

Beyond Vision: The Sensorium in Art
RASC/a Art History Graduate Student Conference, 2019

February 8-9, 2019

Department of Art History, Meadows School of the Arts
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX



Juan de Arellano, *Still Life with Flowers, Peaches, and Red Plums*, c. 1670-1675, oil on canvas, 33 x 41 3/8 in., Meadows Museum, SMU, Dallas. Museum Purchase, Meadows Museum Acquisition Fund, MM.81.01. Photograph by Michael Bodycomb.

“There are no visual media. All media are mixed media, with varying ratios of senses and sign-types.”

W.J.T. Mitchell, “Showing, Seeing: A Critique of Visual Culture,” 2002

In his defense and critique of visual culture studies, W.J.T. Mitchell insists that visual culture is not limited to the visual, but rather considers many different sensory modes. He notes that our experience of the world is not purely, or perhaps even primarily visual, and, we must consider these other modes in our experience of art. This conference seeks to consider our understanding of how each of the senses operate in the history of art and how a move away from the primacy of vision can expand our understanding of visual culture. Larger questions include: What is the role of experience in art and visual culture? How are the senses expressed within art and utilized in the experience of art? Are the fields of art history and visual culture studies moving away from ocularcentrism or is vision still supreme?

With this topic in mind, the RASC/a Art History Graduate Student Association at Southern Methodist University invites proposals for its 5th Annual Graduate Student Conference to be held on February 8-9, 2019. Abstracts are welcome from all humanities fields and from all historical periods, geographical areas and methodological perspectives.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- The five senses: touch, taste, smell, sound and sight
- Senses and technology
- Experiential art
- Affect
- Food in art
- Lack of sensorial perception: blindness, deafness, etc.
- Participatory art
- The tactile and the haptic
- Pleasure, pain, and disgust
- Music in art
- The invisible, the unseen, and the overlooked
- New conceptions of vision
- Synesthesia
- Phenomenology
- Non-traditional senses

For consideration, please submit a 300-word (maximum) abstract for a 15-minute presentation and a brief CV as PDF attachments to rahgsa@smu.edu by November 26, 2018. Selected participants will be notified by December 10, 2018. No travel or accommodation funding is available, but all meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) will be provided to all conference participants. The conference organizers look forward to your submissions.

Please email the conference organizers at rahgsa@smu.edu with any questions.