Manuscripts describing early decades of colonization in Turtle Island (North America) invoke affects and the senses alongside taxonomies of the human, more-than-human, and nonhuman. This talk investigates translocations of gender and ontological categories, often in defamiliarizing declensions, through the sensorium and traces of their scripts of orientation. By investigating early Indigenous and French materials in ink and paper records, drawings, and treatises, this work turns to questions of classification, complication, being, and ornament in long histories of depicting the more-than-human, performative, and monstrous in kinesthetic, colonial documents.

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