

# DISPLAYING

# THE UNSPEAKABLE

WORKSHOP

MAY 14, 2012  
NEW YORK, NY



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH  
IN THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNITÉ MIXTE INTERNATIONALE 3199

4 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH  
NEW YORK, NY (2D FLOOR)

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# DISPLAYING THE UNSPEAKABLE

## AN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNITÉ MIXTE INTERNATIONALE 3199 (CNRS-NYU)

**Monday May 14, 2012**

4 Washington Square North,  
New York, NY 10003  
2d floor, conference room  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### Introduction

9:00 am / Edward Berenson, Professor in Contemporary History, NYU & Christophe J. Goddard, CNRS Researcher and Associate Professor in Ancient History, co-Directors of the CNRS NYU Center of International Research in the Humanities & Social Sciences.

9:15 am / Opening Remarks, Dominique Poulot, Professor in Heritage Studies and Art History, University of Paris 1 Sorbonne, Paris, CNRS NYU Research Fellow.

### Panel 1 / Curating 9/11

9:30 am / 9/11 Memorial and Museum - Clifford Chanin

10:00 am / An Institutional Memory of 9/11 - Marilyn Kushner

### Panel 2 / Curating dictatorships in Latin America

10:30 am / Curating the years of dictatorship in Chile (1973-1989) : The Villa Grimaldi and the Memory and Human Rights museums - Paulina Faba Zuleta

11:00 am / Exhibiting mass violence: Argentinean Memory Places and State Terrorism - Virginia Vecchioli

11:30 am / Coffee Break

### Panel 3 / Globalizing curatorship

12:00 pm / Curating Tragedy, Exhibiting Atrocity: The Memorial Museum in Contemporary Society- Amy Sodaro

12:30 pm / 'Holocaust Fatigue' at the Jewish Museum in Berlin - Herman Lebovics

### Panel 4 / Victims' narratives and curatorship

1:00 pm / The Art Brut stories : personal drama - Valerie Rousseau

1:30 pm / We Are Here: Curating Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide, and Other Human Rights Violations - Eve-Lyne Cayouette Ashby

2:00 pm / The Valorization of Victims and its Implications - Harriet F. Senie

2:30 pm / Concluding Remarks - Dominique Poulot, Edward Berenson.

This conference will look at how museums deal with the representation of traumatic, tragic and terrifying events. How do museums attempt to represent the “unspeakable” elements of the past, who are they speaking for and just as importantly, who are they speaking to? Can we observe national or global cultures in curating such issues, in the representation of violence, in the description of inhuman behaviour or political crimes? What is the particular role of objects in understanding the event, what do they convey, what is their documentary and emotional power in relation to the role of their authenticity?

**Harriet F. Senie** is director of museum studies and professor of art history at City College and the CUNY Graduate Center. Previously she was associate director of The Art Museum, Princeton University and director of the Amelie Wallace Gallery at SUNY, Old Westbury. She is the author of *The ‘Tilted Arc’ Controversy: Dangerous Precedent?* (2002) and *Contemporary Public Sculpture* (1992), and co-editor of *Critical Issues in Public Art* (1992; 1998) as well as numerous articles and essays on public art. Her current book project is *Memorials to Shattered Myths: Vietnam to 9/11*. She is co-founder of Public Art Dialogue (PAD), a cross-disciplinary organization that is an affiliate of the College Art Association. She is also co-editor of *Public Art Dialogue*, the journal published twice a year by Routledge starting in 2011.

**Eve-Lyne Cayouette Ashby**'s professional interests centre on questions of immigration, cultural diversity, (self)-representation and the transmission of cultural heritage. For the past three years, Eve-Lyne has coordinated the Life Stories of Montréalers Displaced by War, Genocide and Other Human Rights Violations Community-University Research Alliance (Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, Concordia University, Canada). She is the curator of the exhibit, "We are here", which is showing at the Centre d'histoire de Montréal until April 2013, and which showcases much of the work that has come out of the project.

**Edward Berenson** is Professor of History and director of the Institute of French Studies at NYU. He also co-directs NYU's collaborative research center with the CNRS. He is the author, most recently, of *The Statue of Liberty. A Transatlantic Story* (2012) and *Heroes of Empire* (2011). He is co-editor of *The French Republic. Ideas, Values, Debates* (2011) and *Constructing Charisma: Celebrity, Fame and Power in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (2010).

**Dominique Poulot** is professor at Sorbonne, Paris 1 since 2000. He studied the history of France with Maurice Agulhon and Pierre Nora and his Ph D dealt with the emergence of heritage and museums in early modern and revolutionary France (*Musée, Nation, Patrimoine*, Gallimard, 1997). He has been a Getty Scholar (2009-2010), and was Visiting Professor in the Universities of Laval, Geneva, and Columbia (2011). He edited *Quatremère de Quincy's Letters to Miranda and Canova* ("Texts and Documents Series", Getty Research Institute, June 2012) and he is working about the history of European National Museums ([www.eunamus.eu](http://www.eunamus.eu)).

**Marilyn Kushner** is Curator and Head, Department of Prints, Photographs, and Architectural Collections at the New-York Historical Society. Previously she was Department Chair, Prints, Drawings, and Photographs and Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Brooklyn Museum (1994-2006). She has also served as Curator of Collections at the Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey, and Research Associate at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Kushner has mounted more than thirty exhibitions focusing on such subjects as photographers Camilo Jose Vergara, Edward Burtynsky, Victor Prevost and Platon, images from 9/11, early twentieth-century advertising and prints, Walton Ford watercolors, Ground Zero images, and the career of Morgan Russell. She has published and lectured extensively on works on paper and has served on juries and guest curated exhibitions nation-wide. Kushner is also an adjunct professor at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York. She received her PhD from Northwestern University in 1991.

**Paulina Faba**, graduated in Social Anthropology at the National School of Anthropology and History in Mexico D.F (2001), obtained a Master's degree in Anthropology at the University of Chile (2004). She finished a DEA (Master) at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and a PhD in Art History at Sorbonne University, Paris I (2012). Her research topics concentrate in the forms of reproduction of memory, patrimonialization and re-appropriation of past in Mexico and Chile. She's the author of *Imágenes de una memoria. Exégesis y representación del pasado entre los wixaritari (huicholes) del Noroeste de México*, published this year by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). Paulina Faba is Assistant Professor at U. Arcis and PUC in Santiago.

**Herman Lebovics** is State University of New York Trustees Distinguished Professor of History at Stony Brook University, and Fellow, Royal Historical Society. He is the author of many books, among them *Bringing the Empire Back Home: France in the Global Age* (Duke University Press), 2004; *Mona Lisa's Escort: André Malraux and the Reinvention of French Culture* (Cornell University Press, July 1999.); --*True France: The Wars over Cultural Identity, 1900-1945* (Cornell University Press, 1992) trans. as *La Vraie France* (Paris: Editions Belin, 1995).

**Amy Sodaro** holds a PhD in Sociology from the New School for Social Research and is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at William Paterson University. Her research focuses on memory and memorialization of genocide, trauma and atrocity and in particular on memorial museums. She is co-editor of *Memory and the Future: Transnational Politics, Ethics and Society* (Palgrave MacMillan 2010).

**Organizer: Dominique Poulot, Professor in Heritage Studies and Art History, University of Paris 1 Sorbonne, Paris, CNRS NYU Research Fellow.**

For further information, please contact Dominique Poulot (Dominique.Poulot@univ-paris1.fr) or visit our website:

**[www.cnrsnyu.com](http://www.cnrsnyu.com)**

**The workshop is free and open to the public but please register with Valerie Dubois (valerie.dubois@nyu.edu) / + 1 212 992 7488.**

**Venue: 4 Washington Square North, New York, NY 10003  
2d floor / Conference room.**

**Metro W4 (A, B, C, D, E, F, M), Christopher Street (1), 8st-NYU (N,R), Astor Place (6).**

**Photo credit: Dominique Poulot. Car wreck after a blast in Baghdad, Imperial War Museum in London, UK.**

