



Crédit: Sissel Tolaas. Photo: Trevor Morgan

SISSEL TOLAAS

Thursday January 30 2014

6:00 - 7:15 pm

SMELL = information

A tool for communication – navigation – education – decision making

A conference by Sissel Tolaas

7:15 - 8:30 pm

HEXA_OUT 5 : The Senses

Round table with Sissel Tolaas and Hexagram | CIAM researchers

Jean Décarie (UQAM), François-Joseph Lapointe (Université de Montréal), Erin Manning (Concordia University). Moderator : David Howes (Concordia University)

Concordia University
Visual Arts Building (VA)
Room VA 114
1395 René Lévesque W.
Montréal

—
Free admission
In English

Hexagram | CIAM is pleased to collaborate with Hexagram-Concordia's Distinguished Speaker Series and the Conversations in Contemporary Art Series (Concordia University MFA Studio Arts) in welcoming internationally known smell artist and "professional in-betweener" Sissel Tolaas.

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A conference by Sissel Tolaas

What could happen when invisible information – such as smell molecules – is the starting point of acting, reacting and communicating ? Smells are a very crucial component in the definition, understanding of and orientation to an environment. Smells surround us all the time. We breathe 23,040 times a day and move 12.5 cubic meters of air and with every breath smell molecules flood through our bodies. Even when we sleep we smell. Historical, sociological and religious reasons have pulled the contemporary human being into almost ignoring more than 1 % of his genes, and only education can revive these hidden capacities, since the hardware and software still function in the healthy human being, but only if consciously trained and used. There is a whole world to educate and a whole world to smell

HEXA_OUT 5 The Senses

Thematic roundtable

Immediately following Tolaas' lecture, the HEXA_OUT 5 The Senses roundtable will examine the role of the senses in relation to issues of human and animal perception and cognition. Hexagram | CIAM researchers Manning, Lapointe and Décarie will discuss the manner in which multi-modal sense impressions beyond vision extend our senses across bodies and into the world.

Moderated by anthropologist of the senses David Howes.

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Bio

Sissel Tolaas was born Norway and is based in Berlin. She studied mathematics, linguistics, chemical science, languages, and visual art at Oslo, Warsaw, Moscow, St Petersburg and Oxford universities. Tolaas has been working actively in the area topic of Smell /Smell and Language Communications since 1990, within different sciences, fields of art and design, and other disciplines. She established the SMELL RE_searchLab Berlin, on smell & communication / language, in Berlin in January 2004, supported by IFF (International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.) Tolaas's research has won recognition through numerous national and international scholarships, honours, and prizes. She is a founding member of the International Sleep Science and Technology Association, China/US/Africa/Europe. Tolaas also recently founded the FUTURE OF EDUCATION, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Future Education Platform Berlin. Tolaas has done City SmellScape research in several cities such as Paris, Stockholm, Detroit, Kansas City, Berlin, Oslo and London, and is currently working on Nuuk, Istanbul, Calcutta, and Cape Town. She was recently commissioned, together with Harvard GSD, to develop a new Concept of Living in Kuwait.

Hexagram | CIAM

HEXA_OUT is one of Hexagram | CIAM's public events which aims to stimulate the transfer of knowledge and methodologies through discussion and exchange between media arts researchers. These events are an opportunity for the public to witness the vibrant research-creation being produced at Hexagram | CIAM.

For more than a decade, Hexagram | CIAM has been fostering an internationally recognized model of research-creation. It has over eighty members from its two main research centres, based at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) and Concordia University. The centre also has agreements with researchers from the Université de Montréal (U de M) and École de technologie supérieure (ETS). Favouring a transdisciplinary approach, member researchers at Hexagram | CIAM initiate collaborative projects with researchers working in related and complementary disciplines. The centre also works with private arts and culture organizations in Quebec, in Canada and around the world.

Hexagram | CIAM
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Hexagram-Concordia
hexagram.concordia.ca

Conversations in Contemporary Art
conversationsincontemporaryart.tumblr.com

Concordia's Studio Arts MFA program
studio-arts.concordia.ca/mfa

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