

FCCS Teacher of the Month

November 2013

DENISE KENNEY



Denise Kenney is an Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Performance in the Department of Creative Studies. Her teaching areas include interdisciplinary performance, digital media, documentary film, and eco-art. Recently nominated for the FCCS Teaching Innovation Award, Denise focuses on innovative pedagogy: all of her studio classes use “creative devising” as a form of collaborative and improvisatory creation. Unlike modes of theatre or digital media production that draw on existing material, this practice generates local, embodied, and community-relevant forms of art. The results of this innovative approach are tangible. For example, in Denise’s documentary production course, students collaborated to create five short documentaries, on topics ranging from First Nations sports to the Kelowna music scene to the economic forces that shape our literal “back yards.” The documentaries were screened at Kelowna City Council and two were featured at the Traveling World Film Festival. Further, Denise’s interdisciplinary studio course culminated in an eco art participatory hammock installation titled Three Sheets to the Wind. This installation invited participants to experience, in an embodied way, the oscillating interdependence of ecosystems. Denise is a co-investigator in the SSHRC funded Eco-Art Incubator project which has provided educational and professional opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students and is a prime example of FCCS’s focus on integrating research and teaching.



a place of mind
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