W/HERE
Contesting Knowledge in the 21st Century
5TH ELIA LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

07 - 09 December 2011
Vancouver, Canada

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The steering group is pleased to present the programme for the 5th ELIA Leadership Symposium: ‘W/Here: Contesting Knowledge in the 21st Century.’ After Los Angeles, London and Hong Kong, we look forward to welcoming you to Vancouver, the most livable city in the world!

“W/Here: Contesting Knowledge in the 21st Century” brings together leaders from higher arts education institutions and universities across the globe for an important and timely discussion on the changing role of art education today. Art and design education in the 21st Century has been transformed. For institutions what is at stake is a shift in the function of learning, where the skills developed are not based on the delivery of knowledge, but on the fostering of collaboration, networking, play and stimulation. Within this context, the event will address important strategic challenges faced by cultural institutions in the midst of transition, with a particular focus on leadership, succession and new pedagogical perspectives.

W/HERE is committed to creating a generative environment of conversation, building towards outcomes that will have tangible effects for today’s higher arts education institutions and universities. Through a combination of formal presentations and round table discussions, W/Here will provide an opportunity to share strategies and models for addressing the role of the 21st Century art and design university. Social Media will be integrated into all aspects of the programme, and through a variety of digital platforms, the event will enhance participation and exchange. Graduate students will engage delegates throughout the Symposium through a variety of activities.
VANCOUVER

Vancouver is the largest metropolitan area in Western Canada, and the third largest in the country with a population of 2.6 million. Bordered by the Coast Mountain Range and the Pacific Ocean, Vancouver is known for its majestic, natural beauty and in 2011 was named as the world’s “Most Liveable City” by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Vancouver has Canada’s largest and most diversified port and is home to mining, forest, biotech, film and software industries. Its population is equally diverse with the second largest Chinatown in North America and ethnic neighbourhoods that include the Punjabi Market, Japantown, Little Italy and Greektown.

A progressive city with thriving music and art scenes, Vancouver is a popular tourist destination and home to many cultural events and conferences. In 2010, Vancouver hosted the Olympic Winter Games, and this year celebrates the 125th anniversary of its incorporation.

EMILY CARR

Emily Carr University of Art + Design offers Bachelor and Master degrees in Visual Arts, Design, and Media Arts with a careful balance of studio and academic programming. Located on Granville Island, the university provides its 1,800 degree students with a curriculum that is flexible, personal, multidisciplinary and based on students’ needs. Within an environment that is professional, practice-oriented, rooted in history and critical theory, students are encouraged to develop new and innovative ways of thinking and creating.

Beyond the degree programs, Emily Carr’s Research + Industry Office focuses on expanding research innovation, building industry alliances and customizing internships for Master’s students; while Continuing Studies provides 3,000 students annually an extensive range of courses for education, training and professional upgrading.

Emily Carr’s mission is to develop informed artists, designers, and media practitioners who can contribute their creative output and research to Canada’s economy and to its growing knowledge and cultural sectors.
THEMES

The Symposium “W/Here: Contesting Knowledge in the 21st Century?” will address the following themes.

HAVE WE EVER BEEN MODERN
The Transformation of the Learning Space

Imagining the new arts school requires a challenge to the idea that higher arts education knows itself and its own future. Demographic changes, technology, ecology and an evolving urban space have undermined a model of an arts school once considered radical and modern nearly a century ago.

What is required now are a series of informed provocations to stimulate a debate about the creation of a new type of art school building for a future in which the role of leadership in Higher Arts Education is being transformed.

DISPERSED LEARNING
Knowledge and Expertise in Higher Arts Education

Art schools are no longer the authoritarian keepers and distributors of knowledge. Their expertise is being challenged by social networks and increased mobility, both fostering informal and dispersed learning and exchange. Canons are crumbling. New sets of demands are placed on the art school to re-imagine and re-define its role and relevance.

As institutions propose answers to these contestations, what expertise and knowledge should be developed to support the necessary shifts in leadership?

OPEN SOURCE
Leading Through Access

Creative and technological changes have resulted in a new generation of leaders in art education. In looking at the future of higher arts education, how will this generation of leaders be different from those who came before them?

These sessions will focus on the principles of building deeper and more diverse leadership through access to the educational and developmental preparation of new leaders who come from different social, economic, educational or cultural backgrounds.
PROGRAMME

It is recommended that delegates arrive in Vancouver on or before Tuesday 06 December, when both registration and the integrated cultural programme begin. The Symposium programme runs from Wednesday 07 December to Friday 09 December, featuring dynamic keynote addresses; breakout sessions and mobile workshops; with entertaining and provocative cultural events and performances throughout.

Delegates will be assisted in reserving additional optional cultural and tour activities to start before the Symposium on Monday 05 December and Tuesday 06 December or following the Symposium on Saturday 10 December.

PROGRAMME IN SHORT

Wednesday 07 December
Lunch / Afternoon Session
Reception and Dinner

Thursday 08 December
Morning Sessions
Afternoon ‘Mobile Workshops’

Friday 09 December
All Day Sessions
Closing Reception / Dinner

TOURS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Delegates wishing to extend their stay in Vancouver will be offered assistance in making arrangements for activities and events in the Vancouver area. Cultural activities may include the symphony, opera, ballet or a theatrical performance; 2011/12 schedules will be announced in September. Delegates may prefer outings such as the Peak of Christmas at Grouse Mountain; a guided tour of the Vancouver Art Gallery; VanDusen Botanical Garden’s Festival of Lights; a Big Bus Tour of Vancouver; a Carol Ship Dinner Cruise; or visit the world famous Whistler Village. For detailed information see the website.

W/HERE will include keynotes delivered by senior cultural practitioners. Each of these keynotes will frame the discussions and presentations during the conference.

The event will also use a variety of digital platforms to enhance participation with the topics of discussion. Open access to the event will be provided through live-streaming, so that participants across the globe can listen and contribute to the conversations.

GRADUATE STUDENTS will conduct interviews with participants, asking them to respond to the themes of leadership, participation and the role of the art school. W/Here is committed to creating a generative environment of conversation, building towards outcomes that could have tangible effects for the art school today.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Ken Lum
Butch Morris
Claire Doherty
Douglas Coupland

Others to be confirmed; please consult the website for more information.
MOBILE WORKSHOPS

A series of ‘mobile workshops’ have been planned, with groups of 20 participants visiting a range of Vancouver’s cultural organisations, to experience how these themes manifest in the configurations of arts organisations today.

NEW APPROACHES TO APPLIED MASTERS DEGREES
The Masters of Digital Media Program is an innovative, full-time professional Master’s degree in entertainment technology and digital media. With input from academia and industry, the MDM Program’s challenging curriculum is uniquely designed to transition students from diverse backgrounds into new and expanding digital media markets and opportunities.

WEST COAST CONCEPTUAL TRADITIONS IN ART
The Vancouver Art Gallery’s collection of over 10 000 works of art represents the most comprehensive resource for visual culture in British Columbia. Founded in 1931, the collection grows by several hundred works every year and houses one of the most important photographic collections in North America.

BUILDING A DANCE COMMUNITY
The Dance Centre runs programs and projects to support the professional development of dance creators and performers; nurture new audiences; boost the profile of dance; and develop a stronger infrastructure for the art form. Key programs are an Artist-in-Residence which includes teaching and outreach activities, and DanceLab in which choreographers collaborate with professionals from other disciplines.

ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF CREATION
Progress Lab 1422, a shared creation and production facility, is home to a consortium of four independent arts and cultural organizations – Boca Del Lupo, Electric Company Theatre, NeWorld Theatre and Rumble Productions. It provides a resource sharing and community building network that promotes the development of new theatre and encourages artistic risk, excellence, and alternative models of creation.

FIRST NATIONS CULTURE AND THE DIGITAL TURN
The Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia is world-renowned for its collections, research, teaching, public programs and community connections. Acclaimed for its architecture, the Museum houses 36 000 ethnographic objects and 535 000 archaeological objects.

A CREATIVE COMMONS FOR THE CITY
W2 brings spaces to life with media arts and creative technology in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Their programming specializes in social inclusion, digital divide, and cross-cultural dialogue, and emphasizes practices such as mobile, open web, telepresence and public access.
PARTICIPATION

To ensure an optimal level of interaction, representation, focus and collegiality, participation will be limited to leaders and key decision makers. Delegates will be senior figures from a diverse but representative set of arts and design institutions throughout the world.

Collectively, the delegates will demonstrate:

- A range of professional, cultural and institutional backgrounds
- Active engagement in key issues and debates affecting higher arts education and cultural management
- A willingness to contribute to and lead debates, share experience and practices, and carry forward initiatives that emerge from the Symposium

To create an intimate and professional frame for discussion the Symposium is limited to a maximum of 100 delegates on a first come, first served basis.

LANGUAGE

The Symposium will be conducted in English.

REGISTRATION

Delegates may register online by accessing the ELIA Leadership Symposium website at elialeadershipsymposium.com

Applicants are asked to provide:

- A photograph (that will be used exclusively for the event)
- A short biography (250 words max.)
- A statement of expectations and/or recommendations for the Symposium

With an eye to oversubscription, applicants are encouraged to submit their forms as early as possible. The organisers will seek to create an overall balanced representation of delegates based on the profiles submitted.

DEADLINE

The deadline for “early-bird” applications is 10 September 2011. The deadline for online registration is 23 November 2011.

FEES

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<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-members</td>
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<tr>
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The registration fee includes access to all Symposium sessions, materials, publications, related events, three lunches, two dinners, etc.

For partners travelling with delegates, the partner fee includes dinners, receptions and the evening programme.

LOGISTICS

Rooms are booked at hotels, one within walking distance of the venue. For detailed information on hotel options please see the website.

For more information you can also contact the ELIA Conference Manager, Barbara Revelli barbara.revelli@elia-artschools.org
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE EUROPEAN LEAGUE OF INSTITUTES OF THE ARTS was founded in 1990 and is the primary independent membership organisation of major higher arts education institutions and universities representing the subject disciplines. ELIA has a membership of more than 350 arts institutions in 47 countries. Through its membership network, ELIA promotes dialogue, mobility, research and the sharing of best practice and activities between artists, teachers, administrators and leaders, all of whom together represent more than 300,000 art students. ELIA represents and promotes the importance of the arts and higher arts education and is internationally recognised as an influential body.

ELIA is supported, among others, by its members and by the European Commission with an Operating Grant for Organisations active at European level in the field of Culture.

HOST ORGANIZATION
emily carr university of art + design

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CONFERENCE ORGANISERS
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.elialeadershipsymposium.com