This crunchy, slurpy, brainy talk explores how designers can engage the human body. “Ocularcentrism” is the dominance of vision over all other senses in modern society. The empire of the eye excludes people who touch, hear, or smell but do not see. Inclusive design practices range from eyes-free interaction design and audio description to typographies and topographies of touch. Opening up to all our other senses not only includes more people but reveals new possibilities for visual design as well. Ellen Lupton co-curated “The Senses: Design Beyond Vision” at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in 2018.

Ellen Lupton is Senior Curator of Contemporary Design at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York City. Her exhibitions include “How Posters Work,” “Beautiful Users,” and “The Senses: Design Beyond Vision.” Lupton also serves as director of the Graphic Design MFA Program at MICA in Baltimore, where she has authored numerous books on design processes, including Thinking with Type, Graphic Design Thinking, and Graphic Design: The New Basics. Her recent books: Design Is Storytelling and Health Design Thinking were published by Cooper Hewitt. She is an AIGA Gold Medalist and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

This keynote address by Ellen Lupton will kick off “Uncommon Senses III: Back to the Future of the Senses,” which runs from 6-9 May 2021. This international, interdisciplinary, multi- and intersensory conference is co-sponsored by the Concordia Centre for Sensory Studies. For further information please contact us at senses@concordia.ca.