

31 May 2024 – 13:30-15:30

## ***The Materiality of Art through the Senses: Perceptions, Experiences, Knowledge***



Olafur Eliasson, *Your Rainbow Panorama*, 2011, Aarhus, ARoS Kunstmuseum © Colin / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 4.0

Coordinated by Marta Battisti and Érika Wicky (Université Grenoble Alpes - LARHRA)  
Joint session of the **ArtIS** and **Savoirs** LARHRA's research axis  
Lyon, salle Bollier (MSH) and online

### **Abstract**

This final session of the *ArtIS* axis' seminar « L'art et la matière » (2023/2024), held jointly with the *Savoirs* axis, explores the issue of the materiality of artworks from the perspective of the senses. Over the last two decades, the increasing influence of *material culture studies* in art history has paralleled a growing interest in the sensitive dimension of artworks, inspired by *sensory history*, which is an emanation of the *material turn* in art history. These research perspectives have identified several common points, the foremost being a shared desire to rethink art history by highlighting the material and multisensory dimensions of the contexts in which artworks are created and received. Evidence of this fruitful encounter is found in several recent studies<sup>1</sup> suggesting that materiality and sensibility should be considered together in the analysis of artistic objects. These studies point to the concept of experience as a possible category that articulates these two notions, inviting us to extend the study of sensibility to other sensory modalities such as proprioception and thermoception, as well as to a vast range of emotions. Building on these previous works, the session aims to reflect, in a cross-disciplinary and cross-period manner, on how matter, perception, and knowledge interact throughout the life of a work of art.

<sup>1</sup> See, for instance, F. Griffiths and K. Starkey (ed.), *Sensory Reflections: Traces of Experience in Medieval Artifacts*, Berlin-Boston, De Gruyter, 2019; M. Battisti, V. Von Hoffmann, and E. Wicky (ed.), *Picturing the Senses: Perceiving, Knowing, and Representing Sensory Experiences from the Middle Ages to the Present Day*, *Arts et Savoirs*, 20, 2023; K. van Orden and L. Pon (ed.), *Im/Materiality in Renaissance Arts*, *Arts*, 13, 39, 2024.

## **Speakers**

**Zuleika Murat**, Associate professor in Medieval Art History (Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali, Università di Padova)

*“Warmth is the Grace of the Holy Spirit”: Handwarmers in Medieval Religious Practices*

**Charlotte Ribeyrol**, Professor in 19<sup>th</sup> century British Literature (Sorbonne Université, VALE) and *Honorary Curator* of the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford)

*Staging the Victorian Colour Sense: A Presentation of the Exhibition “Colour Revolution: Victorian Art, Fashion and Design” (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford)*

## **Practical information**

The session will be held in English and French.

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14 avenue Berthelot – 69363 Lyon cedex 07

**Link Zoom:** <https://univ-grenoble-alpes-fr.zoom.us/j/93534997765?pwd=SHhJb3h6K3JFZWkZsaUgxR1ZrQT09>