

LEARNING/TEACHING MATERIALS: A SKILLSHARE WORKSHOP

Teaching Hotel, Maastricht, the Netherlands
9th July – 12th July 2018

Monday 9th July 2018

13:00 – 16:00 Joeri Bruyninckx – Learning from field guides, walks in the Hotel School grounds

During this pre-introductory workshop activity you are invited to 'land' at Chateau Bethlehem, exploring the grounds and immediate surroundings using a selection of field guides to orient ourselves to the landscape and its inhabitants. As a learning technology par excellence, we will use various forms of field guide to attune ourselves, both to the ecological, geological and historical trajectories with which we temporarily align ourselves and to the ways in which these ordering devices guide our novice attention.

16:00 – 17:00 Introduction session, led by the MCS team

17:00 – 18:00 Drinks & snacks

18:00 – 20:00 Tom Igoe, Sabine Wildevuur & Selase Dorledzi in conversation

20:00 Dinner at the Hotel School

Tuesday 10th July 2018

*Please choose your first, second and third choice workshop from each session
i.e. 1-3 for morning session, and 1-3 for afternoon session*

09:00 – 13:00 Morning session

1. Kristen Haring – Napkin folding

With Kristen we will undertake a material investigation of folding, quite separate from Deleuze's philosophical investigation of folding. We will fold napkins, many, many napkins. Our conversation will address repeatability, routinized labor, embodied learning, and how to bring hands-on exercises to bear on intellectual questions.

Or

2. Rachel Harkness – Situated dwellings: site, scale and body

This site-specific workshop takes inspiration from a series of works called 'Dwellings' by U.S. artist Charles Simonds. Ephemeral and modest, in gutters, on windowsills, in the cracks and crevices of walls of brick and stone, Simonds' Dwellings are built from clay for an imaginary and migratory civilisation of 'Little People'. Here, participants are invited to site and construct their own miniature dwellings, their construction serving as a springboard for our own creative explorations of the materials (both literal and metaphorical) that we humans build with and the traces we leave in our wake.

Or

3. Tom Igoe – Making and moving light

Tom will be bringing Arduino single-board microcontrollers and LED modules in order to build an electronic candle. Participants will start by sitting in candlelight, looking closely at the color and movement of the flame, the reflection of the flame on the candle holder, the shadows. Starting with that as a goal, we will then talk about how electronics reproduce color, how colorspace work, and how to control the LEDs themselves, ultimately building our own electronic candles from simple, open-source hardware.

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 18:00 Afternoon session

1. Sven Dupré, Thijs Hagendijk and Jenny Boulboulé – Imaginative ethnographies of making (in history)

In this workshop, Sven, Thijs and Jenny will be exploring imaginative ethnography as a way to unpack the silent dimensions that constitute writing on historical practices of making. Looking initially at recipes, participants will be asked to read between the lines and to look for the spatial, temporal, material and social dimensions that come together in making the recipes work. Through the acts of drawing and/or painting the participants imagine the silent dimensions embedded in the recipes.

Or

2. Erik Reitveld and Ludger van Dijk – Exploring the skill of workshopping

In this workshop Erik and Ludger will explore the skill of workshopping with participants. Participants are invited to reflect on the activities leading up to our workshop (e.g. their travels, their meals, their participation in workshops the day before, etc.). During the workshop they then draw on the paper and participant's insights to together visualize the process of workshopping – including the process of visualizing itself. They specifically want to focus on how to think of a participant's activities changing the flows of materiality and how material flows change the activities that the participants engage in. In visualizing such a process in different ways, they are also interested in seeing what tensions emerge in the process, such as those between learning and doing, abstractions and concretizations, philosophy and visualizations.

Or

3. Selase Dorledzi – Hands-on high-school science

Drawing on experience of teaching high-school science in Ghana, Selase will introduce participants to scientific experimentation and discovery using materials readily available in the Ghanaian context. We will consider how the material environment in contemporary Ghana has shaped these lessons and how more tactile approaches to education shape the development of scientific knowledge.

20:00 Dinner at the Hotel School

Wednesday 11th July 2018

09:00 – 09:30 Ulrike Scholtes – Body awareness, part I

Wednesday will be punctuated by short workshops led by Ulrike and Kate. Drawing on research into practices which seek to influence how bodies learn to feel – such as physical therapy, somatic coaching, yoga and performance arts – Ulrike will share skills of feeling bodies. Using words and drawings we will practice a number of feeling techniques and explore how specific ways of thinking foster specific ways of feeling. We will then consider how feeling techniques could be employed as tools to think and help us (as researchers, thinkers, academics) think, write and work.

09:30 – 10:00 Kate Smith – Attending to and articulating the material world, part I

Given the ways in which ‘objects’ are produced in and through human culture, attending to them as distinct physical entities can prove difficult. It is often only when objects break or are lost that we are called upon to acknowledge their material form in greater detail, and to articulate that form to others. In order to question when, why and how we attend to the material world, and how we articulate the outcomes of such encounters to others, Kate will lead us through a series of exercises in which we each attend to a particular object and, though it, consider how we attend (or struggle to attend) to the material world at large.

10:00 – 13:00 Free time for writing, walking & collaborating

10:00 – 13:00 Paul Craddock – The research film clinic

Paul’s drop-in session will provide an opportunity to talk through individual projects, and devise a strategy for using film to enrich your research, build your profile, engage and develop relationships with audiences, and attract funding.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 Ulrike Scholtes – Body awareness, part II

14:30 – 15:00 Kate Smith – Attending to and articulating the material world, part II

15:15 – 16:45 Afternoon discussion

18:00 – 20:00 ‘Training the Senses’ a public lecture at Marres, Centre for Contemporary Culture. Hosted by Valentijn Byvanck, with Ulrike Scholtes, Joeri Bruyninckx and Kristen Haring

Translation of experience into language is one of the most formidable challenges of learning. By focusing on how sensory vocabularies are shared, and how sensory experience is recorded, this session on fieldnotes targets some of these large gaps in our understanding about learning. How do we record observations, share them with others and acquire a skill? This session with the public explores techniques of recording and coding the sensory drawing from many of the activities we will have explored so far in the workshop.

20:00 Dinner at Marres

Thursday 12th July 2018

09:00 – 11:00 Walking seminar

11:00 – 13:00 Group discussion

13:00 Lunch