

IN THE PRESENT MOMENT

BUDDHISM, CONTEMPORARY ART AND SOCIAL PRACTICE

A Research Convening

This research convening brings together professional artists, practising Buddhists, and scholars from a range of disciplines to better understand Buddhist influences in contemporary art in North America. Resisting orientalised notions of Buddhism as a timeless, unchanging, passive tradition, this convening explores how diverse artists have drawn on Buddhist ideas and practices as a “methodology” of art practice, shifting the focus of inquiry from the art object to processes of artistic creation.

DAY 1, OCTOBER 25, 2019

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Phillip T Young
Recital Hall, UVIC

Welcome
Susan Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, UVIC
Jon Tupper, Director, AGGV
Introduction
Paul Walde, artist, Chair, Department of Visual Arts, UVIC

Opening Orion Keynote Lecture: Lecture on Nothing
Kay Larson, writer, art critic, New York
Break

Collaborative Performance: Lecture on Nothing
Text by John Cage, Score by Kay Larson
Artists TBD

9:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Phillip T Young
Recital Hall, UVIC

Reception
Cash Bar Available

DAY 2, OCTOBER 26, 2019

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Interfaith Chapel,
UVIC

Welcome
Haema Sivanesan, Curator, AGGV
Workshop 1: Practiced Presence: A collective reflection on the different ways we practice presence
James Rowe, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies, UVIC

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Visual Arts Building,
Concourse, UVIC

Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Visual Arts Building,
A162, UVIC

Panel 1: Buddhism as Methodology
Examining a range of approaches to artistic practice, this panel explores the various ways by which Buddhism informs artistic inquiry, correspondingly considering the various meanings and interpretations of Buddhism in North America.

Kalsang Dawa, artist, Vancouver
Chrysanne Stathacos, artist, Toronto
Dylan Thomas, artist, Victoria
Michael Zheng, artist, San Francisco
Moderator: Katherine Hacker, Professor Emeritus, Art History, UBC, Vancouver



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of Victoria
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DAY 2, OCTOBER 26, 2019

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Visual Arts Building,
A162, UVIC

Panel 2: Modern Buddhism, Contemporary Art & the Asian Diaspora
Buddhist cultural and philosophical influences have informed the work of artists of Asian background working in the North American context. This panel examines immigrant and diasporic practices, generational and inter-generational shifts in practice, and hybrid Buddhisms, which are producing new communities of practitioners, adapting Buddhist concepts, values and practices to new cultural and creative contexts.

Farheen HaQ, artist, Victoria
Tomoyo Ihaya, artist, Vancouver
Charwei Tsai, artist, Taipei, Taiwan
Laiwan, artist, Vancouver
Moderator: Tzu-I Chung, Curator of History, RBCM, Victoria

DAY 3, OCTOBER 27, 2019

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Interfaith Chapel,
UVIC

Workshop 2: Deep Listening into Sounding: An introduction to the work of Pauline Oliveros
Tina Pearson, artist, Victoria
(Please wear loose, comfortable clothing)

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Visual Arts Building,
Concourse, UVIC

Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Visual Arts Building,
A162, UVIC

Panel 3: Engaged Buddhism; Art & Social Action
In the late 1970s, the concept of Engaged Buddhism had a significant impact on artists concerned with social and civil rights issues. Buddhism has continued to inform approaches to social practice, informing ideas related to the role of the artist in society, concepts of activism and notions of social change. This panel explores how artists draw on Buddhist concepts and methods to situate new kinds of social relations, considering the relationship between art and service.

Oliver Kellhammer, artist, and lecturer, Parsons School for Design, New York/Cortes Island
Susan Stewart, Founding Dean, Faculty of Culture and Community, ECUAD, Vancouver
Mali Wu, artist, Professor, and Chair, Graduate Institute of Transdisciplinary Art, NKNU, Taiwan
Moderator: Marcus Boon, writer, journalist, and Professor of English at York University, Toronto

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Hickman 105 Lecture
Theatre, UVIC

Introduction
Lynda Gammon, Professor Emeritus, Visual Arts, UVIC

Closing Orion Keynote Conversation
Suzanne Lacy, artist, Professor of Art and Design, University of Southern California, Los Angeles,
and Jodie Evans, activist, author, Co-director, CODEPINK



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