

CANADA



In April 2013 CRSC became a Member of AIC, representing Canada once again in the world of colour. The news was communicated thus by AIC Executive Committee member Verena M Schindler: “Colour Research Society of Canada’ / ‘Société Canadienne de Recherche sur la Couleur’ has

been accepted as an AIC regular member, thanks to the efforts of CRSC/SCRC président Doreen Balabanoff. Congratulations!”

The first half of the year was focused on funding and development of the American Synesthesia Association (ASA) conference, held 31 May to 2 June at OCAD University in Toronto. CRSC Board members Prof Doreen Balabanoff, Dr Robin Kingsburgh and Dr David Griffin secured funding from Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and worked with the ASA to bring together a diverse group of international researchers, practitioners and synaesthetes to share knowledge across disciplines.



Doreen Balabanoff, Robin Kingsburgh and Carol Steen at ASA OCADU.

A series of special outreach projects entitled ‘Crossing Sensory Boundaries’ was developed by the CRSC. These included two working lunch sessions at the conference, Educational Insights, and Synaesthesia in Creative Practice; a pre-conference event for educators at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO); a ‘Music Visualisation’ workshop at University of Toronto Faculty of Music (MaHRC). Over 40 participants (both synaesthetes and non-synaesthetes) engaged in colour-response experiments cued to musical passages performed live by the renowned Gryphon Trio with violin, cello and piano plus guests on bassoon, trumpet, percussion and soprano. Workshop participants used both analogue and digital media (e.g. drawing/painting materials, computers or tablets) to generate immediate responses to compositions. An ongoing research project is continuing based upon the gathered data. The workshop was punctuated by lectures from leading researchers on sound-colour synaesthesia.

For ‘Crossing Sensory Boundaries’ free public programming events included ‘When Sound Meets Colour’, Walter Hall, University of Toronto, and ‘Sense Connections’ at OCAD University, including Prof John M Kennedy on ‘Drawing without Vision’ and ‘Harmonia’, a computer-generated audio-visual work of slowly shifting harmonics, by composer Christos Hatzis and animator Bruno Degazio.



In February CRSC member Kim Valenta gave a talk at the University of Toronto on vision in the context of conservation, specifically the issues surrounding disappearing lemurs – a topic near to her heart given her background in primatology.

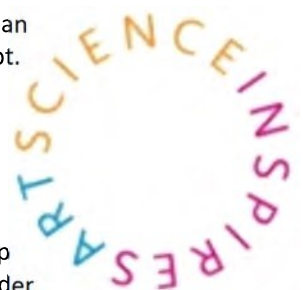
The Evolution of the Eye and Colour Vision in Humans and Other Animals



Lecture by Kim Valenta
(Ph.D. Candidate in Biological Anthropology, UofT)

The CRSC Annual General Meeting was held on 16 December at OCAD University. CRSC announced its official registration as a National Non-Profit organisation. We held elections for the Executive Committee, in accord with CRSC statutes, welcoming Brian Funt (British Columbia) and Sharon Gitalis (Ontario), while saying goodbye to founding VP Glenn MacArthur. We discussed future planning and new website development; we saw a presentation on the history of the Canadian Society for Color in Art, Industry and Science (CSC) (1972-1990) prepared by Honorary Member and former AIC President and Judd Award winner, Dr Alan Robertson.

CRSC Member Dr Jayanne English, an astronomer and professor at the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Manitoba, participated in a group exhibition: ‘Science Inspires Art: The Cosmos’ at the New York Hall of Science. She also gave a lecture and workshop entitled ‘Cosmos vs Canvas’ at Thunder Bay’s David Thompson Astronomical Observatory (March) and at Oxford University (July).



The CRSC/SCRC is truly delighted to be a new and revitalised Regular Member of the AIC, representing and supporting Canadian colour research.