

# MULTISENSORY MUSEOLOGY

## VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES Fall term 2024

This virtual lecture series will explore the sensory turn in museology. Formerly, museums were hands-off spaces geared to the production of single-sense (visual) epiphanies. Already in the 1960s there were calls for the overthrow of this regime, by Harley Parker, 'the McLuhan of the museum,' and Edmund Carpenter (also an associate of Marshall McLuhan). And this movement has intensified as a result of Indigenous peoples ('source communities') demanding that their material cultural heritage be treated sensitively (artefacts as persons, not things) and disabled communities lobbying for greater (sensory) accessibility. This lecture series will review these developments, including e.g. the use of interactive, experiential display techniques in place of labels, and trace how the museum has evolved into a 'sensory gymnasium', and forum for the promotion of intense cross-cultural and transhistorical encounters.

All lectures and ensuing discussions will take place live on Zoom at the designated hour and last approximately 90 minutes. **Please click on the title to register for each lecture.** For the speakers' bios and the abstracts for their talks see:

[centreforsensorystudies.org/events-and-activities](https://centreforsensorystudies.org/events-and-activities)

This virtual lecture series is curated by David Howes and Sowparnika Balaswaminathan.

[centreforsensorystudies.org](https://centreforsensorystudies.org)  
Clandestine Transactions  
Working Group  
[concordia.ca/artsci/cissc](https://concordia.ca/artsci/cissc)

## SPEAKERS

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 1 p.m. EST

### The Sensational Museum: Theory and Practice

**Hannah Thompson**, Professor of French and Critical Disability Studies in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Royal Holloway University of London. Author of numerous books and Principal Investigator on the *Sensational Museum* project.

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 1:00 p.m. EST

### Meshkwajisewin, Paradigm Shift: Anishinaabe pipes at the Manitoba Museum

**Maureen Matthews**, Adjunct Professor, Anthropology, University of Manitoba and former Curator of Cultural Anthropology, Manitoba Museum. Author of *Naamiwan's Drum: The Story of a Contested Repatriation of Anishinaabe Artefacts* (2016).

Thursday, October 10, 2024, 1 p.m. EST

### Box No 4, Birds: Making Kin and the Sensorial Bundles of the US North Pacific Exploring and Surveying Expedition (1853-56)

**Joshua A. Bell**, Curator of Globalization, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. Co-editor of *The Anthropology of Expeditions: Travel, Visualities, Afterlives* (2015) and *Naturalist Histories* (2024), among other books.

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 1 p.m. EST

### Edmund Carpenter and the Museum as Acoustic Space

**Richard Cavell**, Professor in the Department of English Language and Literatures, University of British Columbia. Author of *McLuhan in Space: A Cultural Geography* (2002) and *The Explorations of Edmund Snow Carpenter: Anthropology Upside Down* (forthcoming).

Friday, November 1st, 2024, 4 p.m. EST

### Decoding the Sensory Mixes of Cultural Artefacts: Harley Parker's Semio-Affective Indices

**Gary Genosko**, Professor in the Department Communication and Digital Media Studies, Ontario Tech University. Author of *Harley Parker: The McLuhan of the Museum* (2025) and editor of *The Culture Box: Museums as Media* (2025) – a lost manuscript by Harley Parker.