

# IN THE PRESENT MOMENT

## BUDDHISM, CONTEMPORARY ART AND SOCIAL PRACTICE

### A Research Convening

This research convening brings together professional artists, practising Buddhists, and scholars from a range of disciplines to better understand Buddhist influences in contemporary art in North America. Resisting orientalised notions of Buddhism as a timeless, unchanging, passive tradition, this convening explores how diverse artists have drawn on Buddhist ideas and practices as a “methodology” of art practice, shifting the focus of inquiry from the art object to processes of artistic creation.

### DAY 1, OCTOBER 25, 2019

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm  
Philip T Young  
Recital Hall, UVIC

Welcome  
Susan Lewis, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, UVIC  
Jon Tupper, Director, AGGV  
Introduction  
Paul Walde, artist, Chair, Department of Visual Arts, UVIC

Opening Orion Keynote Lecture: Lecture on Nothing  
Kay Larson, writer, art critic, New York  
Break

Collaborative Performance: Lecture on Nothing  
Text by John Cage, Score by Kay Larson  
Artists TBD

9:30 pm - 10:30 pm  
Phillip T Young  
Recital Hall, UVIC

Reception  
Cash Bar Available

### DAY 2, OCTOBER 26, 2019

10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Interfaith Chapel,  
UVIC

Welcome  
Haema Sivanesan, Curator, AGGV  
Workshop 1: Practiced Presence: A collective reflection on the different ways we practice presence  
James Rowe, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies, UVIC

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
Visual Arts Building,  
Concourse, UVIC

Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Visual Arts Building,  
A162, UVIC

Panel 1: Buddhism as Methodology  
Examining a range of approaches to artistic practice, this panel explores the various ways by which Buddhism informs artistic inquiry, correspondingly considering the various meanings and interpretations of Buddhism in North America.

Kalsang Dawa, artist, Vancouver  
Chrysanne Stathacos, artist, Toronto  
Dylan Thomas, artist, Victoria  
Michael Zheng, artist, San Francisco  
Moderator: Katherine Hacker, Professor Emeritus, Art History, UBC, Vancouver



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Multifaith  
Services



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## DAY 2, OCTOBER 26, 2019

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm  
Visual Arts Building,  
A162, UVIC

**Panel 2: Modern Buddhism, Contemporary Art & the Asian Diaspora**  
Buddhist cultural and philosophical influences have informed the work of artists of Asian background working in the North American context. This panel examines immigrant and diasporic practices, generational and inter-generational shifts in practice, and hybrid Buddhisms, which are producing new communities of practitioners, adapting Buddhist concepts, values and practices to new cultural and creative contexts.

Farheen HaQ, artist, Victoria  
Tomoyo Ihaya, artist, Vancouver  
Charwei Tsai, artist, Taipei, Taiwan  
Laiwan, artist, Vancouver  
Moderator: Tzu-I Chung, Curator of History, RBCM, Victoria

## DAY 3, OCTOBER 27, 2019

10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Interfaith Chapel,  
UVIC

**Workshop 2: Deep Listening into Sounding: An introduction to the work of Pauline Oliveros**  
Tina Pearson, artist, Victoria  
(Please wear loose, comfortable clothing)

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
Visual Arts Building,  
Concourse, UVIC  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Visual Arts Building,  
A162, UVIC

Lunch

**Panel 3: Engaged Buddhism; Art & Social Action**  
In the late 1970s, the concept of Engaged Buddhism had a significant impact on artists concerned with social and civil rights issues. Buddhism has continued to inform approaches to social practice, informing ideas related to the role of the artist in society, concepts of activism and notions of social change. This panel explores how artists draw on Buddhist concepts and methods to situate new kinds of social relations, considering the relationship between art and service.

Oliver Kellhammer, artist, and lecturer, Parsons School for Design, New York/Cortes Island  
Susan Stewart, Founding Dean, Faculty of Culture and Community, ECUAD, Vancouver  
Mali Wu, artist, Professor, and Chair, Graduate Institute of Transdisciplinary Art, NKNU, Taiwan  
Moderator: Marcus Boon, writer, journalist, and Professor of English at York University, Toronto

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Hickman 105 Lecture  
Theatre, UVIC

**Introduction**  
Lynda Gammon, Professor Emeritus, Visual Arts, UVIC

**Closing Orion Keynote Conversation: Beautiful Trouble: A Conversation on Activism, Art and Buddhism**  
Suzanne Lacy, artist, Professor of Art and Design, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and Jodie Evans, activist, author, Co-director, CODEPINK



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