

Spring Cleaning: Rediscovering and Revitalizing the Artifact

Date : January 17, 2007

University of Calgary Free Exchange Graduate Conference
16-18 March 2007

For more information, please visit Free Exchange at www.english.ucalgary.ca

"The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home.. Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing." Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

The study of the artifact should not remain inextricably linked to history.

We are asking potential participants to search in familiar as well as new locations for objects previously lost or forgotten. Search in Jacques Derrida's archive or Robert Kroetsch's *Canada*. Items may be found between the layers of Michel Foucault's archaeology or Peggy Phelan's cultural memory. We can't remember where or how we left them; they could be anywhere, doing anything. We only ask that you re-envision these relics and breathe new life into them.

Suggested topics for panels or papers include, but are not limited to, the following:

- artifact as metaphor/metonym
- the rhetoric of artifact
- embodying the artifact
- the absence of the artifact
- object(ing) to the artifact
- the digital artifact
- the manuscript or text as artifact
- the history or theory of artifact/the artifact as history or theory
- the (en)graven artifact
- variations on "artifact" (art(i)fact; art/fact; the art of fact)

Deadline for general submissions: 2 February 2007

Please submit 500 word proposals (for papers approx. 15 minutes in length) to conference organizers Robyn Read or Owen Percy. Attachments should be in Rich Text or Word format only, and please include your name, professional affiliation, and contact information in the body of your email:

Owen Percy

PhD Student

Department of English

University of Calgary

odfpercy@ucalgary.ca

Material World

A Global Hub for Thinking About Things

<http://www.materialworldblog.com>

Robyn Read

PhD Student

Department of English

University of Calgary

rjread@ucalgary.ca