MARs Session 2 – MATERIALITY
Organiser: Laura White
Wednesday 6 December @ 14.00-17.00.
w/ possible ‘prep’ sessions on:
Tuesday, 14 November @ 15.00-17.00
Tuesday, 21 November @ 15.00-17.00
Tuesday, 28 November @ 15.00-17.00

3 prep session – 2 hours each (lead by PhD students)
1 final session - 3 hours
12-15 participants

MARs Materiality is a project organized by Laura White, with prep sessions
lead by PhD students Rowena Harris, Kate Pickering and Laura Burns, with
guests Juliette Kristensen and Cheryl Roberts.

The aim of MARs Materiality is to open up new ways of thinking and talking
about materiality – materiality as the subject rather than a vehicle for the non-
material and theoretical.

Is it possible to talk about materiality in and of itself, without reference to other
subject areas? How can we talk about materiality insightfully and intelligently
without falling into a dated language of formalism? How does the digital
environment affect/influence our material environment, and can we separate
the physical from the virtual anymore?

Each session will begin with an observation of, and interaction with,
things/objects/matter. Giving time and space to this specific material
engagement and to the conversations and responses (linguistic, sonic,
gestural) arising from it, we will work to become responsive to the
things/stuff/objects/bodies in front of us. In doing so, we will reverse a more
familiar use of materials/processes to describe an idea/concept, instead
starting with materiality, its unique qualities and processes, to generate
language and ideas.

Throughout the sessions we will also draw from a broad conversation
involving material culture, design, anthropology, material science and physics
in order to extend the language of materiality within art practice. In this way,
MARs Materiality begins with a specific material engagement, whether
physical or digital, and ends with a journey all its own!

Laura White is an artist and Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College.
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Cheryl Roberts is a Dress, Textiles and Design Historian and lecturer at the RCA and
University of Brighton. http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/research/doctoral-centre-arts/student/roberts
Juliette Kristensen is a Design Historian working within Visual and Material Culture, and
lecturer at Goldsmiths and the RCA. http://www.jckristensen.com