Candidate: Aimee J. Valentine
For the degree of: Doctor of Philosophy
Department: English

Title: Good Looking in the Dark: A Narrative Across Three Mediums

Committee: Thisbe Nissen, M.F.A., Chair
Christopher Nagle, Ph.D.
Nicolas Witschi, Ph.D.
Nick Sousanis, Ph.D.

Time/Place: Friday, March 17, 2017
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
2033 Brown Hall

*Good Looking in the Dark: A Narrative Across Three Mediums* is a single story presented in three distinct formats: short story, stage drama, and graphic narrative. This project is an exploration of the creative process and its relation to medium, reader anticipation, participation and response. Reflecting my position that narrative meaning is made primarily in the dark space of the reader’s mind, the story selected for this project is one that takes place almost entirely in the dark. In *Good Looking in the Dark*, two strangers are locked in a closet and engage one another without seeing the other—just as an author engages her reader without seeing her. Creation and reception are parties in an ongoing blind dialogue, a space in which author and audience are influenced by a variety of external factors. In
presenting this multi-modal narrative, I am encouraging an aesthetic dialogue between author/reader and reader/reader. I am also confirming the ways in which narrative medium matters. An artistic medium carries with it material boundaries as well as historical and cultural values. Whether crossing those boundaries or remaining constrained within them, an artist imparts a specific significance to the work. By adapting a single narrative across three mediums, this project engages with implicit and explicit reader expectations for each form, as well as expectations for the story being told. This work emphasizes that creative meaning, like the act of creation, is a process rather than a finite product.