

Ephemeral Encounters (Online, 12–13 Jun 26)

Online, Jun 12–13, 2026

Jenna Allsopp

DHS Student Conference – EPHEMERAL ENCOUNTERS.

The word ephemeral is used to refer to things or states that only last for a short time. In times of upheaval and uncertainty, the ephemeral nature of design and design history is made apparent. Objects can be ephemeral in their nature; creators, users, and historians share fleeting encounters with materials, objects, and spaces. Wars, natural disasters, developments in technology can precipitate the disappearance of objects, sites, cultures and histories. Design historians must grapple with these ephemeralities. This conference explores ideas of ephemera, ephemerality and ephemeral encounters across the broad spectrum of design history.

PROGRAMME

12 JUNE 2026

13:00 Welcome, Introduction

DHS Student Ambassadors

13.15 Alternative Archives

Ærkologies: Air as _archive

- Lizzie Ridout, Falmouth University

Against the End: Objects, Ateliers, and Repair Histories in Delhi

- Garima Bhardwaj, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

In-house to Instagram: Design Archives in Transition

- Katie Anne Martinez, The New School

14:45 Break (30 mins)

15:15 Ephemeral Sources

Ephemera and Encounters: Rethinking Canadian Graphic Design History through Archives and Memory

- Louise Paradis, Leeds Beckett University

Residual Order: Visual Organisation Below the Analytical Threshold of Graphic Design History

- Zeph Tang, Victorian College of the Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, The University of Melbourne

Postcards of Parisian Theatre Women: From a Vanished World to a New Life in Display

- Karen Perlman, Fashion Institute of Technology, Alumni

16:45 End of Day One

13 JUNE 2026

10:15 Welcome

DHS Student Ambassadors

10:30 Fleeting Encounters

Ephemeral Reasoning: Reading Client Presentations as Evidence of Design Conceptualisation

- Tao Lin, University of the Arts London

Designing for Absence: Exhibition Graphics and the Ephemeral Object

- Abbie Vickress, Central Saint Martins

From Fleeting Trance to Lasting Archive: Documentary Film, Architecture, and Digital Objects as Strategies for Preserving Vimbuza Healing Dance in Northern Malawi

- Edward Nkhata, Pemphero Tembo, Alexander Nyasulu, Malawi University of Science and Technology

12:00 Lunch Break (60 mins)

13:00 Recovering Histories

Recovering Ephemeral Experience from the Orphic Gold Tablets

- Maria Marsh, King's College London

Textile Impermanence in Design History: unearthing the weaving workshop at Sesc Pompeia in São Paulo, Brazil

- João Victor Brito dos Santos Carvalho, Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo e de Design, Universidade de São Paulo (FAUUSP)

Housing a Home: Elsie de Wolfe's Photo Albums of/as Interiors

- Sara Shields-Rivard, Queen's University

14.30 Break (30 mins)

15:00 Dissemination

Stereo-Typography: Can a font be racist?

- Saki Matsuura, University of the Arts London

Printing for Change: The Dissemination of Queer Communication and Publications in the UK and US

- Libbie Brindle, Norwich University of the Arts

The Geography of Appetite: Menus and the Visual Performance of Imperial Reach

- Maria Velasco Zambrano, Royal College of Art

16:30 End of Day Two

Registration via Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dhs-student-conference-2026-ephemeral-encounters-tickets-1990642090078>

Reference:

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