

...SLOW  
a symposium in praxis & theory

Friday, November 1, 2019

MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA

<https://mindseye.mcla.edu/>

Hosted by  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) &  
Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Arts (MASS  
MoCA).

Organizers:  
Victoria Papa, MCLA  
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MCLA

MASS MoCA

# Slow: A Symposium in Praxis & Theory (Program Draft)

\*All events will take place at MASS MoCA

8:30 a.m.                      REGISTRATION (open until 4:30 p.m.)  
Location: B10

8:45 a.m.                      OPENING REMARKS  
Location: B10

## EXPERIENTIAL SESSIONS

### Experiential Session I

9:00-10:15 a.m.              **Bernie Rhie, Williams College** - "Mindful Teachers, Teaching Mindfulness: Slowing Down to Deepen Learning"  
Location: B6.1, James Turrell Raethro II, *Magenta*

Mindfulness meditation is a powerful way to bring the transformative benefits of slowness into the classroom. As more and more educators around the world are realizing, mindfulness has the potential to radically deepen the kinds of learning that happen in schools, by giving both teachers and students a way to slow down our usually frenetic minds, to become more aware of our inner states and outer environments, and to engage one another with greater presence and compassion. This experiential workshop is for anyone who would like to learn about mindfulness in order to incorporate it into one's work as an educator. Authentic contemplative education must begin with the teacher: in order to teach mindfulness to students, educators must first experience and embody the transformative power of mindfulness themselves. In keeping with that philosophy, the focus of this workshop will be on introducing participants to two key mindfulness practices that they can practice on their own (and then perhaps eventually teach to others): (1) mindfulness of the breath and (2) mindfulness of bodily sensations (sometimes called a "body scan"). At least half of the workshop will be spent trying our hands at these two core mindfulness practices. We'll also go over best practices for how to introduce these techniques to students, especially in the context of a secular high school or college classroom.

## Experiential Session II

10:30-11:45 a.m.

**Laura Thompson & Amanda Tobin, MASS MoCA -  
"Slow Tour"**

Location: Galleries

Since 2012, MASS MoCA has employed a three-pronged pedagogical approach termed "ArtInSight," a constructivist education model for museum teaching and learning. Utilizing conversational tours, mindfulness-based insight activities, and art-making exercises, viewers develop critical and visual thinking skills and apply them to arts-based experiences, but also to everyday life. We apply this pedagogy in our Slow Tours of the museum, with a goal to help visitors cultivate consciousness and build understandings of art by harnessing one's personal knowledge and experiences. Slow Tours also offer opportunities for visitors to decelerate their experiences so that they will have more meaningful interactions with the art and our expansive complex. Fundamental to Slow Tours are insight activities, which are modeled on centuries-old Buddhist mindfulness techniques, including—but not limited to—guided visualizations, slow walking, and observations of breathing. This Slow Tour will use insight exercises to focus on the works of James Turrell, Julianne Swartz, and Louise Bourgeois; as well as on the context/site in which the art is displayed: a repurposed 19th century factory.

## Experiential Session III

1:30-2:45 p.m.

**Rachel Epp Buller, Bethel College - "Taking Care: a  
participatory art installation and performance of slow  
practices"**

Location: Hunter Hallway

"Taking Care" is a participatory slow practice project in letters and thread. In this durational and ongoing project begun in 2018, participants are invited to write a letter that recounts an act of care, large or small, that they have received. As recipient of these letters, Buller offers to intimately listen and to care for their stories, embroidering the words onto fabric in an approximation of their own handwriting and making publicly visible our often-unseen

caring labors. The quiet, slow practices of letter-writing and embroidery require extended time and attention. In this way, Buller positions listening as a radical act of care and one that demands a slowness that is at odds with the current pace of our world. "Taking Care" debuted in Berlin in summer 2018 and will continue episodically through short, intensive residencies. It has been installed and performed at Upominki in Rotterdam, November 2018, and Borough Road Gallery in London, June 2019.

## Experiential Session IV

4:30-5:45 p.m.

**Robyn Hunt, University of South Carolina, Peter Kyle, Trinity College & Steve Pearson, University of South Carolina -**

Slow Tempo: do this, then that

Location: B10

Pour water. Drink. Share weight. Touch. See into the distance. Gently walk. Remember. Walking, sitting, waiting. Pouring water, seeing something in the distance, remembering.

The grammar of daily existence. Moving gently in slow tempo offers up a world beyond progress, and quantity, past the accumulation of things completed and accomplished. We take notice of the present moment, of the smallest detail, and suddenly the world and our place in it shifts. Everything we consider has value. We can savor. We can wait. We can endure. What remains when ambition and acquisition fall away? When we are no longer engaged in proving something? When we remember where we are standing and what surrounds us?

In this experiential session, performers will offer a demonstration/short performance of slow tempo and silence methodology inspired by the work of director Shogo Ohta. At the intersection of dance and theater, this work offers profound lessons in the value of delicacy in performance, the nature of thought and action, and a compassionate consideration of our moment-to-moment lives.

## PANEL SESSIONS

### Session I

9:00-10:15 a.m

Panel 1 // ***Embodying Time: Look, Listen, Touch***

Location: B10

**Kristi Oliver, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth - "Slow Looking: *Visio Divina* to Facilitate Meaningful Artistic Engagement"**

**Shari Tishman, Harvard University** - "Slow looking, deep learning, and decentering our sense of self"

**Adam Giannelli, Hamilton College** - "Stuttering Poetics: A Framing and Poetry Reading"

**Celia Bland, Bard College** - "A Tracing of Fine Lines: Looking to Write"

Panel 2 // ***Intersectional Feminism & the Politics of Waiting***

Location: B6

**Ryan Conrath, Salisbury University** - "Space Race: The Oppositional Landscape Cinema of Cauleen Smith"

**Kelly Chung, Dartmouth College** - "Sleepwalking Slowly: Living Labor and the Feminist Art of Mistrust"

**Andrea Liu, Independent Artist** - "Waiting: An Intersectional Intervention into the Slow Movement"

**Jenelle Troxell, Union College** - "Towards a Cinema of Contemplation: *Close Up* and the Female Avant-Garde"

15 Minute Break

**Session II**

10:30-11:45 a.m.

Panel 3 // ***Temporal Negations: In the Absence of Time***

Location: B10

**Deidre Smith, University of Texas at Austin** - "In Praise of Slowness': An unhurried reading of Mladen Stilinovic's *Artist at Work*"

**Lynn Kaye, Brandeis University** - "Cessation of Activity or Wasting Time?: The Idea of 'bitul' in Late Antique Jewish Sources"

**Wyatt E. Sarafin, Harvard University** - "William Kentridge's Refusal"

**Andrew Ferguson, University of Maryland** - "Frame Perfect: The Slow Art of Speedrunning"

Panel 4 // ***Slow Interventions: Moving Toward Connection in Creative Practice***

Location: B6

**Megan Arney Johnston, University of Ulster** - "Slow Curating & Socially Engaged Museums"

**Rachel Epp Buller, Bethel College** - "Open the Envelope: Epistolary Writing as Slow Scholarship"

**Anne Labovitz, Independent Artist** - "Radical Kindness Embodied: / Love You Institute"

12:00-1:15 p.m.

### **KEYNOTE LUNCHEON FEATURING TINA CAMPT**

Location: B10

**Kimberly Juanita Brown, Mount Holyoke College** - Introduction

**Tina Campt, Brown University** -  
"The Slow Lives of Still-Moving-Images"

Tina Campt is Owen F. Walker Professor of Humanities and Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. Campt is a black feminist theorist of visual culture and contemporary art. One of the founding researchers in Black European Studies, her early work theorized gender, racial, and diasporic formation in black communities in Europe, focusing on the role of vernacular photography in processes of historical interpretation. She is the author of three books. *Other Germans: Black Germans and the Politics of Race, Gender and Memory in the Third Reich* (University of Michigan Press, 2004) is a historical inquiry based on oral histories and archival documents that explores the experiences of Black Germans during the Third Reich. *Image Matters: Archive, Photography and the African Diaspora in Europe* (Duke University Press, 2012) theorizes the affects of family photography in early twentieth century Black German and Black British communities. Her most recent book, *Listening to Images* (Duke University Press, 2017) theorizes the everyday practices of refusal and fugitivity enacted in a frequently overlooked genre of black vernacular photographs she calls 'quiet photography.'

15 Minute Break

### **Session III**

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Panel 5 // ***On Blackness & the Tempos of Fugitivity***

Location: B10

**Brittney Proctor, University of California-Irvine** - "Slowed and Thrown: On Black Capture and DJ Screw's Distortion"

**James E. Ford III, Occidental College** - "A Dream Deferred or the Dream in Deferral? Listening to Hip-Hop's Chopped and Screwed Aesthetics"

**Kimberly Schreiber, University College of London** - "Slow Time in Living Colour: Bruce Jackson's Prison Photography, Colour and Contemporaneity"

Panel 6 // ***The Necessity of Slowness: Intentionality of Place, Process, and Practice***

Location: B6

**Mary Hood, Arizona State University** - "The Necessity of Slowness"

**Melanie Mowinski, MCLA** - "Repetition (in drawing and printmaking) as meditation"

**April Vollmer, Independent Artist** - "An Architecture of Flowers"

15 Minute Break

#### **Session IV**

3:00-4:15 p.m.

Panel 7 // ***Inviting Pause: Immersive Aesthetics & the Incremental***

Location: B10

**Zack Finch, MCLA** - "'Wait for it, Wait for it'....Approaching Taryn Simon's A Cold Hole"

**Mark Bartlett, Independent Scholar** - "LIUBA: *Lentezza*, Chronotology, and Performance Art"

**Anthony Reynolds, New York University** - "Slow Reader: Literary Ontology, Film Speed and Slow Cinema"

**Anni A. Pullagura, Brown University** - "An Unthinkable Horizon: Slowgoing in the Film Installations of Walid Raad and Postcommodity"

Panel 8 // ***Slow Dissemination: Mediations of Speed***

Location: B6

**Kaitlin Clifton Forcier, University of California, Berkeley** - "Contemplative Code: Looping Images and Digital Temporality"

**Amgad Serour, University of Minnesota** - "Slow Haptics: Perceiving Anti-War Filmic Affects in Jean-Pierre Melville's *Le Silence de La Mer*"

**Mohamed Junaid, MCLA** - "'Finish us all at once!': violence and the work of time under military occupation in Kashmir"

**Shawn McIntosh, MCLA** - "Don't Feed the News: The Principles and Promise of Slow Journalism"

Panel 9 // *Textures of Time & Artistic Production*

Location: B11.2

**Lynn Somers, Drew University** - "Reflections on Empathy in American Sculpture since the 1960s"

**Bradley Borthwick, Colby College** - "The Slow Studio"

**Anne Swartz, Savannah College of Art and Design**- "Another Way Forward: Receptivity, Ornament, and Pattern and Decoration"

**Amanda Russhell Wallace, Smith College** - "Mourning Breaks, or Emergences and Interludes within (a) Black Visuality"

15 Minute Break

**Session V**

4:30-5:45 p.m.

Panel 10 // *Slow Pedagogy*

Location: B6

**Shun Kiang, University of Central Oklahoma** - "Formalism and Fun: On Experiencing Text and Time in the Classroom"

**Blake Smith, University of Chicago** - "Time as Capital: Academic Chronopolitics, Queer and Slow"

**Sarah Lasley, University of Texas - San Antonio** - "Slowness as a Subversive Strategy for Creative Coding: a Pedagogical Case Study"

Panel 11 // *Traces & Tracing: Slowness as an Approach to the Phenomenological in Creative Writing*

Location: B11.2

**Shena McAullife, Union College** - "Trace as in Map"

**Adam Tedesco, Independent Artist** - "Trace as in Follow"



**Shira Dentz, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** - "Trace as in  
Remainder"

6:00 p.m.

RECEPTION

Location: B4.1, Cauleen Smith Exhibition

"Slow: A Symposium in Praxis & Theory" is a project of *The Mind's Eye*—a symposium initiative and online journal of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts that explores a wide range of cultural topics, socio-political inquiries, theoretical concerns, and creative practices from within an interdisciplinary framework. *The Mind's Eye* aims to stand as a model of the civic engagement and critical thinking constitutive of a liberal arts education by engaging in scholarly and creative pursuits that transcend disciplinary boundaries. In collaboration with neighboring institutions, like MASS MoCA, *The Mind's Eye* aspires to expand the cultural footprint of the Berkshires by creating innovative programming and events for local and global audiences alike.

THE MIND'S EYE

A Symposium Initiative and Online Journal of MCLA