COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on public art, activism and other interventions in public space. We will examine the ways in which public art implicates viewers in a politics of accountability through its sensory, material and affective impact. How do public art’s forms, materiality and modes of address act as strategies of sensory interpellation? We will draw upon theoretical work that assert the fundamentally political nature of aesthetics in order to question the roles that alienation and enchantment (among other affective registers) play in the sensory experience of public work. Areas of specific focus will include sound art, forms of gathering / discursive space, and examining how public space and normative histories of place are interrogated from Indigenous, Black, queer, and feminist perspectives.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available during the first class. This course will be a seminar, and may include a fieldtrip to Montreal or Toronto. Course requirements will include written assignments and the facilitation of the readings.