

Keynote Address

Essence—The Senses in Research and Creativity

Dr. Tomie Hahn (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

In this presentation artist-scholar Tomie Hahn considers the relationship of creative arts and scholarly research. More specifically, after the “sensory turn” in contemporary scholarship, how might scholars, artists and performers approach interdisciplinary research differently? She asks: What might sensory insights teach us about culture, embodiment, and presence? How can we incorporate sensibilities into our research on culture, history, and the body? Considering the body as a field site, Hahn shares examples of her scholarly and creative work to illustrate points of departure.



Tomie Hahn is an artist and ethnomusicologist. She is a performer of *shakuhachi* (Japanese bamboo flute), *nihon buyo* (Japanese traditional dance), and experimental performance. Tomie's research spans a wide range of area studies and topics including: Monster Truck rallies, issues of display, the senses and transmission, gesture, meditation, and relationships of technology and culture. Her book, *Sensational Knowledge: Embodying Culture through Japanese Dance* was awarded the Alan P. Merriam prize (Society for Ethnomusicology). She is a Professor in the Arts Department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she is also the Director of the Center for Deep Listening. Tomie loves to smile.