

Conference

Minima Formalia

Minor Details and Empty Gestures

This conference takes an interest in minutiae at the levels of aesthetics, ethics, and politics. It invites smaller-scale perspectives to interrogate the interrelations between form and content, and asks how aesthetics forms theory and how theory performs politics. Gravitating around those details that are often seen as inconsequential and unimportant, this conference gestures towards alternative ways of imagining and enacting form, performance, and the formless. Through the lenses of dust, drops, and gaps, reality looks different—blurred, unclear. Minima Formalia asks what role details play in understanding or altering our worldview, and whether one can make a grammar of small or empty gestures. Is the small, the unknown, the overlooked by definition better or more interesting than the big, the known, the noticed? Or does the devil lie in the details?

With

Antonia Baehr
Alvina Chamberland
Rebecca Comay
Nile Davies
Jule Flierl
Julian Isenia
Esther Leslie
Natascha Sadr Haghighian

Image credit:

Tommaso Pandolfi, artwork for
Furtherset's album Wounds of Melody,
Kohlhaas, 2025

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Conference

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20 May 2026, 9:30–21:00

With
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Rebecca Comay
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Natascha Sadr Haghighian

In English

Organized by
Nicolas Helm-Grovas,
Jasmine Pisapia,
Angelica Stathopoulos
and
Verónica Stedile Luna

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**Programme
20 May 2026**

9:30	Morning Coffee		
9:45 – 10:00	Introduction by Nicolas Helm-Grovas, Jasmine Pisapia, Angelica Stathopoulos and Verónica Stedile Luna		
10:00 – 11:45	Panel I ‘Gaps’ ◦ Introduction • Julian Isenia – Read Mi Like a Song: A Grammar of Redaction • Nile Davies – Pleasures of the Test ◦ Discussion	14:45 – 16:30	Panel II ‘Drops’ ◦ Introduction • Esther Leslie – Drop as Lens • Alvina Chamberland – Melting Drops and Shattered Glass ◦ Discussion
11:45 – 12:15	Coffee Break	16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break
12:15 – 13:15	Screening Works by Theresa Hak Kyung Cha: <i>Mouth to Mouth</i> ⁽¹⁹⁷⁵⁾ <i>Vidéoème</i> ⁽¹⁹⁷⁶⁾ <i>White Dust from Mongolia</i> ^(1980, unfinished)	17:00 – 18:30	Tontänze / ToneDances (a selection) ◦ Introduction • Performance by Jule Flierl & Antonia Baehr ◦ Discussion
13:15 – 14:45	Lunch Break	18:30 – 19:00	Break
		19:00 – 20:45	Panel III ‘Dust’ ◦ Introduction • Natascha Sadr Haghighian – Composed of Many • Rebecca Comay – When the Dust Settles ◦ Discussion