

Know Before You Go Guide

Access in Art and Design Presents: Artist Petra Koppers

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

6-7:30 p.m.

Tyler School of Art and Architecture

2001 N. 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Room ARCH 104, and live-streamed via Zoom

Event Registration

Registration is required to attend in-person or virtually. Register using the link or QR code below: [Register Here](#)



About the Presenter

Petra Koppers (she/her) is a disability culture activist, writer, dance video maker and community performance artist. Petra grounds herself in disability culture methods. She uses somatics, performance, speculative writing and media to engage audiences toward more socially just and enjoyable futures.

Petra teaches at the University of Michigan as the Anita Gonzalez Collegiate Professor of Performance Studies and Disability Culture and served as an adviser on the MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts at Goddard College for 15 years.

Petra has been engaged in **community dance and disability culture production** since the late 1980s (first in her native Germany, then in Wales, UK; Aotearoa/New Zealand; and then in the US). She continues to lead workshops internationally, in these forms as well as in disability-culture adapted **social somatics**.

When her chronic pain does not allow outer movement, she writes. Her third **performance poetry** collection, [Gut Botany](#), was named one of the top ten US poetry books of 2020 by the New York Public Library, and it won the 2022 Creative Book Award by the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Her fourth collection, [Diver Beneath the Street](#) - true crime meets ecopoetry at the level of the soil - appeared in February 2024.

Petra also writes **speculative fiction** (short story collection [Ice Bar](#) 2018), and **academic books** (latest, 2022, open access: [Eco Soma: Joy and Pain in Speculative Performance Encounters](#)).

She is the Artistic Director of [The Olimpias](#), an international disability culture collective, and co-creates [Turtle Disco](#), a somatic writing studio, with her wife, poet and dancer Stephanie Heit, from their home in Ypsilanti, Michigan, on Three Fires Confederacy Territory.

Petra was a 2021 Dance Research Fellow at the New York Public Library's dance division. In 2022, she was awarded a Dance/USA Artist Fellowship, and she was a national nominee for the Johnson Fellowship for Artists Transforming Communities. She was a 2023/24 Guggenheim Fellow, a 2024 Camargo Foundation Fellow, and is currently a [Just Tech Fellow](#) (2024-2026)

Event Description

Join us for a talk by Petra Kuppers, as she discusses her current project, *Planting Disabled Futures*, which examines how virtual/extended reality (VR/XR) technologies can address questions of access, community, sensuality, environmental poetics, and the futures of queer/crip play.

The project uses live performance approaches and VR/XR technologies to share energy, liveliness, ongoingness, crip joy and experiences of pain. *Planting Disabled Futures* asks: How can VR allow us to celebrate difference, rather than engage in hyper-mobile fantasies of overcoming and of disembodied life? How can our disabled bodymindspirits develop non-extractive intimacies, in energetic touch, using VR as a tool toward connecting with plants, with the world, even in pain, in climate emergency, in our ongoing COVID world?

This lecture is hosted by Access in Art and Design, a Tyler initiative presenting programming on accessibility and inclusivity in creative fields. This event is supported by the Temple University General Activities Fund.

During the presentation, the artist will speak at the front of the room with a projected presentation. Lights may be lowered to increase the visibility of the presentation slides. Attendees will have an opportunity after the talk to ask questions of the presenter if they wish, both in-person and on Zoom.

Event Location

Tyler School of Art and Architecture
2001 N 13th Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Room: Architecture 104
[View on Google Maps](#)

Entering Tyler School of Art and Architecture:

There are two entrances to the Tyler building, one on Norris Street and one on 13th Street. The 13th Street entrance is closer to the room in which the event will be held. Visitors may wish to use the 13th Street entrance for convenience.

The **13th Street entrance** to Tyler is at **2001 N 13th Street** (between Norris & Diamond Streets). Access via ramp on the right side, once at the door there is an access button to press that opens both the inside and outside doors. This entrance is closest to the event space inside the building and may be preferred for guests who prefer a shorter route to the event space.



Image Description: The 13th Street entrance to Tyler, a building with glass windows. It features an outdoor setting with a clear view of the sky and some plants around the building, there is a cement ramp leading up to the building entrance.



Image Description: A concrete access ramp leads upward towards the building entrance. The entrance is a glass door with an automatic button to the right side at the top of the ramp.



Image Description: A glass door with a sign above it. The sign reads "Tyler School of Art and Architecture". There is an automatic door button to open the door, and the door opens towards the exterior.

The **Norris Street entrance** to Tyler is considered the main entrance and is on **Norris Street between 12th and 13th Streets**. Entering on the Norris Street, there is a ramp for easy access on the left side of the entrance (closer to 13th St.) Once in front of doors there is an access button to press and the first doors will open, once inside, there is another access button to press to open the second set of doors.



Image Description: The Tyler School of Art and Architecture building featuring glass windows and two entry/exit doors. It also includes stairs and a cloudy sky in the background.



Image Description: The main entrance to Tyler, showing a brick building with a staircase and trees next to a ramp entrance leading up to Tyler building.

Architecture Room 104



Image Description: Hallway inside Tyler, the left wall side is white while the right wall side is yellow, the white wall is leading to Arch 104 on the left.



Image Description: Two-windowed door looking in to Arch 104.



Image Description: Inside Arch 104, set up with black, portable chairs arranged in rows facing a lecture podium.

Restrooms

Accessible restrooms are located just outside the event room.

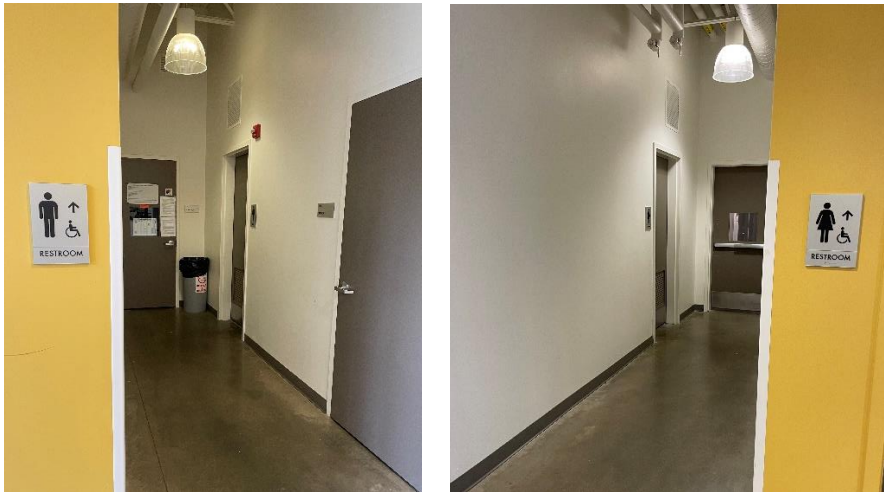


Image Descriptions: Accessible restrooms located across the hall from Arch Room 104.

Public Transportation



Directions to Tyler School of Art and Architecture with public transportation can be routed using SEPTA's (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) website: (<https://www.septa.org/>)

For more on SEPTA's accessibility: <https://www.septa.org/accessibility/>

The following transit lines have routes that pass near Tyler School of Art and Architecture:



Bus: 4 16 23 BSO



Train: AIRPORT
CHESTNUT HILL EAST
WARMINSTER
WEST TRENTON



Subway: Broad Street Line – [Susquehanna-Dauphin](#) is the closest stop and is an ADA accessible station with two elevators. The [Cecil B. Moore](#) station is also nearby and ADA accessible.