(De)Spatializing Sites: Art Out of Place (Medford, 9 Apr 27)

Medford, MA, Apr 09, 2027
Deadline: Dec 21, 2026

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Tufts University History of Art and Architecture Graduate Student Symposium.

The Department of the History of Art and Architecture at Tufts University invites graduate students to submit paper proposals for the 2027 Graduate Symposium titled (De)Spatializing Sites: Art Out of Place, which will be held on April 9, 2027, in Medford, MA.
Keynote Speaker: Josh T. Franco.

Performance artist and activist Guillermo Gómez-Peña closes his book The New World Border: Prophecies, Poems and Loqueras for the End of the Century with the following questions: "In which world (or worlds) are YOU located?...For which world does your art speak" (Gómez-Peña, 1996, p. 246)? Critically reconfiguring the first, second, and third world and offering a fourth and fifth, Gómez-Peña speaks to imagined geographies through which artists move and produce work. This symposium aims to explore practices that critically engage with questions of "site" not as material location but as imagined, socially constructed, or mutable conceptual realms). How might practices of world-building disturb theories of "global art?" Where does art reside beyond the physical? How has art helped define or challenge definitions of space across time?

(De)Spatializing Sites: Art Out of Place seeks original submissions on art that engage with the site, broadly defined and (de)materialized, throughout art history, spanning time, place, and media. Topics may range from contemporary artistic remappings of colonial geographies and temporalities, to activist art that adopts the body as a site to confront hegemonic spaces, and from medieval acheiropoieta that cross the boundaries of sacred and human spaces, to the arrangement of the sacred and the profane realms made visible in ancient architectural forms and archaeological remains.

Recent scholarship and exhibitions have emphasized the mutable and fluid connections to site and space, including, for example, essays in the US Latinx Art Forum's "Diasporic (un) Tethering" online collection (2026), Antonio Somaini's Latent Spaces: Al, Art, and the Archive (2026), and the J. Paul Getty Museum's Going Places: Travel in the Middle Ages (2025).

Topics may include:
- Postcolonial (re)mappings
Reimaginings of the confines and constructions of physical space
- Transcultural, transnational, translocal exchanges

- Digital world building
- Performative activations of space
- The afterlives of monuments
- Sites of memory
- Pilgrimage and procession
- Art as hierophany and/or hierotopy
- Art as divine vessel
- Afro and Indigenous futurisms

Submission Guidelines:
The symposium will feature 15-minute presentations. We welcome submissions from graduate students in all fields and disciplines. For consideration, please submit a title and abstract of no more than 250 words, along with a brief biography, to tufts.grad.symposium@gmail.com by December 21, 2026. Participants will be notified by January 9, 2027.

Reference:
CFP: (De)Spatializing Sites: Art Out of Place (Medford, 9 Apr 27). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 24, 2026 (accessed Nov 25, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/57209>.