

Material Ecologies: Connecting Care, Nature, and Identity (Boston, 10–11 Apr 26)

Boston University, Apr 10–11, 2026

Deadline: Jan 15, 2026

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The graduate students of the Boston University History of Art & Architecture department invite proposals for papers for the 42nd anniversary of the Mary L. Cornille (GRS '87) Boston University Graduate Symposium on the History of Art & Architecture, to be held on April 10 and 11, 2026.

This symposium will center materiality and feminist critique as lenses for environmental inquiry in art history, investigating how artists depict, consider, and collaborate with more-than-human beings to refigure humanity's own relationships with the world around us. We aim to break down boundaries and hierarchies not only between humanity and nature, but also among academic and artistic disciplines, geopolitical borders, and material categories. How have artists used both traditional and innovative materials and methods to address themes of the environment, climate, and identity? Where do ecological, scientific, cultural, and artistic practices overlap and intersect, and what insights are produced as a result? What new ways of creating and being can we access by resisting the urge to insulate and taxonomize?

Possible subjects include but are by no means limited to: artistic collaborations with nature; the expanded field of sculpture; ecofeminism and decolonialism; queer and feminist craft practices; salvaged and repurposed materials; Black Feminist, Indigenous, and queer ecologies; and kinships between art and science.

We welcome proposals for 15 minute presentations from graduate students at all stages and from any area of study in the global history of art and architecture. Papers must be original and unpublished. Please email as a single Word document: title, abstract (250 words or less), and CV to artsymp@bu.edu. The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2026. Selected speakers will be notified in early February.

This event is generously sponsored by Mary L. Cornille (GRS '87). For more information, please visit our website or email artsymp@bu.edu.

Reference:

CFP: Material Ecologies: Connecting Care, Nature, and Identity (Boston, 10-11 Apr 26). In: ArtHist.net, Dec 19, 2025 (accessed Dec 21, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/51375>>.