

## York Art History Symposium – Grad Stud (Toronto Mar 07)

York Art History

### Call For Papers

The Art History Graduate Students Association of York University cordially invites proposals for contributions to its sixth annual symposium, addressing the theme

Performative Histories of Art: Perilous Conventions,  
Possible Disruptions

March 9th, 2007

Department of Art History

York University

Toronto, Canada

Within art discourses, the term 'performance' can describe staged, interdisciplinary artworks which often emphasize actors over objects. By contrast, the term 'performativity' derives from Derrida's intervention into linguistic philosopher John L. Austin's concept of 'performative utterances,' and refers to the iterability of speech acts and identity. Theories of the performative tend to emphasize the constitutive nature of performative repetition as well as the possibility of endless citationality; thus performativity is not a question of intention or choice, but rather, as Judith Butler observes in *Bodies that Matter* (1993): 'performance' is not a singular 'act' or event, but a ritualized production, a ritual reiterated under and through constraint, under and through the force of prohibition and taboo. It is clear, then, that performativity is a multi-valenced concept, and that performance can signify any number of different events or practices.

The committee seeks academic papers on any relevant topic including, but not limited to:

Performance art

The art critic / art historian / artist as performer

Gender performativity

Museums and their institutional production

Tableaux in painting and photography

“Giving the conference paper” as performance

Discursive theatricality

Ephemerality in/of art

Imposter syndrome

Queering art history

The performative impulse in self-portraiture

The production and reproduction of (art)history

through performance

Display practices, viewing experiences

Rituals and ritualistic behavior

Art interventions/ intervention art

Etc.

We invite proposals for 15-minute presentations from interested graduate students of all disciplines.

Please submit abstracts of 250 words, contact information, and a description of your audio-visual requirements to [york\\_art\\_history@yahoo.ca](mailto:york_art_history@yahoo.ca) by January 15, 2007. Applicants may expect a response by January 24th, 2007.

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Reference:

CFP: York Art History Symposium - Grad Stud (Toronto Mar 07). In: Arthist.net, Dec 3, 2006 (accessed Dec 16, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/28807>>.