

Art Museum
University of Toronto
—
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery
University of Toronto Art Centre

7 Hart House Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H3
artmuseum.utoronto.ca

Art Museum

For Immediate Release: January 12, 2018 – Please include in
your announcements and listings

Night of Ideas:

To Sleep or Not To Sleep
Toronto To Host The Largest Canadian Presentation
Of This Global Event
Thursday, January 25, 2018 7pm to 7am

The line-up is complete for **Night of Ideas: To Sleep or Not to Sleep** at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto. **Night of Ideas** is a French-initiated, global, all-night event, taking place on Thursday, January 25, 2018 in various cities around the world. With over twenty speakers and performers uniquely focused on the night's biggest question – to sleep or not to sleep - Toronto will hold one of the largest presentation of the international **Night of Ideas**.

From 7pm to 7am, the organizers, the **Art Museum at the University of Toronto**, the **Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Canada** and **Hart House** encourage attendees to come in pajamas or other nightwear for an evening that will slide into gear with *Century of the Bed*, the 21st Annual Janet E. Hutchison lecture by internationally renowned architectural historian **Beatriz Colomina**. **Night of Ideas** continues with three moderated conversations with international artists, writers, philosophers, historians, neuroscientists and other restless

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minds on such wide-ranging subjects as the neuroscience of sleep, the meaning of downtime, the health impact of sleeplessness, the cultural importance of dreaming, and the architecture and politics of sleep. A full list of speakers is listed below.

Night of Ideas will also include **Max Richter's** eight-hour lullaby *Sleep* on CIUT FM at 10:30pm, a midnight swim in the beautiful Hart House pool for those not ready to sleep, **Jon Sasaki's** exhaustion dance performance *Rest*, and **Andy Warhol's** five hour and 21-minute film *Sleep*.

From 7pm to midnight attendees are also invited to tour the **Art Museum's** major international exhibition *Figures of Sleep*, which considers the cultural anxieties manifest in the popular and critical imagination around the collapsing biological function of sleep under economic, social and technological transformation.

The organizers of **Night of Ideas** offer conversation, food and drink, performances, a roaring fireplace, music, and a pool (including a towel and locker service). Guests are encouraged to wear their swimsuits under their PJs, explore, and to bring canned food for a Covenant House food drive.

Launched in London and Berlin in 2012 and 2014, the **Night of Ideas** is a concept coined by the Institut français and the cultural services of the French Embassies. The 2017 edition was its first simultaneous edition, presented in places of culture and knowledge internationally, attracting more than 180,000

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participants and 7 million followers. In 2018 the Canadian cities, Toronto, Ottawa Montreal and Vancouver will join this global initiative.

Supported by the Institut français; University of Toronto Science & Engineering Engagement; TD Insurance; Media Sponsors: NOW Magazine and CIUT FM.

**Night of Ideas
To Sleep or Not to Sleep**

January 25, 2018, 7 pm to 7 am

Admission: FREE

<http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/program/night-of-ideas/>
<https://www.lanuitdesidees.com/en/>

Presented in conjunction with the Art Museum exhibition,
Figures of Sleep

Both sites of the Art Museum at the University of Toronto
Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto
University of Toronto Art Centre, 15 King's College Circle

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[#nightofideas](https://twitter.com/nightofideas) [#lanuitdesidees](https://twitter.com/lanuitdesidees)

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Event Details

7:00pm

- Introductions with French Ambassador Kareen Rispal, Warden of Hart House John Monahan, and Director Barbara Fischer (Great Hall)
- Dr. Beatriz Colomina (Architectural History, Princeton University) - Keynote (Great Hall)
- Cash bar and food available in Great Hall
- Get Crafty: Sleep mask workshop (Reading Room)

8:00pm

- Pajama Pageant
- Scaramella presents a musical performance with the Hart House viols in the Gallery Grill

8:30-11:00pm: To dream or not to dream

(Reading Room)

A conversation about dreams, their role in history and in art, in solitary self-reflection and for a world to change

- Ian MacRae (English, Wilfred Laurier University)
- Janine Rivière (Early Modern History, University of Toronto)
- Elizabeth Legge (Art History, University of Toronto)
- Ian Balfour (English, York University)
- Jill Carter (Drama and Indigenous Studies, University of Toronto)
- A reading with Chloé Delaume (Author and performer)

- Tom McDonough (Comparative Literature, Binghamton University)
- Rebecca Comay (Philosophy and Comparative Literature, University of Toronto)
- Sharon Sliwinski (Information & Media Studies, University of Western Ontario)
- James Carpenter (Healer, Anishnawbe Health Toronto)

8:30-10:00pm: To think or not to think

(Great Hall, Fire place)

The panelists discuss sleep from the perspectives of neuroscience and philosophy (what is sleep; what happens to us when we sleep; why do we sleep)

- Richard Horner (Medicine and Physiology, University of Toronto)
- Christelle Peyron (Neuroscience, Centre de Research en Neurosciences de Lyon)
- Adrian Owen (Neuroscience, University of Western Ontario)
- John Ricco (Art History and Comparative Literature, University of Toronto)
- Dalibor Frioux (Philosopher and writer)
- Kenton Kroker (Science & Technology Studies, York University)
- Jean-Luc Nancy (Philosophy, European Graduate School)

10:15-Midnight: To sleep or not to sleep

(Great Hall, Circle)

A discussion of defying sleep and sleep deprivation, of conflict and neighbourhood in a 24/7 world (labor, protest, music, darkness and light, health)

- Michael Thompson (City Councillor, Toronto/Scarborough)
- Dalton Higgins (Publicist, author and festival presenter)
- Bryan Palmer (Canadian Studies, Trent University)
- Sarah Sharma (McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology, University of Toronto)
- Syrus Marcus Ware (Artist and Activist) Mike Tanner (Economic Development & Culture Division, City of Toronto)
- Vikas Kohli (Music producer, FatLabs Recording Studio)
- Samuel Challéat (Geography, French National Research Centre CNRS)

10:30pm

- Max Richter “Sleep” an audio presentation of an 8-hour lullaby, 8 hours 24 mins (MAP Room, and broadcast on CIUT 89.5FM)

11:30pm

- Jon Sasaki “A Rest”, performance approx. 10 mins (Lower Gym)

11:45pm

- Night Swim, limited admission and bring your swimsuit and lock, towels provided (Hart House Pool)

12:00am

- Andy Warhol, “Sleep” 16mm screening, 5 hours 22 mins (East Common Room)
- Galleries close
- Music by DJ L’Oqenz and Bar continue (Great Hall)

1:00am

- Bar closes in the Great Hall

6:30am

- Hart House Café at the Gallery Grill open for espresso and fresh pastry

Visit for program updates:

<http://artmuseum.utoronto.ca/program/night-of-ideas/>

About the speakers and performers:

Dr. Ian Balfour’s teaching interests include Romantic poetry and prose, contemporary theory and criticism, and 18th-century poetry and philosophy. He is the author of *Northrop Frye* (1988), *The Rhetoric of Romantic Prophecy* (2002), and essays on the Romantics (Wordsworth, Blake, Godwin, Inchbald), Walter Benjamin, Paul de Man, and on numerous topics in popular culture. He is currently a Professor in the Department of English at York University.

James Carpenter is from Alderville First Nation. James is a Traditional Healer at Anishnawbe Health Toronto and works with the pipe, spirits, and medicine ceremonies. Anishnawbe Health Toronto's mission is to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal population in spirit, mind, emotion and body by providing Traditional Healing within a multi-disciplinary health care model.

Dr. Jill Carter's research and praxis base themselves in the mechanics of story creation, the processes of delivery, and the mechanics of affect. Recent research has concentrated upon Indigenous Knowledge Systems & contemporary performance, the poetics of decolonization, Indigenous interventions on the "canon", pedagogy as ceremonial performance: the decolonization of the lecture hall, (re)claiming space, and theatre and education. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies and Indigenous Studies at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Samuel Challéat is a French geographer affiliated with the French National Research Institution CNRS. His research has focused on the emerging problem of light pollution and his work (*Save the Night: Light Print, Urbanism, and Land Management*) explores the concepts of light print and night landscapes. He also contributes to various committees that work toward the preservation of night-time environment, including the research group RENOIR (Night and Lands Environmental Resources).

An internationally renowned architectural historian and theorist, **Dr. Beatriz Colomina** has written extensively on the intersections of sexuality, media and architecture. Her essay,

The Century of the Bed, conceived the theme for the 2014 annual “curated by_vienna” series where international curators, artists, and contemporary galleries re-examined the bed as an architectural space. She is currently a Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in History and Theory of Architecture at Princeton University.

Dr. Rebecca Comay has published numerous books and articles, particularly on Hegel and 19th century German philosophy, trauma and memory, contemporary French philosophy, psychoanalytic theory, and Proust. Recently, Stanford University Press published her book *Mourning Sickness: Hegel and the French Revolution*. Her research also focuses on Marx and Marxism, Benjamin and Adorno, and contemporary art and architecture. She currently a Professor in the departments of Philosophy and Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto.

Both a writer and a performer, **Chloé Delaume** is the author of more than 30 works. Some of the main tropes she explores include experimental autofiction, feminist utopias, and literary activism. *Certainement pas* will be her first novel to appear in English and will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in the Fall of 2018, and translated by Professor Dawn Cornelio (Guelph University).

Dalibor Frioux is a French philosopher, writer, and consultant. His novel *Brut* (2011) imagines a future where a barrel of oil costs \$300. He frequently collaborated with various public institutions in France, such as the Parliament and the Regional Council of Ile-de-France, and has written for publications such

as *Libération*. Most recently, he was the editor of *Eloge du sommeil à l'usage de ceux qui l'ont perdu* (*The Case for Sleeping*). Canada's foremost expert on hip hop culture, **Dalton Higgins** is a leading Toronto-based publicist who has pioneered work in the area of festival and concert production. He is the author of six books, including the best-selling *Far From Over: The Music and Life of Drake* (2012). An award-winning journalist, Higgins is often sought after by major news media including CBC, MTV Canada, VICE, and NPR.

Dr. Richard Horner studies how sleep modifies brain activities and vital autonomic functions such as breathing. He is the author of over a hundred research papers in peer-reviewed journals, chapters in textbooks, and a book for the general public – *The Universal Pastime: Sleep and Rest Explained* (2014). He is currently a Professor of Medicine and Physiology at the University of Toronto and holds the Canada Research Chair in Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology.

Vikas Kohli is an award-winning composer, music producer, and founder of FatLabs Recording Studio. Kohli is well versed in music across a variety of genres from punk, jazz, and hip-hop, to country, metal, and Bollywood pop. He is internationally renowned for his extensive repertoire, his expertise with song arrangements, A-list session musicians, and his one-on-one artist development.

Dr. Kenton Kroker studies the different ways that health, biomedical expertise, self-knowledge, and governance have interacted since the 19th century. His first book, *The Sleep of Others* (2007), explains how experimental routines and technologies turned sleep from an insignificant bit of

nothingness to the important and contentious question we know it as today. He is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of Science and Technology Studies at York University. **DJ L'Oqenz**, aka the Niteowl, is a music DJ, producer, and sound designer. A true lover of music, she is not confined to one genre – spinning everything from Hip Hop to Jazz. She has toured across Canada, the United States and the UK, and has shared the stage with some of the most respected artists in the business including Zaki Ibrahim, Motion, Jean Grae, Bahamadia, K'naan, M1 (Dead Prez), Prince Paul, Maseo (De La Soul), and Kool Herc.

Dr. Elizabeth Legge has written on Dada, Surrealism, and contemporary Canadian and British art, in a number of journals including *Art History*, *Word and Image*, and *Representations*. Her interests include the ways that artists have worked with and against language, the relationship of language and image, and the instrumental uses of religious, racial, and national stereotypes and rhetorics in art. She is currently an Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Toronto.

An interdisciplinary scholar, **Dr. Ian J. MacRae** is interested in the 'borderlands' of language as sites of collision, contact, and cultural exchange through which he reads the tensions, and the constructions, of race, class, gender, ethnicity, and indigeneity across a range of media and modes. It is through this lens that he is currently preparing "Arctic Dreams and Nightmares: The Monstrous Vision of Alootook Ipellie" for publication. He is currently an Associate Professor of English at Wilfred Laurier University.

Dr. Tom McDonough is the editor of *Boredom* (2016), an anthology that documents major themes and ideas in contemporary art. His work addresses the intersections of art and political struggle in the postwar era, with a special emphasis on France. He is currently an Associate Professor and Chair Associated Faculty in the Comparative Literature Department at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Dr. Jean-Luc Nancy is the author of more than twenty books and hundreds of contributions to volumes, catalogues, and journals. Influenced by Jacques Derrida, Georges Bataille, and Martin Heidegger, he became famous with *La communauté désoeuvrée* (*The Inoperative Community*, 1991). One of the main themes in his work is the question of our being together in contemporary society. In *Être singulier pluriel* (*Being Singular Plural*, 2000), Nancy deals with the question how we can still speak of a 'we' or of a plurality, without transforming this 'we' into a substantial and exclusive identity. He is currently the Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel Chair and Professor of Philosophy at The European Graduate School.

Dr. Adrian M. Owen has spent the last 20 years pioneering breakthroughs in cognitive neuroscience. His labs at The University of Western Ontario focus on “disorders of consciousness”, such as brain injury and neurodegenerative diseases, along with the physiological mechanisms of sleep. He currently holds the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and Imaging.

Editor of *Labour/Le Travail*, **Dr. Bryan D. Palmer** is interested in the Canadian radical tradition, the study of the working class

and social movements of opposition, and the relation of history and theory. His book (*Culture of Darkness: Night Travels in the Histories of Transgression*, 2000) uses the night as a metaphor and unifying theme to examine how oppositional cultures and movements were fueled and shaped by the rise and transformation of capitalism. He is currently a Professor of Canadian Studies at Trent University.

Dr. Christelle Peyron is a leading expert in the study of narcolepsy at the Neuroscience Research Center of Lyon in France. She is currently studying the mechanisms and pathways responsible for our sleep-wake cycles with particular interest given to narcoleptic subjects who experience a sleep disorder known as cataplexy – where muscle spasms that usually occur during REM actually happen during awake states.

Dr. John Paul Ricco's research is at the intersection of contemporary art and architecture, queer theory, and contemporary continental philosophy. Based upon his extensive and ongoing study of the work of Jean-Luc Nancy, his recently published second monograph, *The Decision Between Us: art and ethics in the time of scenes* (2014), argues that while scenes of intimacy are spaces of sharing, they are also spaces of separation. He is currently a Professor of Contemporary Art, Critical Theory, Curatorial Studies, and Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Janine Rivière explores the variety of ways in which early modern people understood and interpreted dreams, from medical explanations to political, religious, or supernatural associations. Her most recent publication, *Dreams in Early Modern England: Visions of the Night* (2003), explores the dream

in relation to divination, religious visions, nightmares and sleep disorders. She currently teaches in the International Foundation Program at New College at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Sarah Sharma's monograph (*In the Meantime: Temporality and Cultural Politics*, 2014) focuses on how people's different relationships to labour configure their experiences of time. Analysing the interconnected forms of labor and technology associated with occupations that do not adhere to the 9-5 work schedule, she argues that personal understanding of time often functions as a form of biopolitical social control necessary to global capitalism. She is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Sharon Sliwinski's research ranges across a number of topics from the intersection of politics and aesthetics to more theoretical investigations in psychoanalysis and the terrain of the imaginary. She is currently working on a project about the politics of dream-life and has a forthcoming book called *Dream Matters: Six Exercises in Political Thought*. She is currently an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director in the Faculty of Information & Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario.

As a former Director of Operations for the North by Northeast (NXNE), **Mike Tanner** played a key role in elevating NXNE to its status as one of Toronto's marquee events. His experience as a musician includes many years of performing, touring, and recording. He is also the author of three internationally published books. Since 2014, Mike works as the Music Sector

Development Officer for the Economic Development & Culture Division at the City of Toronto.

Councillor **Michael Thompson** is Chair of Toronto's Economic Development Committee, Chair of Invest Toronto, a member of the Executive Committee and the Employee and Labour Relations Committee, a board member of Build Toronto, and a City Councillor representing Ward 37 (Scarborough Centre). Prior to entering politics, He earned his business credentials as an entrepreneur in the business and financial services sector. He is the recipient of the African Achievement Award for Excellence in Politics, the York University International Award, the Jain Society of Toronto Community Award, and the Bob Marley Award.

Syrus Marcus Ware is a Vanier Scholar, a visual artist, community activist, researcher, youth-advocate, and educator. Formally the Coordinator of the Art Gallery of Ontario Youth Programs for over a decade, he is currently a facilitator/designer for the Cultural Leaders Labs (Toronto Arts Council & The Banff Centre). He was the inaugural artist-in-residence for Daniels Spectrum (2016/2017) and is also a core-member of Black Lives Matter Toronto.

About *Figures of Sleep*

The exhibition, curated by Sarah Robayo Sheridan, will include visual art works such as: a large-scale, slide-dissolve installation by Swiss artists **Peter Fischli** and **David Weiss**, that immerses the viewer in a barrage of mind-wandering questions from a stress-induced sleeplessness; a series of portraits from *Les*

Dormeurs by French artist **Sophie Calle**, who asked people to give her a glimpse of their sleep by sleeping in her bed for eight hours while being photographed; a haunting, miniaturized sculpture of an old woman curled up in her bed by Australian artist **Ron Mueck**; documentation from American artist **Chris Burden**'s 22-day long stay in bed, performed for the duration of his exhibition at the Market Street program in San Francisco in 1972; and *Burrow* by Canadian artist **Liz Magor**, a series of cast tree trunks that house sleeping bags, unsettling the association of urban homelessness and outdoor refuge.

Figures of Sleep will feature Toronto artist **Jon Sasaki**'s remarkable endurance dance work *A Rest*. Performed by **James Phillips**, *A Rest* takes its cue from depression-era dance marathons in which two people sustained a pose by leaning on each other for physical support. When these poses are performed solo, the viewer sees the dancer strain in an unsustainable position without relief, ultimately causing collapse.

About the Art Museum at the University of Toronto

The Art Museum is comprised of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (Hart House) and the University of Toronto Art Centre (University College). Located just a few steps apart, the two galleries were federated in 2014 and began operating under a new visual identity as the Art Museum at the University of Toronto, one of the largest gallery spaces for visual art exhibitions and programming in Toronto. Building on the two galleries' distinguished histories, the Art Museum originates

and organizes an intensive year-round program of exhibitions and events that foster — at a local, regional, and international level — innovative research, interdisciplinary scholarship, and knowledge of art and its histories befitting Canada’s leading university and the country’s largest city.

About the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Canada:

The Cultural Service of the Embassy of France in Canada works through the five Consulates to implement a cultural policy that focuses on four principal areas: cooperation, innovation, sustainable growth, and French-language initiatives. Canada and France develop a significant partnership in cultural and digital fields.

About Hart House

Hart House has been the centre for education outside the classroom at the University of Toronto since 1919. Open to students and the community 365 days a year, Hart House invites exploration in the arts and culture, recreation and wellness and debate and dialogue. It is a place to develop skills, interests and networks that can last a lifetime. The facilities include spaces for study, socialization and celebration including a vintage theatre, the internationally renowned Art Museum, a fully equipped gym, a satellite farm location, and Gallery Grill gourmet restaurant.

About the Institut français:

The Institut français is in charge of implementing France’s cultural action abroad. Under the supervision of both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, its role is

to act as the conduit for a new, more ambitious “diplomacy of influence”, within the framework of French governmental policies and priorities.