

Fine Art research: Common Senses

[Common Senses](#)

September 24–November 19, 2012

[Museum of Modern Art, New York](#)

Mezzanine, The Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Education and Research Building

About

Common Senses is a multisensory environment at the intersection of education, design, and art that aims to foster our evolving relationships with nature, technology, and our everyday surroundings through community interactions and creative play. A series of drop-in activities, workshops, and ongoing projects for audiences of all ages integrates components such as light, nature, food, textiles, games, and technology. Artists, designers, and educators including Fritz Haeg, J. Morgan Puett of Mildred's Lane and The Mildred Complex(ity), Karen Hewitt, Reggio Children, and others engage visitors in generative and sensory experiences from harvesting an edible garden and creating light-based scapes installations to engaging with an experimental school and playing with new and familiar toys and games

The event at MoMa also features: *The Alchemist's Shack II* Session 4.12, which took place July 16 2012 - August 5 2012.

Opus Magnum: Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum & The Philosophick Childe (The Great Work: The Chemical Theatre of Britain)

This project was a session in 2009, and we set out to build The Alchemist's Shack, but we were drenched with global warming monsoons that washed out our progress. We are now going to complete this small vernacular lodge and the installation of a work that explores the relationship between a poetic language used in alchemical literature and that of contemporary discourses in science and cultural practices. With our extended group of fantastic guests, this project will provide an opportunity to continue the previous debates into the contemporary relationship between art and science as human inquiry. It also offers a critical context to discourse about institutions, belief and curiosity through collecting and tableaux that will emerge during this session. Additionally, Williams is the curator of an extraordinary series of film expanding on the theme from the alchemical to a broader view of occult & hidden knowledge – "Did you know that (nearby) Scranton has the most haunted house in the USA?" – Williams has been involved with Mildred's Lane on and off since 1998.

Speakers

Featured speakers, visiting artists, seminar leaders, field trips and other guests included:

Robert Williams, Bryan Wilson, Hilmar Schäfer, Mark Dion, Robert "Bobby" Bedford, Alison Pebworth, Moyra Davey, Thyrsa Goodeve, Heide Hatry, Eve Andree Laramée, Joanna Ebenstein, Aaron Beebe, Claire Pentecost, James Prosek, Clayton Lewis, Moyra Davey, Pierre Warny, Brian Conley, Matthew Friday and Silvia Kolbowski, Elizabeth Thomas, Chen Tamir, Allison Smith, Amy Yoes, and Liz Collins.

2012 Fellows: Luke Knox, Marissa Lee Benedict, Betsy Huete, Liz Morrison, Leslie Rogers, Natalie Wilkin, Christina Joseph, and Corey Riddell.

The publication *A Taxonomy of the Ghost in Popular Culture*, emerging as a consequence of the research project will be published by the art imprint *informationasmaterial* in 2013.