

MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

Winter 2018 Visiting Scholar

What Do Curators Know?

Steven Lubar

Professor of American Studies, History of Art and Architecture, and History, Brown University

Curators are experts on an astonishing range of topics. But what else do they know? I believe that curators' hands-on work with art, artifacts, and specimens provides them a kind of knowledge unavailable in any other way. Handling objects, understanding their materiality, offers insights into their histories of creation, meaning, and use. Organizing them for storage, research and exhibition allows new insights that allow understandings of connections across space and change over time. Curatorial knowledge matters, even as the role of the museum and curator changes.

Steven Lubar is professor in the Departments of American Studies, History, and History of Art and Architecture, Brown University. He was previously curator at the National Museum of American History, and Director of Brown's John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage and Brown's Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology. He is a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow. His most recent book is *Inside the Lost Museum: Curating, Past and Present*.

Co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Museum of Art

Tuesday March 27, 2018, 6:30 pm
Michigan Room, Michigan League
911 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor



All events are free and open to the public.

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