Toward a Sensory Ethnography of the Forest

As part of Orée des bois, David Howes and his guests reflect on what a sensory ethnography of the forest might entail.

For the Intervention on 19 June, the audience is invited to join in a series of mini-sense experiments with forest materials: An installation piece by Nuria Alvarez Coll involves participants handling finished and unfinished (or “natural”) pieces of wood while blindfolded and then discussing their impressions and arranging the wood samples on a scale once the blindfolds come off. The poet-anthropologist Roseline Lambert will present a poetic ethnography of the Finnish sauna, centring on the question: How does one bathe in a tree?

The event on 22 June will involve a conversation between Howes and Edith-Anne Pageot. Their discussion will revolve around the philosophy of the forest and art practice of Domingo Cisneros, an Elder of the Indigenous art scene. Cisneros is the creator of such works as Laurentian Bestiary, author of La guerre des fleurs, and a leading exponent of boreal gastronomy.

The installation Orée des bois, activities with guests and a mobile climate station, is presented by the Canada Research Chair in Arts, Ecotechnologies of Practice and Climate Change (MÉDIANE).

Location: Outdoors at the Cœur des sciences, UQAM 175 President-Kennedy Avenue (Metro Place-des-Arts) Tio'tia:ke/Mooniyang/Montreal

Admission is free.