

## GREEN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY SERIES

# TRANSFORMING SILENCE

### THE CREATIVE POWER OF QUIET

People around the world cultivate silence as a source of ingenuity, equanimity and creative transformation. This series offers an expansive perspective that differs from the current scholarly focus on oppressive and destructive silences. Our speakers will consider the role of silence in various cultural contexts, including Coast Salish healing practices, acoustic ecology and rainforest conservation, Buddhist meditation, eighteenth-century French pantomime, and temple rites that respond to current rapid urbanization in China. A film screening and director's discussion of *In Pursuit of Silence* (2017) will highlight the history of humanity's attraction to aural minimalism and the contemporary worldwide dilemma of noise pollution. Together our speakers will explore how varieties of sociocultural silence act as fruitful catalysts for renewal and reconfiguration of aesthetic, experiential and intellectual worlds.

ALL TALKS ARE AT GREEN COLLEGE IN THE COACH HOUSE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE

#### TERM I

#### SILENCE IN INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING AND DOING

**Elder Roberta Price**, Family Practice, UBC  
Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 5:00 pm

Recalling how she listened to the Elders of her childhood, Elder Roberta Price is astonished to find that she herself is now called to offer wisdom in the same way. In this inaugural talk of the *Transforming Silence* speakers' series, Elder Roberta Price will describe the importance of silence in Coast Salish communities. She will draw on her years working in Indigenous health initiatives to convey the healing effects of silent presence among those who have experienced trauma and illness, and how silence invites the ancestors to act as benevolent sources of well-being, knowledge and interconnectedness across the realms.

#### THE DIMENSIONS OF SILENCE IN BUDDHISM

**Susan Gillis Chapman**, Psychologist and Teacher of Buddhist Practice  
Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 5:00 pm

What is silence? Is it merely the absence of sound, or can silence be a gateway into more subtle forms of communication with ourselves, our world and each other? In this lecture, we explore progressive dimensions of silence, ranging from punctuations in everyday conversation to profound insight into the nature of our own minds. Susan Gillis Chapman will draw from her personal experiences of being in total silence for many months of group meditation retreat, as well as from her work as a contemplative relationship therapist and communication trainer. She will point to the difference between positive interruptions, gaps of silence that restore authenticity and negative silencing, suppressing our own or another person's truth.

#### FILM SCREENING: IN PURSUIT OF SILENCE

**Patrick Shen**, filmmaker; **Cassidy Hall**, author  
Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 4:30 pm

*In Pursuit of Silence* (2017) is a meditative exploration of silence and the impact of noise on our lives. The film takes the audience on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe—from a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto, to the streets of Mumbai, the loudest city on the planet—and inspires viewers to both experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world. The film's Director and Co-Producer will lead a Question and Answer session following the screening.

Patrick Shen is a filmmaker and the founder of Transcendental Media. His films have received 24 awards and 11 nominations, and have been featured on the TED blog, CNN, in *The Huffington Post*, *NY Times*, *LA Times*, *Boston Globe*, and the *Washington Post*. In 2009, Patrick was the recipient of the Emerging Cinematic Vision Award from Camden International Film Festival and since 2005 he has presented his work at hundreds of film festivals, cinemas, museums and major academic institutions all over the globe.

Cassidy Hall is an author, photographer, filmmaker, podcaster and trained counselor. Cassidy's writing has been published in the *Convivium Journal*, *The Thomas Merton Seasonal*, and has been featured in *The Huffington Post*, *Patheos* and the *National Catholic Reporter*. Her pilgrimage of life has continued with visits to other sacred spaces, monasteries, various contemplative locations, and the infinite interior spaciousness within. This ongoing pilgrimage has informed her writing, art, her personal life and her way of being.

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner.

For information on making dinner reservations, see [www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner](http://www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner)