

**Presenter: Susan Schuppli**

Title: Material Witness / How Evidence comes to Matter

This artist talk introduces a new operative concept—Material Witness—an exploration of the evidential role of matter as both registering external events as well as exposing the partisan practices and procedures that enable such materials to testify publically. Material witnesses are non-human entities and machinic ecologies that archive their complex interactions with the world, producing ontological transformations and informatic dispositions that can be forensically decoded and reassembled back into a history. Material witnesses operate as double agents: harbouring direct evidence of events as well as providing circumstantial evidence of the interlocutory methods and epistemic frameworks whereby such matter comes to be consequential. In working with this concept, I examine a wide range of materials that record trace-evidence of the violence, which generated their context and explore the institutional and disciplinary protocols that enable their latent histories to be rendered visible and made to speak, even if their “speech acts” oftentimes fall upon deaf ears or challenge accepted truths.

Dr. Susan Schuppli

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Susan Schuppli's research examines media artifacts that emerge out of sites of contemporary conflict and crisis. Current projects explore the ways in which toxic ecologies are producing an “extreme image” archive of material wrongs. She has exhibited projects throughout Canada, the US, Europe and Asia and her writings are published widely.

Links:

<http://susanschuppli.com/>

<http://susanschuppli.com/exhibition/can-the-sun-lie/>

<http://www.forensic-architecture.org/>

<http://www.wdw.nl/event/art-in-the-age-of-asymmetrical-warfare/>