

May 18, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is with pleasure that I write this recommendation letter for Gabriele Gutwirth. I first met Gabi as a graduate student at Miami International University of Art & Design. In my position as full time faculty, I was her professor for her Master's Thesis research course. Gabi's impressive work in that course inspired me to guide her throughout the rest of the writing process and I am proud to be one of her committee members on her final project.

One of the reasons why I agreed to serve on Gabi's thesis committee was her excellent work in my class. Over the quarter, she demonstrated an extraordinary ability to self-motivate. This ability came through not only in her finished work, but also in the steps she took to achieve her goals. Gabi has an extremely precise way of approaching all of the requirements of her work, resulting in projects that consistently exceeded expectations. Every assignment, essay, paper, and her final thesis all were superbly conceived, structured, and organized down to the last detail. In my capacity as a thesis advisor, it was one of my responsibilities to provide feedback. Gabi was open to all of my suggestions, took all feedback seriously, and her final project reflects that level of collaboration. Her thesis, which ties in other elements, like neuroscience and physics, far exceeded expectations of an MFA candidate at the university. Her aptitude to do extra research and approach a problem using out of the box methodologies helped to create a thesis that did more than just simply explain her art. Her work reflects Gabi's passionate personality, especially her goal to always broaden her mind and continue to expand her knowledge in all facets.

Serving as the main critique of Gabi's written work allowed me to see how her art is perceived by others. Her art is conceptual, but she has a talent for explaining it in a way to inspire her viewers and readers to not only understand it, but also to become a part of it. Her main concept of the thesis, and its title, *Connectivity*, is designed to reflect this dedication. Gabi has an extraordinary ability not only to write about her art; but she is also able to use her analytical skills to uncover other artists' motivations and gets to the heart of the psychological patterns behind their concepts. Her thesis connects her views on the art of her inspirations, including other contemporary artists, with her own work, allowing her readers to draw their own conclusions from her masterful analysis of others' words and images.

In conclusion, I would consider Gabriele Gutwirth to be an exceptional student. Her thesis speaks for itself, and by extension, for her. I consider it to be an excellent piece of work, and certainly the best graduate final project I have seen in my decade of teaching experience. Over the course of my career, I have taught thousands of students. I have not encountered another student who showed more passion, motivation, and ambition to craft their final paper than Gabi did. I have no doubt that Gabi will achieve everything that she wants to achieve, and look forward to following her career to see what she does next.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Laffer, Ph.D  
Miami International University of Art & Design