

Canada Research Chair in Art and Racial Justice

JOB TITLE: Canada Research Chair Tier II in Art and Racial Justice

POSITION CODE: 21_C_ARTH_O

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 1, 2021

ADVERTISED UNTIL: Position is filled

Position Description

The Department of Art History in the Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University, invites applications for a Tier II Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Art and Racial Justice. We are seeking an art, architecture, visual culture, material culture, craft, or design historian whose scholarly practice engages directly with questions of race, representation, and social justice. Prospective candidates will be intellectual leaders whose research lies at the intersection of art (broadly defined) and one or more of the following areas: colonial violence; resistance and activism related to race; civil rights/human rights; migrant/refugee rights; decolonization; race and disability; race and gender; the entwining of racial and environmental justice; critical race theory; intersectionality studies, and settler, diasporic, or ethnically-diverse communities.

Racial justice has become an urgent area for art historical scholarship, teaching, and activism. The intersection of the history of art and racial justice, like the intersection of the history of art and feminism, post-colonial theory, queer theory, and disability studies, upends the idea that art should occupy an autonomous cultural sphere. Instead, art history today is being reshaped by the understanding that art, on the one hand, often reproduces ingrained racial beliefs and perpetuates systemic racism that maintains unequal social relations, hinders growth, and bars access to opportunities; on the other hand, it also represents the freedom to imagine, create and share diverse cultural expression without being – or the fear of being – censored or harassed on the basis of race. Art, therefore, is also one of the most powerful ways to enact anti-racism and decolonizing actions. Artist-activist activities, including the anti-racism movements of #BlackLivesMatter and #StopAsianHate, are increasing around the world. The history of art can no longer ignore race and racism in the 21st century. The CRC in Art and Racial Justice emerges out of this overt politicization of the discipline of art history, and the need to re-read historical and contemporary works of art through the lens of race. This Canada Research Chair will respond to the growing demand for accountability in visual culture and academia alike and will provide leadership at a moment when entire nations are reckoning with the capacity of images to be harmful to racialized individuals and communities, and likewise the power of art to challenge and resist racist discourses and histories.

The CRC in Art and Racial Justice will be well-placed in Montreal to forge meaningful connections with this city's diverse population, such as the large Haitian, Colombian, Filipino, South Asian, Muslim, and Chinese communities. The increasingly diasporic and transnational character of Montreal, as well as the city's global network of scholars, artists, curators, archivists, activists and organizers who are actively contributing to the field of racial justice will provide many opportunities for the chairholder's engagement beyond the university's doors.

The successful candidate will be appointed to a full-time faculty position in the Department of Art History, which is located within Concordia's vibrant Faculty of Fine Arts. They will join a growing number of artists, scholars, and research chairs at Concordia whose work directly addresses race, representation, and social justice through theory and practice.

Qualifications and Assets

Candidates eligible for Tier II chair positions must be excellent emerging scholars within 10 years of their highest degree at the time of nomination (exclusive of career interruptions). Potential Tier II candidates who are more than 10 years from their highest degree should take note that certain career interruptions may still make them eligible for nomination. Potential candidates are encouraged to submit a formal justification by means of the Tier II Justification Assessment Form, which will be considered in the review of applications. Please consult the [Canada Research Chairs website](#) for full program information, including further details on eligibility criteria and acceptable justifications to the extension of the eligibility term.

Notwithstanding the above and irrespective of their submission of a formal justification, candidates are encouraged to share any career interruptions or personal circumstances that may have had an impact on their career goals (such as the decision to have a family, eldercare, illness, and so forth) in their letter of application. These will be carefully considered in the assessment process.

Applicants must hold a PhD (or be ABD) in Art History, Visual Culture, Architecture History, or a related discipline, and must demonstrate expertise in the domain of art and racial justice. Teaching experience at the university level will be considered an asset, as will the ability to teach pre-1900 subjects. The ability to function in a bilingual (English and French) environment is a considerable strength; other language abilities are also highly valued.

The ideal candidate is a scholar with outstanding promise to be a leading voice in art and racial justice. Once at Concordia, they will apply for [Canada Foundation for Innovation](#) funding to build a research lab for the study of race, representation, and justice. This lab will become a hub for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) students, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, cross-institutional and community research exchanges. It will have close links with Concordia's Social Justice Centre, the Black Perspectives Office, the Office of Indigenous Directions, and the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism.

Our expectation is that the CRC will attract new talent to the university, encouraging students who are people of colour, and others, to pursue undergraduate and graduate studies at Concordia. The successful candidate will be expected to teach at all levels and to develop a significant collaborative research program that builds Concordia's reputation at the intersection of the history of art and racial justice.

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted electronically (as a single PDF document) and sent to arth.crc.search@concordia.ca on or before **November 1, 2021**. Submissions should include the following items in the order specified below:

- A cover letter clearly identifying the job title and position code (21_C_ARTH_O)
- A full CV
- A research dossier, including a 1-2 page research statement

- A teaching dossier, including a teaching or pedagogical statement, a list of all courses taught (if applicable), sample course evaluations, and sample syllabi
- The names and contact information of three referees

All inquiries regarding this position should be addressed to Dr. Cynthia Hammond, Chair of the Art History Departmental Hiring Committee at cynthia.hammond@concordia.ca. We anticipate filling this position at the rank of Assistant Professor for **August 1, 2022**. Review of applications will begin soon after the application period has closed, and will continue until the position is filled. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

As part of Concordia's commitment to providing our students with the dynamic, innovative, and inclusive educational environment of a Next-Generation University, we require all applicants to articulate in their cover letter how their background, as well as lived experiences and professional expertise have prepared them to teach in ways that are relevant for a diverse, multicultural contemporary Canadian society. These ongoing or anticipated examples can include but are not limited to:

- teaching about underrepresented populations
- mentoring students from underrepresented backgrounds
- committee work
- offering or organizing educational programming
- participation in training and workshops

All applicants will receive an email invitation to complete a short equity survey. Participation in the survey is voluntary and no identifying information about candidates will be shared with hiring committees. Candidates who wish to self-identify as a member of an underrepresented group to the hiring committee may do so in their cover letter or by writing directly to the contact person indicated in this posting.

Adaptive Measures

Applicants who anticipate requiring adaptive measures throughout any stage of the recruitment process may contact, in confidence, Nadia Hardy, Interim Deputy Provost and Vice-Provost, Faculty Development and Inclusion at vpfdi@concordia.ca or by phone at 514.848.2424 extension 4323.

Information about the Department

The Department of Art History at Concordia University is one of the leading departments in the country. It is known for its theoretical and methodological strengths, its focus on visual and material culture, and its commitment to historic and contemporary forms of Canadian and Indigenous Art. The department currently has three Concordia University Research Chairs: Circumpolar Indigenous Arts; Ethnocultural Art Histories; and Studies in Canadian Art. Two scholarly journals (*Journal of Canadian Art History* and *Journal of Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*) are housed in the department-affiliated Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art. Three undergraduate degree programs are offered through the department: Art History; Art History and Film Studies; and Art History and

Studio Art. There is a stand-alone Master's in Art History, and an inter-university PhD program, offered collaboratively with Université de Montréal and Université du Québec à Montréal.

Information about the Faculty of Fine Arts

With over 4,000 students, faculty, and staff, the Faculty of Fine Arts is among the five largest art and design schools in North America. Nestled in the heart of a pulsing city, embraced by a dynamic research university, the Faculty of Fine Arts benefits from extraordinary access to brilliant practitioners, thriving venues, cross-cultural perspectives, and an extensive network of outstanding facilities for research and production.

Taking advantage of our place within the rich fabric of a research university and our long history as one of the premiere sites in Canada for the study and creation of the arts and arts-based scholarship, the Faculty of Fine Arts is currently engaged in a transformative moment in which pedagogical, conceptual, theoretical, and material practices find resonance with a significant diversity of approaches. In our university community we value equally those practices that embrace aesthetic activism, live performance, historical scholarship, technical experimentation, skills-based production, community fieldwork and education, therapeutic practices, as well as traditional and digital fabrication. In addition to curricular advances, the formation of significant research centres and external partnerships in the Faculty of Fine Arts continue to enrich opportunities for faculty and students alike. The Faculty is also home to a number of research projects and groups committed to BIPOC concerns and led by BIPOC faculty members. For more information about the Faculty of Fine Arts, please visit us at www.concordia.ca/finearts.

Information about Concordia

Profoundly global, Concordia is North America's top university under the age of 50 and is recognized for attracting some of the most talented faculty and students from around the world. Driven by ambition, innovation and a commitment to research and community engagement, Concordia is celebrated for advancing transformative learning, convergent thinking and public impact.

Concordia's two campuses are located in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal, on the traditional lands and waters of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. Building on the skills of our faculty and the strengths of local and global partnerships, we set our sights further and more broadly than others and align the quality of learning opportunities to larger trends and substantial challenges facing society.

Researchers at Concordia are leading investigations into some of the world's most critical issues, such as health, Indigenous futures, sustainability and cities — more important today than ever. Our priority is to mobilize cross-sections of experts to translate novel scholarship into real-world applications.

With 118 research chairs, 24 research centres and institutes, and research income of more than \$56 million annually, Concordia is fast advancing on its strategic direction to Double Our Research. Our nine far-looking [directions](#) demonstrate the university's commitment to being agile and innovative and ensuring student success. Our 6,600 faculty and staff and 50,800 students benefit from state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities, technology and pedagogical support, and compelling program offerings in our four faculties, library, School of Graduate Studies and Centre for Continuing Education. These modern venues, such as the Applied Science Hub and modular Learning Square, allow us to foster multidisciplinary collaboration.

“Concordia is a young, forward-looking university. It’s a unique place where experimentation, innovation and creativity are truly valued. Our community of students, faculty, staff and alumni all contribute to our momentum as Canada’s next-gen university.” — Concordia President Graham Carr.

Information about Montreal

Montreal, our home, is exceptional. It is a truly unique city — safe, clean, vibrant and diverse, with new things to discover around every corner. With a population of 1.7 million, it is home to four major universities and several clinical research centres and has been named the best student city in the world. It offers the most affordable tuition in Canada.

The city enjoys a thriving multicultural scene. Bilingualism is a part of Montreal’s tradition and adds to its inspiring atmosphere. While supporting a significant anglophone population, it is one of the largest French-speaking cities in the world.

Montreal is famed for its innovative culinary scene and festivals. It was also the first metropolis to be designated a UNESCO City of Design by the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity.

The city is recognized globally as an important centre for commerce, aerospace, transport, finance, pharmaceuticals, technology, design, gaming and film.