



Performative  
Ecologies

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

### Performative Ecologies: Thinking through research practices

Graduate Student Symposium

March 20th – 22nd, 2014

University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

*"For the artist, communication with nature remains the most essential condition. The artist is human; himself nature; part of nature within natural space." Paul Klee.*

The Art & Design Graduate Student's Association (ADGSA) at the University of Alberta is seeking proposals for an interdisciplinary graduate student symposium and exhibition on the topic of 'Performative Ecologies' in art, design and research practice.

**Performativity** denotes a dynamic interaction between the social actor and his or her environment(s). It is an action rather than a representation of a concept or idea. We understand **ecologies** to be holistic formations, systems and communities. Along with elements in the material world, ecologies can also be constitutive of interconnected organizations of ideas, histories, philosophies, art forms, designs, literature, sounds, languages, forms of communication and social space.

We encourage submissions of abstracts from across disciplines for presentations on research/creative activities, including submissions from practicing visual and performance artists as well as designers, which endeavour to understand the ways in which human and non-human agents relate to their material, social and semiotic environments.

Possible topics could include but are not limited to the following:

- » Ecologies of process—considering the exchanges between materials, elements and technologies involved in art and design practice.
- » Ecologies of social, historical and temporal knowledge. How the past is formed through research practice and/or the role of social memory in art.
- » Human, non-human and more than human ecologies.
- » Ecologies of identity (gender, sexuality, race, class, ability etc.)
- » Sensory ecologies—studies of systems of sound, smell, taste, touch and vision.
- » Social ecology, societal organization, surveillance matrixes and regulated being in art and life.
- » Intersections between economic, political and environmental systems.
- » Ecologies of consumption and sustainability.

The ADGSA welcomes submissions from current, recent and prospective graduate students, which address the theme of 'performative ecologies.'

#### Symposium Submission Guidelines

Papers should not exceed a twenty-minute presentation followed by a question and answer period. Additionally, we invite emerging scholars who are also artists to send proposals for participation in a concurrent exhibition—dates to be confirmed.

Please send your affiliation, contact information and an abstract of no more than 300 words to Heather Caverhill [caverhil@ualberta.ca](mailto:caverhil@ualberta.ca) by January 15th, 2014.

#### Exhibition Submission Guidelines

- » Please email the following to [ADGSAexhibition2014@gmail.com](mailto:ADGSAexhibition2014@gmail.com)
- » Proposal/ Artist Statement (maximum 300 words)
- » Curriculum vitae, including name, telephone number and email address
- » A maximum of 5 images or up to 5 minutes of video
  - 72 dpi, 1024 x 768 pixels, maximum 1 MB
  - Videos must be viewable with Quicktime or available online via direct link to website
  - The file name of each image must be as follows:  
LastName\_Title\_Medium\_Dimensions\_Year.JPG
- » Include details regarding installation requirements

Please indicate if you would be interested in giving an artist talk or participating in a panel discussion during the symposium. All shipping fees will be paid by the artist. Work should arrive framed or accompanied with installation materials such as magnets for work on paper.