People of European descent and their descendants who have established themselves outside their native land are the settler artists of their new homeland. Current perspectives on art history, such as postcolonial theory, do not account for the specific patterns of colonization and nation building that distinguish settler nations. How then to account for the complexity of the dual cultural heritage of these societies? An emerging approach, “settler art history” tries to fill this gap. This conversation is an introduction to the theoretical and methodological issues that are at stake. How should the settler’s perspective be integrated to the history of art? What theoretical constructs should be deployed? Methodologically, ethically, how can this study be conducted in art history? Are these national or global questions?

The speakers are Damian Skinner, Newton International Fellow at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, and Anne Whitelaw, Concordia University Department of Art History associate professor. Tammer El-Sheikh will moderate the session.

Conversations are free and open to the public.

The Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art has launched a series of conversations entitled Afternoons at the Institute.

Bringing established and emerging scholars together, the series focuses on pressing questions and current issues in the research and writing of art histories.

Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

This inaugural event, Settler Art History in a Postcolonial Context, explores a new branch of postcolonial studies: settler art history.

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