism during the entire review
Following your review	View your Midpoint Review results here
Directed Study	Once you have passed your Midpoint Review with an Approved result you will be able to start your Directed Studies. Please review Directed Study information here: http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources
Directed Study Documentation	Throughout all units of Directed Study coursework you will be keeping progress notes for each course through a Directed Study Journal, or online Thesis Progress Tracking. This documentation will record the progress you have made with your project between your Midpoint and Final Review. Be sure to keep drawings, diagrams and other documents pertaining to the progress of your Final Project. For details on format requirements for your department please refer to the Directed Study Guidelines found here: http://www.academyart.edu/content/dam/assets/pdf/gradstudents/directed_study_guidelines.pdf

7. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I schedule my Midpoint Review?	Once you have completed your eligibility requirements, you can sign up online when the sign up is available. Check the Graduate School calendar for dates and the Graduate School’s Midpoint Review Page for the sign up link.
How many pages should the thesis book be?	Approximately 19-29 pages.
If I’m an online student, do I need to send in physical samples of my class work?	No.
Can we include work we’ve done outside of the Academy?	Work not executed at the Academy of Art University should not constitute more than 10% of your portfolio presentation.

Am I supposed to have a fully developed thesis or portfolio prepared for the Midpoint?	No. That will be developed through your group directed studies after you pass your Midpoint Review.
Can I use fancy text, borders and custom backgrounds for my PowerPoint presentation?	We would recommend against it. Simple, easy to read and easy to see content is best.
Do I need to frame or mat to present my work in person?	No.

8. IMPORTANT LINKS

Graduate Student Homepage	http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources
Academy Resource Center (ARC)	http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academy-resource-center Your resource for proofreading, ESL assistance, Midpoint Review, Writing Lab.
Accessing Your Review Results	http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/content/dam/Grad%20Showcase/home_page/pdf/ReviewResults.pdf
Online Chat Schedules & Recordings	Chat Schedule: http://online.academyart.edu/innovative-learning/chats.html Graduate Chats: http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/graduate-chats.html Twitter: @aauchats
Department Specific Websites	https://www.academyart.edu/academics/fine-art http://online.academyart.edu/schools/fine-art
Graduate School Calendar	http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources
Graduate Review Showcase	http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/ Here you will find a link to the Midpoint Review Orientation, and links to the Midpoint Review Guidelines and Handbooks.
Fine Art Printmaking Review Showcase Page	http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/schools/fine-art-printmaking.html

Online Connection Through Mobile Devices	<p>http://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect/feature-details/adobe-connectmobile.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application required for using the Adobe Connect Meetings from your mobile device.
Online Presentation Do's & Don'ts	<p>http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look under Additional Presentation Tools
Online Technical Requirements	<p>http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/ Look under Resources → Technical Resources → Online technical requirements</p>
Technology Trouble Shooting	<p>To participate in the web conference, you need to make sure that your computer has the latest versions of the Flash and Shockwave plugins and can run the web-casting software. To check this, please click on this link: http://arcps.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm</p>
Uploading Review Content	<p>http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/content/dam/Grad%20Showcase/home_page/pdf/Uploading_Review_Content_WI15.pdf</p>
Photographing & Submitting Artwork	<p>http://media.academyart.edu/howto/index.html http://howto.academyart.edu/submitting-artwork</p>

9. ONLINE PRESENTATION DETAILS

A. Scheduling a Meeting with an Online Graduate Review Coordinator

Academy of Art University's Online Graduate Review process provides a means for Academy students to present their project proposals via the Academy's online meeting environment. An Online Graduate Review Coordinator will contact you after your review has been scheduled to test your computer, internet connection, web-camera, and telephone. The Online Graduate Review Coordinator will also show you how the online review process works and how to upload and use your slideshow during your oral presentation. Students presenting online are required to have their equipment and any required presentation materials ready to upload and test at least two weeks prior to the presentation date (1 week for the Summer Semester).

B. Online Presentation Guidelines

You are required to provide a PowerPoint or PDF presentation with visual and written information that will go along with your oral presentation. Be sure to follow your department guidelines, as some departments have different requirements. You can also find a checklist below with details on what to include in your presentation.

Font: Use an easily readable font (some fonts do not load correctly in Adobe Connect for PPT files). Use a font size and color that is clear to read.

Images: Images need to be in JPEG format and optimized for web viewing. Review your department requirements for labeling and titling your images.

Credit: When including art made by other artists, credit the artist.

Content: It is best to keep the text in bullet point format or very short clear sentences instead of written paragraphs. References, copyright information, and technical notes may be included at the end of the presentation.

Please refer to the links below for technical requirements:

[Online Technical Requirements](#)

[Adobe Connect Diagnostic Test](#)

Online Graduate Review Contact Information

Email: onlinegradreview@academyart.edu

Phone: (415) 618-3614



10. CONTACT INFORMATION

Midpoint Review Coordinator: midpointreview@academyart.edu
(415) 618-6390

Contact for Online Students: onlinegradreview@academyart.edu
(415) 618-3614

Department Contact(s): Dana Sornstein, Fine Art Administrator
School of Fine Art
Tel: (415)618-6115
Email: dsorenstein@academyart.edu

Send Materials To: Academy of Art University
School of Fine Art Printmaking
Midpoint Review
79 New Montgomery
San Francisco, CA 94105

NOTE: Please obtain a tracking number or return receipt of delivery for your shipments.