

The Graduate Visual Culture Association of Queen's University
Context and Meaning XVII: Complete Imperfection

We are pleased to announce the 17th annual *Context & Meaning* Graduate Student Conference, taking place at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, from **Friday, February 2nd to Saturday, February 3rd 2018**. We are seeking papers that address this year's theme, "Complete Imperfection." The conference will provide an inclusive and broadly defined forum that facilitates academic discussion while encompassing an abundant range of topics. In choosing this intentionally multi-disciplinary theme we would like to encourage discussion about imperfection, impermanence, and ephemerality within Visual Culture Studies.

Some potential themes and ideas to consider may include:

- What does 'finished' mean? When is a work finished? When does it fail?
- Collaborative practices, 'hidden' voices in scholarly practices
- Absence/Presence
- Impermanent, ever-changing, in-flux art
- Art conservation versus restoration
- Imperfect society, failed Utopias
- The unattainability of ideal human beauty
- Nature as an artistic model, ideals of femininity and masculinity
- Technology in art and its limitations
- Critiquing the canon or hegemonic narratives, alternatives to Euro-American ideals of perfection, debunking the artistic genius

We encourage applications from graduate students working in Art History, Art Conservation, Studio Art, Digital Humanities, Cultural Studies, Museum Studies, Religious Studies, Gender Studies and students from various Humanities fields whose research responds to this year's theme. This conference is open to both historical and contemporary topics. Submissions are welcome from current graduate students, as well as those who have completed their graduate studies within the last year. We seek to assemble a diverse group of scholars in order to foster interdisciplinary discussions. Presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to deliver their papers, followed by a 10-minute discussion period. A poster session on the conference theme, featuring complete and incomplete research, will also be held during the conference; please see the attached sheet if you would like more information on how to create an academic poster.

If you are interested in speaking, performing or submitting a poster at Context and Meaning XVII, please email an abstract of no more than 300 words with the title of your paper, along with a separate document that includes a 250-word bio, to gvca@queensu.ca. Please ensure that your name and the title of your paper are included in your letter of introduction and on your abstract. The deadline to submit an abstract has been extended to: **Wednesday, November 15th 2017**. Thank you to all who apply!