

MUSEUMS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

FALL 2016 LECTURE SERIES

What If? Demand the Impossible. On Museums and the Struggle for Social Justice

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What if museums were to acknowledge their complicity with systemic forms of oppression, and commit to a reparations movement as part of a process of truth and reconciliation?

What if museum and exhibition programs at universities were to foster a form of fugitive studies?

What if access and equity were to truly be at the center of museum work?

Through an exploration of current and fictitious museums, works in progress and not yet realized projects, this talk examines these “What if” propositions, and takes the impossible as the only realistic option for museums in these fiercely urgent times.

This talk is inspired by Bill Ayers’ most recent book *Demand the Impossible: A Radical Manifesto* (Haymarket, 2016), where he asks us to “unleash our radical imaginations and push ourselves to break the straightjackets of conventional thinking.” Join us in a conversation about how museums and other cultural institutions might fulfill a moral obligation to recognize the capacious, colorful, and diverse world of all that is beautiful, true and just.

Co-Sponsored by the University of Michigan Museum of Art

Tuesday November 1, 6:30 PM
Helmut Stern Auditorium,
University of Michigan Museum of Art

All events are free and open to the public.

For additional information visit <http://ummsp.rackham.umich.edu>



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