

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

Minima Formalia

20 May 2026, 9:30–21:00

With
Antonia Baehr
Alvina Chamberland
Rebecca Comay
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Julian Isenia
Esther Leslie
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	14:45 – 16:30	Panel II ‘Drops’ Introduction Speaker 1 – Esther Leslie Speaker 2 – Alvina Chamberland Discussion
9:45 – 10:00	Introduction by Nicolas Helm-Grovas, Jasmine Pisapia, Angelica Stathopoulos and Verónica Stedile Luna	16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break
10:00 – 11:45	Panel I ‘Gaps’ Introduction Speaker 1 – Julian Isenia Speaker 2 – Nile Davies Discussion	17:00 – 18:30	Tontänze / ToneDances (a selection) Introduction Performance by Jule Flierl & Antonia Baehr Discussion
11:45 – 12:15	Coffee Break	18:30 – 19:00	Break
12:15 – 13:15	Screening Works by Theresa Hak Kyung Cha: Mouth to Mouth ⁽¹⁹⁷⁵⁾ Vidéoème ⁽¹⁹⁷⁶⁾ White Dust from Mongolia ^(1980, unfinished)	19:00 – 20:45	Panel 3 ‘Dust’ Introduction Speaker 1 – Natascha Sadr Haghighian Speaker 2 – Rebecca Comay Discussion
13:15 – 14:45	Lunch Break		