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What Comes Through:
The Point of Writing Ethnographically Now

How do we approach the precisions of worldly compositions? Here I try three times. First I look for acts of sensory thought-feeling in photographs of touch. Then I try to show how inscriptions in ordinary matter and event prompt description. My third pass is a series of scenes evoking the problematics of living in the new ordinary. All three attempts are slowed forms of attention to acts of sensory thought-feeling that are also muscles for living. They’re singular instants and modes of what Donna Haraway calls learning to be more response-able.

Kathleen Stewart is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin. She writes on place, the senses, affect, non-representational theory, the ordinary, worlding and ethnographic writing as a form of theory. Her books include A Space on the Side of the Road: Cultural Poetics in an ‘Other’ America (Princeton, 1996), Ordinary Affects (Duke, 2007), Worldings (in preparation for Duke) and The Hundreds co-authored with Lauren Berlant.