

CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE



SENSING THE ANTHROPOCENE

Olafur Eliasson, *Ice Watch*. 2015. Image courtesy Greenland Group

Olafur Eliasson, *Your Waste of Time*. 2006. neugerriemschneider, Berlin. Photo: Jens Ziehe

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In a time of unprecedented climate catastrophe and ecological genocide we are in desperate need of robust and creative responses to global warming. In addition to technological innovation and political and economic reorganization, social and cultural shifts are needed that help us move beyond our toxic ways of doing life under petro-capitalism. This lecture series argues that artistic practices and forms have a role to play in achieving these goals. Art seeds the critical and speculative imaginations needed to trouble our current ways of living and dying. What art contributes at this critical historical moment is skill in creating aesthetic and affective spaces within which we not only reflect on what is so but to work on imagining and modelling things otherwise in ways that are both integrative, in terms of transforming the materiality of daily life, and excessive, in terms of reaching beyond what we currently know to be possible.

Talks in this series are co-sponsored by Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture and the Centre for Sensory Studies. Dr. Loveless will also be available during her time at Concordia to meet with graduate students working on theoretical theses on art and the Anthropocene or developing research-creation projects on any theme.

Please contact cissc@concordia.ca

CISSC HAPPENING
concordia.ca/cissc

Co-sponsored by the Centre for Sensory Studies

Wednesday

November 7, 2018

2 – 4 p.m.

Milieux Seminar Room:

EV 11.705

TALK 1: ART, ECOLOGY, AND THE POLITICS OF FORM

This talk asks what artistic approaches and sensibilities can offer to debate surrounding Anthropogenic climate change, attending to the difference between art on ecology and art that is formed ecologically. As well as giving theoretical and art historical background for this distinction, Loveless speculates on how the politics of form (what a form does in the world) intersects with ecological ethics when the use of fossil fuel resources (as, in Olafur Eliasson's 2015 *Ice Watch*, those needed to ship 300 pound blocks of glacier ice to the center of Paris) are central to the production of artworks addressing ecology, global warming, and climate debt. Offering nuanced reflection on such works, this talk highlights the importance of a multi-sensorial and multi-species understanding of ecological ethics that takes the question of aesthetic form seriously in the context of art on and in the Anthropocene.

BIO

Natalie S. Loveless is an associate professor at the University of Alberta, where she teaches in the History of Art, Design and Visual Culture and directs the Research-Creation and Social Justice CoLABoratory (researchcreation.ca). Loveless currently co-leads an interdisciplinary project called Speculative Energy Futures (justpowers.ca) and is a 2018-19 visiting scholar in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC), where she is developing a new project, *Sensing the Anthropocene: Aesthetic Attunement in an age of Urgency*.