Lectures

WITH CURATOR MOLLY DUBIN AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DR. DAN HAUMSCHILD

Bring an expert into your space! We offer lectures on issues related to the history of Jewish Wisconsin as well as subjects that speak to our current or past special exhibits, from the Settlement Cookbook to Contemporary Antisemitism to the Lyrical Genius of Bob Dylan.

**Allied in the Fight: Jews, Blacks and the Struggle for Civil Rights**
An exploration of the coalition of Jewish and African American leaders who pursued liberty and justice, while confronting racism and discrimination. This presentation specifically addresses the complexities of Black-Jewish collaboration during Milwaukee’s Open Housing Marches of 1967-1968.

**Brother, Can You Spare a Dime: Jewish Artists of the WPA**
Featuring work by Jewish artists from public and private collections, this presentation explores individual and collective contributions and the legacy of the Works Progress Administration’s (WPA) Federal Art Project, which ran throughout the Great Depression.

**Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto**
A diary written by teenager Rywka Lipszyc in the Łódź Ghetto was found in the rubble of the liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. Through Rywka’s story and its abrupt, uncertain end, this presentation explores personal dimensions of the Holocaust via a voice rescued from loss.

**Inescapable: The Life and Legacy of Harry Houdini**
Investigate the experiences, including formative years spent in Milwaukee, that transformed Erik Weisz into Harry Houdini and catapulted his career toward superstardom. This presentation will showcase Houdini’s innovative illusion techniques and marketing prowess to pull back the curtain on the man behind the image.

**Jews Who Rock**
Explore the nearly 70-year history of Jews in Rock and Roll. From Tin Pan Alley to CBGB’s, Jews impacted the evolution of this diverse genre. This presentation examines the Jewish influences in Rock and Roll and popular music through representational sampling of the countless musicians.

**Luba Lukova: Designing Justice**
Luba Lukova is regarded as one of the most original image-makers working today. Her vivid, captivating pieces pinpoint essential themes of humanity and this presentation will explore Lukova’s thought-provoking work and the power of art to catalyze action and change the world.

**Stitching History From The Holocaust**
We will explore our haunting and inspiring original exhibit that addresses the immeasurable talent and creativity lost to the world in the Holocaust through the story of Hedwig and Paul Strnad, a Jewish couple who unsuccessfully sought to escape Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia. At the core of this exhibit are eight dress designs of Hedwig Strnad, brought to life by a dedicated team from the Milwaukee REP’s costume department.

**Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties**
Then They Came for Me tells the story of the forced removal of 120,000 Japanese American citizens and legal residents from their homes during World War II without due process or the constitutional protections to which they were entitled. This presentation explores this dark chapter in U.S. history along with distressing parallels to the discrimination and intolerance surrounding the current immigration and refugee crisis in America and around the world.

**In Defense of Historical Stains**
By comparing the Topography of Terror Museum in Berlin and two genocide memorials in Rwanda, this talk takes a sharp look at how we represent violence in its aftermath. This conversation introduces audiences to the idea of ‘futurity’,
Experience lectures in-person or virtually.

Lectures

School group fee: $150
Non-school group fee: $200

Inheritable Pasts
This talk examines the difficult task of encountering history in a way that allows us to bear the burden of its inheritance. It takes apart the notion that all historical education is advantageous to our human progress and calls upon a more sophisticated approach to studying the past.

What Are We to Remember?
The genocide in Rwanda was a horrific event; attempts to commemorate it are infused with good intentions around remembering the past to build a better future. However, the way we remember is equally as important as what we remember and this too must not be forgotten.

Reading Resistance
Learn about the experience of life in the largest Jewish ghetto established during the Holocaust. Through a survey of remnants from the Lodz ghetto like pictures and testimony, this talk also helps reinvigorate a commitment to attentive reading as an act of resistance.

Siona Benjamin – Why Borders?
Explore the artwork of Siona Benjamin in a manner that calls critical attention to the zeal with which we create and monitor our frontiers, both politically and internally. In so doing, learn more about tapping into areas of oneself that remain under-explored.

Reconstructing a Lost Place
Discover practical approaches for reviving the vitality of a place that has slipped into collective forgetting. The foundational example for this talk is Bardejov, Slovakia, a town that saw the complete dismantling of its Jewish population during the Holocaust.

What is Genocide?
Learn about the term ‘genocide’ as both a legal term and a broader concept to understand more clearly why this word continues to create problems for prevention. Additionally, explore why genocide is a meaningful event to study, even if we feel far removed from the violence to which it alludes.

Shuttering Americans
During WWII, photography became integral to creating the enemy in the minds of every day citizens. In the US, this technology was wielded against Americans of Japanese descent. In this talk, we'll examine the tricky territory that is part and parcel of imagining ‘the other’.

Hitler’s Worldview
Delve into the mind of one of the most notorious tyrants in world history with this overview of Nazism’s particular brand of racist antisemitism. In turn, begin to understand why reason is helpless in the face of totalitarian ideologies and conspiracy theories.

Kitsch
What is kitsch, really? Is it merely the innocuous knick-knacks that adorn grandma’s potpourri vase, or is there something deeper, more insidious afoot? In this talk, we’ll demonstrate that kitsch can have far more drastic consequences than terrible fashion decisions.

Contact Dan Haumschild to learn more and book your lecture today!

(414) 390-5742
DanH@MilwaukeeJewish.org