

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

THE 14TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ART HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (AHGSA)
GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

AHGSA
Concordia University

SUBMISSIONS DUE:
OCTOBER 15, 2019 @ 11:59 EST



The definition of “practice” according to its Greek etymological root *praxis* is “to do,” but the quotidian meanings of this term are much richer. According to Marcus Boon and Gabriel Levine, while the term *practice* describes actions and disciplines involved in art-making, there has been a “practical turn” in the arts centered on concepts rather than skills. This post-medium condition is characterized by a focus on actions, processes, ephemerality and dematerialization. However, the verb “to practice” also connotes the repetition and perfection of a given action or skill. The potentials of repetition and failure are revealed when examining practice from this perspective. How practices are constituted, and how *praxis* consequently shapes matter, are important research questions for scholars in the art historical field.

Eurocentric conceptions of art history have suppressed many forms of practice. Critical approaches today (including Indigenous, feminist, postcolonial, and queer scholarship) continue to shift our understanding of practice, away from a conceptual process of production and towards an embodied process, in which theory and *praxis* are not separated entities. Increasingly, practices are inextricably linked to our identities. Thinking about how those practices can be embodied, enacted, produced, and performed implies a profound transformation of scholarship.

AHGSA welcomes proposals from art historians, artists, research-creators, writers, museum professionals, and emerging scholars across all disciplines who critically engage in the abovementioned theme. Applicants are invited to submit a proposal for a paper, workshop, panel session, performance, or alternative form of presentation that addresses this theme and the following questions:

- How can notions of practice be expanded in order to fully encompass questions of process and materiality?
- How do process, materials, intention and participation interrelate in art-making practices?
- How are intersectionalities of Indigenous, queer, feminist, postcolonial, and/or antiracist scholarship redefining notions of practice?
- What is the relationship between theory and practice, how are their boundaries being rethought?
- What are the implications of understanding practice as embodied?
- How can art be a space for political practices? How have practices functioned as acts of resistance? How are practices policed and institutionalized?
- What is the relationship between land and practice? Where are practices enacted and performed? How do practices make place?
- How do we signify objects through practices, and in turn how are practices shaped by objects?
- What is a practice of care today?
- How do we materialize the ephemeral?
- What is the potential of practice when seen through the lens of craft?
- What does practice-based research mean today?

Also, in honour of Concordia PhD student Martha Robinson, who passed away in 2019, this year's symposium will include a special panel inspired by her research on ecology, extinction, posthumanism, and the representation of animals:

- What is an ecological practice today, in the realm of art and art history?

Possible topics can also touch on: Historiography; documentation of artistic practices; curatorial, museum and conservation practices; and collecting practices.

Presentations should be twenty minutes in length (2,500 words) and will be followed by a discussion period. Co-presenters are welcome, but for organizational reasons, please mention “co-presentation” in your proposal. We welcome presentations in French and English. The symposium will take place on February 8, 2020 at Concordia University, Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal. Proposals must be approximately 300 words and submitted in a Word document to ahgsaconference@gmail.com. All submissions will be kept anonymous and reviewed by a jury committee. Please include your name, institution affiliation, four descriptive keywords, and a brief bio (50 words) in the email body. Applicants will be contacted in early December.