

The Unseen (Vancouver, 30–31 Mar 12)

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Mar 30–31, 2012

Deadline: Jan 6, 2012

Graduate Symposium Committee

The Unseen proposes a blind engagement with the visual. While traditional art historical practice assumes the task of making the art object or artifact whole through observation, description, and interpretation, this symposium instead sets out to embrace a trace that may be fractured, destroyed, moved, translated, historicized, censored, extolled or ignored. The 31st annual University of British Columbia Art History, Visual Art and Theory Graduate Symposium will attend to a critical reassessment of what resists representation, description, articulation or documentation. We seek innovative submissions that investigate and conceptualize the notion of the unseen as it intersects with historical, perceptual, political and philosophical claims concerning the production and circulation of meanings and forms of knowledge.

Unseeing describes both a category of historical analysis and a critical action. Recent studies on visuality and visual culture have asserted the primacy of the visual as a “social fact” constituting historical and contemporary modes of perception and lived experience. By challenging what is or has once been at the boundaries of visuality and visibility, the unseen alternately aims to grasp the unseizable and its potentiality as a form of non-knowledge. This methodological reevaluation further underscores the historiographical problematic of the unwritten or the unwriteable, discerning what has been occluded from or has escaped being written into histories of the visual, or what has become embedded in and normative of others.

Current and recently graduated Master of Arts, Masters of Fine Arts, Doctoral and Post Doctoral scholars are encouraged to submit an abstract of no more than 300 words by January 6, 2011. Include your full name, affiliation and contact information and send your abstract to gradsymp@interchange.ubc.ca.

The 31st Annual AHVAT Graduate Symposium includes a two-day symposium on March 30 and 31, 2012, and a concurrent exhibition, dates to be confirmed. For more information please visit: <http://www.ahva.ubc.ca>.

Reference:

CFP: The Unseen (Vancouver, 30-31 Mar 12). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 20, 2011 (accessed Jun 13, 2026),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/2088>>.