

Freedom of Speech Commitment (*July 14, 2019*)

Freedom of speech is the foundation of our communities and our nation. In sessions or in exhibits, members of the SLSA may present visual or verbal work designed to awe, illuminate, challenge, unsettle, confound, provoke, and, at times, offend. We defend the freedom to create content and exhibit such work anywhere in the world, and, as a non-profit society based in the United States we recognize the privilege of living in a country where creating, exhibiting, and experiencing such work is a constitutional right.

Scholarship on and the exhibition of works of art do not, of course, constitute endorsement of those works or the artists. If and when controversies arise from a work of art or its accompanying scholarship, we welcome public discussion and debate with the belief that such discussion is integral to the humanities. Consistent with our fundamental commitment to freedom of speech, however, we will not censor presentations or exhibitions in response to political or ideological pressure.

[Adapted from National Coalition against Censorship's "Museum Best Practices for Managing Controversy" <https://ncac.org/resource/museum-best-practices-for-managing-controversy>]

Approved by SLSA Board (current officers and past presidents) at SLSA Annual Meeting 2019