

Unexpected Movements

A Symposium for *Automatisme Ambulatoire*

**Unexpected Movements:
A Symposium for *Automatisme Ambulatoire***
14 September 2019

Panelists: Amanda Cachia, Eliza Chandler, Kelly Fritsch,
Alyson Patsavas, Joshua St. Pierre

This one-day symposium features curator Amanda Cachia along with four Disability Studies scholars from Canada and the United States discussing their work in the context of the exhibition *Automatisme Ambulatoire: Hysteria, Imitation, Performance*. Recognizing that our society imposes certain norms and expectations on bodies, language, and movement, this symposium explores ways to challenge, question, and undermine such norms as a means of welcoming the unexpected and reclaiming space for all bodies.

Organized by Jane Dryden, Department of Philosophy and the Owens Art Gallery, in partnership with the Department of Philosophy and the Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University



Automatisme Ambulatoire: Hysteria, Imitation, Performance

6 September to 6 November 2019

Diane Borsato, Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, Claire Cunningham, Brendan Fernandes, Every Ocean Hughes, My Barbarian

Curated by Amanda Cachia

"Automatisme ambulatoire," or ambulatory automatism, is an expression that conjures notions of the compulsive traveler, while simultaneously implying irresistible urges and movements, such as grimaces, tics, and gestures often linked to physical pathologies. The artists in this exhibition were invited to consider such gestures as a performative style, one that might work to subvert, undo, transform and reimagine the body and language, both real and imagined. Featuring six new works commissioned specifically for this project, the exhibition aims to question, challenge, and complicate the ethical and moral boundaries of "imitation" and how the so-called "pathologized" body might be considered in new, contemporary social and cultural contexts.

Schedule

Motyer-Fancy Theatre
Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts
Mount Allison University

9:30 am

Registration and Coffee

10:30 am

Introduction and Welcome
Dr. Jane Dryden

10:40 -11:30 am

Panel

Eliza Chandler, *Imitation in the Cultural Landscape*
Kelly Fritsch, *On Making and Breaking with Disability*
Followed by discussion

12:00-1:00 pm

Lunch: Foyer of the Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts

1:00-2:00 pm

Roundtable

Amanda Cachia, Alyson Patsavas, and Joshua St. Pierre
Followed by Discussion

2:30 pm

Group excursion to the Owens Art Gallery to visit
Automatisme Ambulatoire: Hysteria, Imitation, Performance,
featuring a performance of *tributary* by Claire Cunningham.

4:30 pm

Screening of *Hysteria Theater* by My Barbarian

5:30 pm

Dinner: Foyer of the Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts

Panelists

Amanda Cachia received her PhD in Art History, Theory & Criticism at the University of California, San Diego, in Spring, 2017, and is an independent curator and critic from Sydney, Australia. She is also the first full-time Assistant Professor of Art History at Moreno Valley College in the Riverside Community College District in Southern California. Her research focuses on modern and contemporary art, curatorial studies, disability studies, performance, choreography and politics; activist art and museum access; feminist and queer theory; and phenomenology.

Eliza Chandler is an Assistant Professor in the School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University and, previous to this role, was the Artistic Director of Tangled Art + Disability, a disability arts organization in Toronto, Canada. Chandler's research brings together disability arts, disability studies, and activism, including her co-directorship of Bodies in Translation: Activist Art, Technology, and Access to Life. Chandler is also a practicing curator.

Kelly Fritsch is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada (unceded Algonquin Territory). Her research broadly engages crip, queer, and feminist theory to explore the relations of disability, health, technology, risk, and accessibility. She has published over twenty journal articles and book chapters, is co-editor of *Keywords for Radicals: The Contested Vocabulary of Late-Capitalist Struggle* (AK Press, 2016), and has co-edited special journal issues of *Somatechnics*, *Feminist Formations*, and *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*. Fritsch is currently collaborating on a disability themed children's book, while concurrently working on two books engaging disability justice and crip theory for UBC Press' *Disability Culture and Politics* series.

Alyson Patsavas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She is also the Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies. Her scholarship is situated at intersections of disability studies, feminist theory and queer theory, and focuses on the cultural politics of pain, health, and illness, as well as representations of disability in film, television, and popular culture. Her work appears in *Different Bodies: Essays on Disability in Film and Television*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Somatechnics*, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*. Patsavas is also a writer and producer on the forthcoming documentary film *Code of the Freaks*, which examines crip culture's response to Hollywood representations of disability.

Joshua St. Pierre is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta and holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Alberta. He specializes in critical disability theory at the intersection of contemporary political, feminist, and communication theory. The overarching theme of his research is a critique of fluency—those technologies that seek to make information flow unimpeded across material bodies. He has numerous academic publications on speech disabilities, the history of Speech-Language Pathology, eugenics, and feminist theory. Joshua is also a co-founder of the *Did I Stutter* project, a knowledge-translation and activist community created by and for stutterers to embrace dysfluent voices and raise awareness of speech discrimination.

Accessibility

For more detailed information, questions, or concerns, please contact Rachel Thornton at owens@mta.ca, (506)364-2224.

ASL Interpretation

American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation will be provided during all public programming related to *Automatisme Ambulatoire: Hysteria, Imitation, Performance*, including the vernissage, symposium, performances, and artist talks.

CART Services

CART services will be provided during *Unexpected Movements: A Symposium for Automatisme Ambulatoire*.

Venue Access

Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts

Level entry. Automatic doors can be opened with a push button. The Motyer-Fancy Theatre is on the first level and is wheelchair accessible.

Mount Allison University welcomes guide dogs and other service animals.

Bathrooms

There is one, single-occupancy, gender-neutral, wheelchair-accessible bathroom on the first level and two on the second level. There is a wheelchair-accessible elevator to the second and third levels.

Parking

All parking on campus is free. There are reserved accessible parking spaces in the King Street and Dunn Parking Lots, and in the roundabout beside the Owens.

Owens Art Gallery

The stairs to the Owens from the entrance nearest the University Chapel have a handrail. There is also ramp access at this entrance, however, the ramp is steep. The stairs to the Owens entrance off York Street do not have a handrail. The main floor of the Owens is wheelchair accessible. During this exhibition, our second-floor gallery is accessible with the assistance of an attendant, who can be reached at the Reception Desk.

Bathrooms

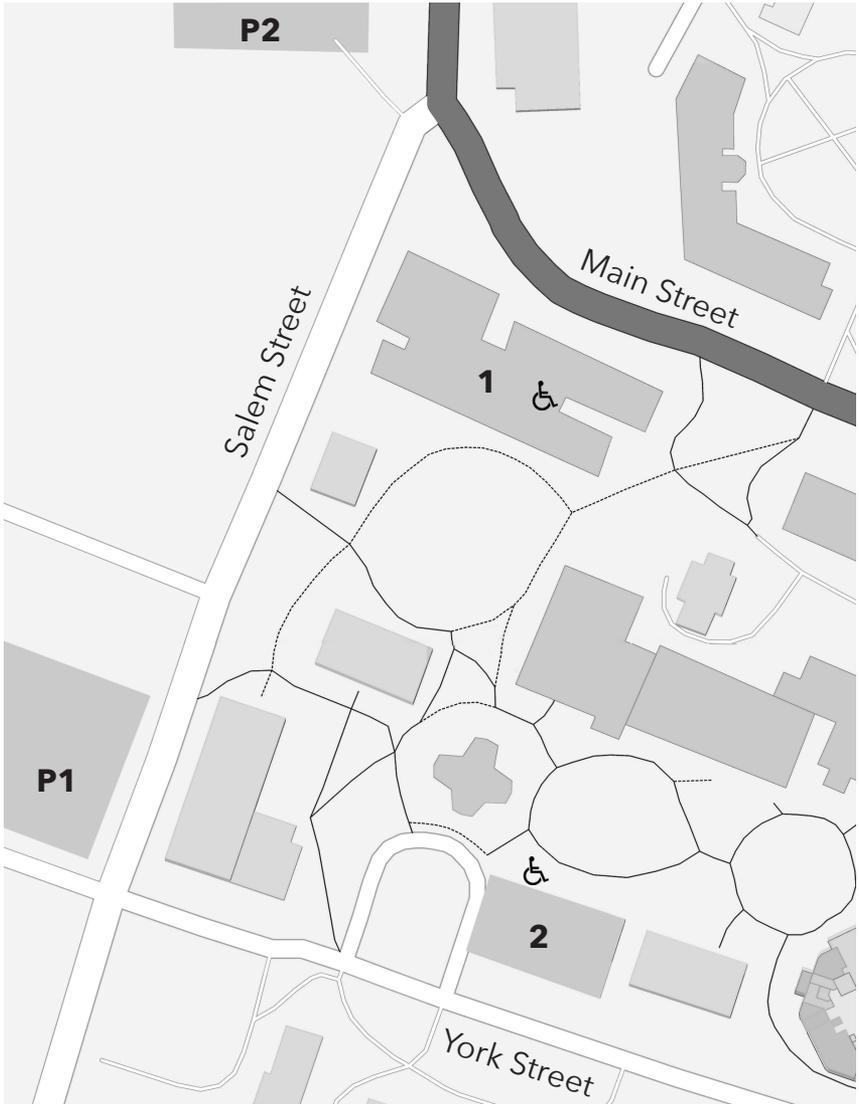
Bathrooms (women's and men's) are located in the basement of the Owens and are not wheelchair accessible. Two flights of stairs lead to the basement. During this exhibition, the basement can be accessed by wheelchair with the assistance of an attendant, who can be reached at the Reception Desk.

The closest accessible washroom (women's and men's) is located directly across from Owens in the Wallace McCain Student Centre on the main floor. There is a ramp entrance and automatic push buttons doors.

Other Services

A selection of communication services and visitor aides are available at the Reception Desk, including e-readers with customizable large-print text and transcripts for all videos in the exhibition, EnChroma colour-enhancing glasses, and ear protection to provide a sensory-friendly environment for young visitors. Audio recordings of all exhibition texts and audio descriptions recorded by the artists, are available on iPods at the Reception Desk.

Although the Owens is only partially accessible, our goal is to have a barrier-free facility within the next ten years.



- 1. Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts, 152 Main Street
- 2. Owens Art Gallery, 62 York Street
- P1 King Street Parking Lot
- P2 Dunn Parking Lot

 Level Entrance

For a full campus map visit mta.ca/map/

Thank you

Bre Darlison
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Rachel Thornton

Dining Services
Computing Services

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Canada Council Conseil des arts
for the Arts du Canada

**New
Chapter**
2017 and Beyond

New Brunswick
C A N A D A

Canada

Owens Art Gallery
Mount Allison University

Cover: Claire Cunningham, *tribitary*, 2019. Image: Yoann Trelu