**Letter from the Thesis Committee**

Welcome Class of 2023!

These past few years have been a challenge for us all. Fortunately, SVA will be back in-person in the for your thesis year and we anticipate celebrating a real return to ‘normal.’

Many things are changing for the better this year and will continue to do so over the summer and next semester. This includes acquiring some great new gear, a wholly digital system for reserving equipment and studios, and changes in policy that will make it easier to get things done. We are moving as fast as possible, but the most important thing to know is that **if you have a question, if you need something, if you think you cannot do something – come to us. The thesis committee is here to make things work for you.**

The SVA Film Thesis Program is a unique experience and can become the foundation of a successful career. It represents your chance to complete one or more projects over the course of a full year with all the support, guidance and resources that SVA can provide. We encourage and support any type of project you choose: narrative fiction, documentary, experimental, etc. — as long as the work demonstrates commitment, deep understanding of content, craft, technique, and quality.

Now is the time to go with your heart and allow yourself to do work you are passionate about. No matter what your specialization, that’s what builds excellence. You want your work to show the time and effort you put into it.

It is not necessary – nor enough -- to have significant financial resources to make a good film. The Department and the School offer a very limited number of grants – not enough to make a movie, only to help. Plan your budget carefully and pay attention to when grant deadlines are announced.

We all have the highest expectations for you as individuals, and as a class. We look forward to working closely with you and hope to help you realize the success you have already worked so hard to achieve.

Sincerely,

The Thesis Committee

Mary Lee Grisanti, Acting Chair

Joan Brooker-Marks

Kamil Dobrowolski

George LaVoo