Seeking submissions for a juried art exhibition held in conjunction with the fortieth annual meeting of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle, an interdisciplinary conference on the theme “The Twenty-first Century Body: Thinking Merleau-Ponty In and Out of Time,” taking place from October 1-3, 2015.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty is a French philosopher who lived from 1908-1961. His theories begin in a desire to do justice to lived, embodied experience in all its ambiguity; our bodies are both objects for others and the locus of our own subjective perceptions, residues of past habits and creative orientations toward the future, radically individual and inescapably intertwined with other bodies and the movement of politics and history. Merleau-Ponty’s oeuvre is interdisciplinary in nature, maintaining that there are multiple ways to approach the same phenomenon and engaging debates across a diversity of fields including philosophy, psychology, biology, politics, literature, and aesthetics. His landmark essays “Cézanne’s Doubt” (1945) and “Eye and Mind” (1961) ground a radical aesthetic theory that builds on the complex relations between perception, bodily experience, and the work of art.

We intend an exhibition that collectively depicts what it is to be a body and embodied at the dawn of the twenty-first century while also holding together a diversity of mediums, subject-matters, levels of expertise, artistic technologies, degrees of realism and abstraction, temporalities, and perspectives. Such juxtapositions and multiplicities are encouraged by Merleau-Ponty’s work and speak to the contours and contradictions of life in our own time.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Open to artists of all levels of expertise working in any medium, including videos, installations, sculpture, textiles, painting, performance pieces, etc., whose work is expressive of the theme of “The Twenty-first Century Body.” Artistic approaches to this theme that are directly or indirectly suggestive of Merleau-Ponty’s philosophical interests such as perception, ambiguity, nature, and politics are welcomed and submissions that make use of twenty-first century artistic technologies are especially encouraged.

**VENUE**

Accepted art work will be displayed at the conference itself and in Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s Gordon Library gallery for the month following the conference. These venues will afford viewing opportunities to professors and art enthusiasts from around the world. WPI is a private university in Worcester, Massachusetts that is distinctive in regard to its project-based learning approach to technical and engineering education and its requirement that all of its students pursue a minor in the Humanities & Arts.
JURORS


Joseph Farbrook is Associate Professor of Humanities & Arts at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is a digital artist exploring the intersections between video, video games, and sculpture. Professor Farbrook exhibits his work regularly in galleries and museums worldwide, including SIGGRAPH, The Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, The AC Institute in New York City, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, Museum of Fine Arts and Cyberarts Gallery Boston, and Waterman’s Gallery London.

Galen A. Johnson is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Rhode Island and General Secretary (Executive Director) of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle. He is editor of *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader: Philosophy and Painting* (1993, 2008) and author of *The Retrieval of the Beautiful: Thinking Through Merleau-Ponty’s Aesthetics* (2010). His current research interests include the art and writings of Paul Klee, a co-authored book-length study of Merleau-Ponty's poetics, and a study of the sublime and the baroque in Merleau-Ponty's late writings.

AWARDS

A total of $500 in cash awards will be distributed, including $250 for first place. In addition, some special award categories will be recognized such as “People's Choice” and “Merleau-Ponty’s Choice,” as well artwork that can serve as an image for conference publicity.

ENTRY FEE

Free to all eligible artists.

LIABILITY

Artists must provide their own insurance. Neither Worcester Polytechnic Institute nor the Merleau-Ponty Circle provide insurance and may not be held liable for any damage to exhibited artwork.

SALES AND PUBLICITY

Works available for sale will be sold at the price indicated upon the entry form. Works not for sale should be listed as NFS on the entry form. The Merleau-Ponty Circle reserves the right to photograph and use accepted works for publicity purposes, including display on the conference website and program. 100% of Sales will go to the contributing artist.

CONTACT

For more information, including a detailed description of the conference theme, please see the conference website (wpi.edu/+mpcircle) or contact the conference director, Jennifer McWeeny, at jmweeny@wpi.edu.
ONLINE SUBMISSION

- 2D work should submit a maximum of three .jpg images (one showing the full work and a maximum of two detail images).
- 3D work should submit a maximum of four .jpg images (showing front and back of the object).
- Images should be a maximum of 1200 pixels with a maximum file size of 5 MB. The format of the file name should be LAST_FIRST_IMAGENUMBER_TITLE.jpg. Digital images should be cropped accordingly.
- Video submissions should include a link to Youtube or Vimeo (include password, if protected).
- Work must have been completed after January 1, 2010. Only one submission allowed per artist.
- Work should be available for the duration of the exhibition. No substitutions will be accepted after the selections have been announced.
- Submissions should be entered by completing the exhibition entry form, which will include title, a 200 word artist statement, and display requirements. The ENTRY FORM is found here: https://merleauponty2015.wufoo.com/forms/q1u8e7a110bg1g1/

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ART

- All art must be ready to show, with wires and frames for wall-hung art and all components for electronic and digital works. It is the artist’s responsibility to ship or hand-deliver the work to WPI and pick up the work at the dates listed below.
- 2D work: Maximum 6ft. in any direction and properly wired
- 3D work: Maximum 4 ft. in any direction
- Videos: No longer than 5 minutes in length
- Performance Pieces: No longer than 5 minutes in length

IMPORTANT DATES

Exhibition: September 28-November 6, 2015
Entry Deadline: August 10, 2015
Notification Date: September 1, 2015
Award Presentation: Reception Friday evening (6pm), October 2, 2015 at the Conference and Exhibition Delivery of Artwork by Hand: Friday, September 18, 11-4pm and Saturday, September 19, 10am-1pm.
Delivery of Artwork by Shipping: Monday, September 14 to Saturday, September 19
Pickup of Artwork that has not sold: Friday, November 13, 11-4pm, Saturday, November 14, 10am-1pm

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Lora Brueck, George C. Gordon Library Gallery Coordinator, Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Jennifer McWeeny, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Director of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle.

Jo Ellen Reinhardt, Fine Artist and Adjunct Professor of Art, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Instructor at the Worcester Art Museum.

Ruth Smith, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Worcester Polytechnic Institute.