

PORTFOLIO REVIEWS



ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

- **SIGN-UP:** Sign-up sheets will be available at each table and students will select 15-minute time slots just before the start of the program. This process will begin at 12:45PM at The RISD MET and will allow students to gain the best selection of reviews. Only students present can secure a time slot; no sign-ups for friends will be allowed.
- **PLAN:** Reviewers will begin looking at portfolios at 1:00PM and continue to 4:00PM which covers the sign-up time period. However, reviewers have the option to continue looking at work until 5:00PM at which point we must conclude the event. This last hour is an open review period.
- **PREPARE:** Your portfolio can be actual pieces, digital printouts or displayed on your laptop. It can be complete or in-process, but should be well organized and may include sketchbooks and journals. If possible, have copies of your resume available along with other promotional materials such as business cards or digital printouts to leave with the reviewers.
- **NETWORK:** This is not a job fair although some reviewers may have current employment and internship opportunities available. Many participate in the review to evaluate emerging talent at RISD. Ask for business cards and considering staying in contact with individuals after the reviews. A significant number of the reviewers are alumni and understand the RISD experience and know what you're going through and how to prepare for your field.
- **RESPECT:** Please respect reviewers; they're here to help you and many have taken a day from their busy work schedules to attend this program. They're reviewing for 3 to 4 hours, which can be intense, and they need your patience throughout the afternoon.
- **DIVERSIFY:** Since gaining this kind of feedback will be more challenging once you leave RISD, try to take full advantage of this unique experience by seeing as many reviewers as possible. Even if reviewers don't match your specific interests, their insights can be very valuable in helping you develop your portfolio.
- **LEARN:** The review not only provides you with feedback about your portfolio, but it also gives you the opportunity to become better educated about the field and market that the reviewers represent. Ask them questions about their work and find out what their day to day is like and what kinds of clients and projects they're working on.
- **ADAPT:** By the end of the portfolio review, you may recognize patterns in the feedback you received – pieces that several reviewers liked and others that didn't garner much interest. At times, this feedback may seem contradictory to your studio critiques, but keep in mind that this perspective may reflect necessary preparation for your career path.