



Glorious, SPILL Festival, 2011, image by Lucy Cash

Within the context of Canadian art, deep listening as a decolonial practice has been a crucial part of engaging Indigenous thinking and other ways of knowing. Please join us for the inaugural event of the 2018-2019 **EAHR | Media** program featuring:

## Rajni Shah

Horizon Postdoctoral Fellow, Acts of Listening Lab  
(Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling – Dept of Theatre)

### *Listening Gathering: how we come together*

**Thursday September 27th 6:30-8:00pm**  
**Jarislowsky Institute EV 3.711**

“A listening atmosphere is not improvised. It is, on the contrary, the product of a strenuous process of conception, growth and devoted attention.” – Gemma Corradi Fiumara, *The Other Side of Language: a philosophy of listening*

Fiumara asks what the world would be like if philosophy embraced listening as wholeheartedly as it does speaking. In this talk, Rajni Shah will explore what performance might have to offer in creating this possibility – not as a topic for discussion or exploration, but by considering the acts of gathering and listening as the central ‘work’ in the idea of an ‘artwork’.

*We’ll begin by arriving, and paying attention to where we are.  
We’ll let go of the ideas we were holding on to before the talk began.  
We’ll acknowledge the land on which we gather.  
And then, we’ll begin (again).*

This talk will be followed by a ‘no questions’ session, during which we will collectively experience a reorientation of the usual Q&A format.

Everyone is welcome.

**Rajni Shah** is a British/Indian artist whose work leans gently but clearly across disciplines, countries, and thought structures, ranging from intimate encounters with passers-by in public space to large-scale performances in theatres and galleries. Key projects – always created alongside and in collaboration with others – include *hold each as we fall* (1999), *The Awkward Position* (2003-4), *Mr Quiver* (2005-8), *small gifts* (2006-8), *Dinner with America* (2007-9), *Glorious* (2010-12), *Experiments in Listening* (2014-15), *Lying Fallow* (2014-15), *Song* (2016), and *Feminist Killjoys Reading Group* (2016-ongoing). Rajni was an Artsadmin Associate Artist (2009-2013), an Honorary Research Fellow at The Centre for Contemporary Theatre, Birkbeck College, University of London (2012-2016), and is currently a Horizon Postdoctoral Fellow at Concordia University, affiliated with the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling - Dept. of Theatre. In 2019, Rajni’s first monograph, entitled ‘We are capable of so much more: Experiments in Listening’, will be published as a book and a series of zines within Palgrave’s Performance Philosophy series. For an archive of performance works, please visit: [www.rajnishah.com](http://www.rajnishah.com)

**EAHR | Media** (Ethnocultural Art Histories Research in Media) is a newly formed Working Group at CISSC (Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture) made up of Concordia faculty members and graduate students working at the intersections of ethnocultural art research, media, and digital art history. This event is co-sponsored by CISSC, the Concordia University Research Chair in Ethnocultural Art Histories, and the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art.