Slow Looking
The Art and Practice of Learning Through Observation

Wednesday, April 4, 2018
12-1:30p.m.
Gutman Conference Center - Area 3

Lunch will be served

Introduction by Jordy Oakland, Project Zero

Slow looking is a way of building knowledge. It involves purposefully looking beyond a first glance, and it happens anywhere people take a generous amount of time to observe the world closely—in classrooms and museums, in laboratories and on neighborhood walks. Drawing examples from art, science, and everyday life, this talk explores the history of slow looking as well as its contemporary practices. It makes an argument for the special relevance of slow looking in today’s educational climate, and shows how slow looking is a learnable practice with a distinctive set of skills and dispositions that differ from those involved in other modes of learning. Along the way, the talk shares some surprising research about the appeal of slow looking for today’s youth, and invites audience members to try out some slow looking themselves.

Shari Tishman is a Lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Senior Research Associate at Project Zero, where she recently served as Director. Her research focuses on the development of thinking and understanding, the role of close observation in learning, and learning in and through the arts.