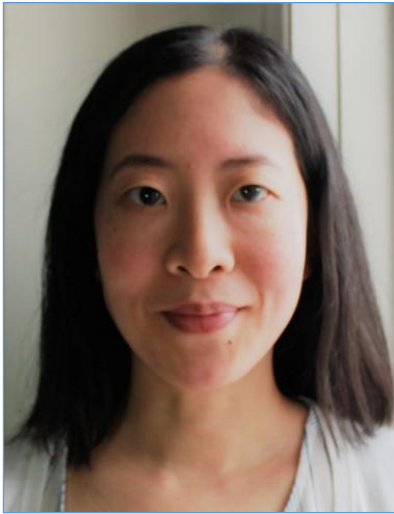


CENTRE FOR SENSORY STUDIES



TALKING SENSE SEMINAR

Decolonial Entanglements: Art, Technology, and Critical Genealogies of Immersion

May Chew

Friday 19 February 2021
12:00-14:00, [Zoom link](#)

Immersion has become a ubiquitous element of contemporary art practice and museum display, with interactive projections, expanded digital screens, surround sound environments, virtual overlays and haptic surfaces increasingly employed to heighten audience engagement. Immersive technologies create the idea of a “seamless” work of art by embedding users within the exhibit text and facilitating the user’s tactile and embodied encounters with art and history. Contextualizing the uses of immersive technologies in exhibits and installations in Canada alongside the development of technological nationalism during the mid-twentieth century, this talk investigates immersion not just in terms of its aesthetic and affective qualities but also as a social and political technology rooted in settler colonial histories. It also proposes that immersion can and should be reconceptualized through Indigenous and decolonial thought and practice.

May Chew is an Assistant Professor at the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema and Department of Art History at Concordia University. Her current research focuses on diasporic media and archives; haunting; and critical genealogies of immersion within settler colonial nationhood. Her recent work appears in *Imaginations*, the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, the *Journal of Canadian Art History*. She also co-edited an issue of the journal *PUBLIC* on the theme of “Archives/Counter-Archives.”

<http://centreforsensorystudies.org/>