

Exquisite Corpse



The workshop *Exquisite Corpse* offers participants an opportunity to invent a unique, personal, and playful ritual through a gesture and an object. A closed-circuit video setup installed in our Education room allows participants to carry out a filmed performance. On one side of the room, there is a camera; in front of it, the space is divided into six zones. On the ceiling, a projector broadcasts what is captured in real time. This broadcast, projected onto a wall above the camera, creates a kind of *continuous mirror* similar to the display used by Joan Jonas in much of her work. Participants are then invited to collectively inhabit these six zones by manipulating chosen objects: white bed sheets, fur coats, mirrors, a microphone... These objects are meant to be reinterpreted; they become means of expression, channels through which we can exert our capacity for interpretation. Thus, this performance demonstrates that objects and images are not always, or only, what we believe them to be.

Exquisite Corpse is a poetic experience, an attempt to reinterpret the visible world of objects and the self. The personal is entwined with the collective as these gestures are improvised collaboratively. Played out in parallel with each other in the space, actions are interwoven, influencing one another and creating effects of interference, depth, and proximity. How does a gesture transform the meaning of an object or another gesture? How do bodies inscribe themselves within the frame of the camera? How does duration transform our interpretation of actions and images? *Exquisite Corpse* becomes a celebration, a spontaneous ceremony where everyone finds their place.

DHC/ART workshops are designed with local artists. *Exquisite Corpse* is the result of a collaboration between DHC/ART Education and artist Olivia Boudreau.

Olivia Boudreau's practice spans film, video, performance, and installation. Her work has been exhibited at Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Galerie de l'UQAM, Le Fresnoy in France, The Rooms in St John's, and more recently at the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver. Boudreau's work has been the subject of a major solo exhibition surveying ten years of production (*Oscillation of the visible*, Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Montreal, 2014). Boudreau was longlisted for the Sobey Art Award in 2012, 2014, and most recently, in 2016. She was the recipient of the Prix Pierre-Ayot from the Ville de Montréal in 2011.



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