Doctor of Philosophy (Visual Arts)
Notes for Examiners

All matters pertaining to the PhD degree are the responsibility of the Graduate Research Committee under the general direction of the University's Academic Board.

1. The Committee wishes to receive clear advice on specific aspects of the doctoral work and, to this end, the examiner is asked to place a tick by the statements deemed appropriate in the enclosed report form. If an examiner reports negatively on any aspects referred to in Section 1 of the form then comments should be made in the general summary, Section 4.

2. Recommendation 2(ii) should be made only when the examiner can specify amendments so precisely that the Head of Department's decision is essentially a simple matter of fact.

3. To satisfy the requirements of the degree, the thesis must constitute a significant contribution to knowledge and to the understanding of the field of study concerned and must demonstrate the capacity of the candidate to carry out independent research.

4. An examiner may request the University to obtain from the candidate clarification of specific points in the work. Such requests should be made through the Monash University Institute of Graduate Research.

5. The exegesis is forwarded to an examiner in confidence. An examiner is under an obligation to maintain confidentiality and in no circumstances should he/she discuss the work or any part of the examination process, with a third party without the prior approval of the Monash University Institute of Graduate Research.

6. In cases where examiners deem it necessary to annotate an exegesis, it should be done lightly in pencil or preferably with the aid of Post-it Notes.
Examiner Instructions for the PhD (Visual Arts)

The PhD in Visual Arts is built on the idea that the research is in the visual outcomes; the art, design or architectural project is the research. The exegesis is to contextualise the research, articulate its methods and approach, place it in an historic, theoretical, social or political context which contributes to the understanding of the research outcome; it is not an independent research project but a supporting discussion of the research.

The research outcomes in the exhibition would be expected to demonstrate:

- That methods and techniques appropriate to the subject matter are applied effectively in shaping the research outcomes
- That the outcomes of the research project are original
- The creative outcomes of the research are presented in an appropriate and professional way
- The creative outcomes demonstrate a high standard of visual achievement in regard to their quality

The exegesis would be expected to demonstrate:

- A professional level of understanding and familiarity with contemporary work in the area
- A comprehensive investigation of the theoretical background of the research, establishing a context for its discussion
- Clear research questions/ objectives which have informed the creative outcomes and been responded to through the exegesis
- A substantive interface with the creative outcomes of the research process and methodology
- A standard of contextualisation which will provide a reference for future researchers

The creative outcomes and the exegesis in combination are expected to provide a substantive cultural contribution to the art, design or architectural form