

CENTRE FOR SENSORY STUDIES

TALKING SENSE LECTURE SERIES



Seeking Vocal Alignment

Gabriel Dharmoo

Wednesday, 23 August 2023
Room LB-362
J.W. McConnell Building
13:15 Performance of *Lip Service*
13:30-15:15 Thesis Defense

This thesis proposes the conceptual model of alignment to describe an artist's quest for coherence between their sense of self and their artistic self. Sense of self is informed by one's values, identity, lived experience, goals, beliefs, and the ways one wants to be in the world. As for the artistic self, it encompasses various characteristics that pertain to one's artistic practice and output. The model helps locate areas of misalignment as potential friction points where things feel incoherent enough to prompt a process of seeking alignment. Alignment is both a process of self-reflection and a research-creation method that leads to discernible shifts in the artist's life and practice.

Gabriel Dharmoo's artistic practice encompasses composition, vocal improvisation, drag, interdisciplinary performance and research. As a vocalist and interdisciplinary artist, his solo show *Anthropologies imaginaires* toured internationally and was awarded at the Amsterdam Fringe Festival (2015) and the SummerWorks Performance Festival (2016). As a composer, he has received many awards for his compositions, such as the Canada Council for the Arts Jules Léger Prize for his chamber work *Wanmansho* (2017) and the Conseil Québécois de la Musique Opus Award for his opera *À chaque ventre son monstre* (2018). He has been developing his drag persona Bijuriya since 2018, working towards his 2022 solo production *Bijuriya*, presented at Montréal Arts Interculturels, the Vancouver Queer Arts Festival, the Music Gallery in Toronto and Springboard Performance's Fluid Fest in Calgary. Gabriel Dharmoo is the winner of the inaugural CSS Doctoral Dissertation Award

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Sandeep Bhagwati

Examiner: Moe Beitiks

Examiner: Dr. Noah Drew

Examiner: Dr. David Howes

External Examiner: Dr. Ellen Waterman

Ellen Waterman holds the Helmut Kallmann Chair for Music in Canada at Carleton University. Her distinctive musical practice blends flute and vocalization. As a music and sound studies scholar with a strong emphasis on Canada, she focuses on creative improvisation. She is the founding director of Music, Sound, and Society in Canada, an interdisciplinary research centre exploring the complex ways that music and sound are shaped by, and help to shape, our pluralistic society.

Image credit: Paul Neudorf and
Jonathan Goulet