

2 Sessions at UAAC (Toronto, 27–29 Oct 22 / online, 4 Nov 22)

Universities Art Association of Canada, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada / online

ArtHist.net Redaktion

[\[1\]](#) Potential History of Art and Museums

[\[2\]](#) Poison

[\[1\]](#) Potential History of Art and Museums

From: Emily Putnam, emilyputnam@cmail.carleton.ca

Date: 21 June 2022

Deadline: 30 June 2022

Chaired by Victoria Nolte (Carleton University) and Emily Putnam (Carleton University)

Universities Art Association Conference, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, October 27 - 29, 2022.

In *Potential History: Unlearning Imperialism* (2019), Ariella Aïsha Azoulay calls for a refusal of the imperial foundations of Western institutions (archives, museums, and nations) and their knowledge structures. Imperialism has not only created the conditions through which museums have built their collections but has also informed how we study art and write its histories by determining what objects, knowledges, and cultural interactions are accepted practices of art-historical world-making. Potential history is an effort to unlearn this relentless drive to accumulate material worlds and transform them into objects of study and research. This panel asks: can potential history act as an analytic for the study of art and museums to unlearn imperialism and its public-making and world-making endeavours? How do we write a potential history of art and museums against the drive to view progress as the only emancipatory outcome? We are interested in papers that think beyond introducing “new” strategies for art-making, curation, and exhibitions and think towards models of historical inquiry that understand the task of art history and museums studies as that of producing relations.

This session will be an in-person paper session at the University of Toronto Campus. Please submit your proposals to victoria.nolte@carleton.ca and emilyputnam@cmail.carleton.ca by June 30, 2022.

Key words: Art historiography; museum studies; unlearning imperialism; decolonial praxis

[\[2\]](#) Poison

From: Ivana Dizdar, ivana.dizdar@mail.utoronto.ca

Date: 20 June 2022

Deadline: 30 June 2022

Universities Art Association Conference, online, 4 November 2022

This virtual panel examines the production of visual culture through toxic and potentially fatal materials. Toxicity poses significant problems: medical, social, and environmental—but also artistic.

We invite scholars working on topics across periods, from dangerous pigments in historical painting to toxic waste in contemporary art. What does it mean to construct with the destructive? How do artistic engagements with toxicity reframe our understanding of purity and contamination? Should we—and if so how—reconcile personal and environmental dangers with pursuits to create images and objects of beauty (i.e. the toxic sublime)?

We encourage submissions from scholars working on intersections among visual culture, material history, science, environment, and the medical humanities.

Chairs: Ivana Dizdar (University of Toronto) and Siobhan Angus (Yale University / Carleton University)

Please email an abstract to ivana.dizdar@mail.utoronto.ca and siobhan.angus@yale.edu by 11:59 pm EST on June 30, 2022.

Reference:

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