



**Flashpoints and Fault Lines:  
Museum Curation and Controversy  
Smithsonian Institution  
April 26-27, 2011**

**Tuesday, April 26**

*Freer Gallery of Art, Meyer Auditorium*

6:00 p.m.

**Welcome & Introduction**

**Julian Raby**, Director, Freer|Sackler Galleries of Art and Senior Art Advisor,  
Smithsonian Institution

**Wayne Clough**, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

**Richard Kurin**, Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture, Smithsonian  
Institution

6:15 p.m.

**Curation: Responsibilities, Constraints and Controversy**

*What is the public and professional responsibility of the curator in art, science, history and culture? What is included and excluded in exhibitions and why? Do curators and museums censor—how so? When does judgment become self-censorship? Should curators and museums address controversial subjects?*

Moderator: **Claudine Brown**, Assistant Secretary for Education & Access,  
Smithsonian Institution

**Kimberly Camp**, CEO, Richland Public Facilities District, Hanford Reach  
Interpretive Center and Founding Director, Smithsonian Experimental  
Gallery

**Briana L. Pobiner**, Science Outreach & Education Program Specialist, Human  
Origins Program, National Museum of Natural History

**David Ward**, Historian, National Portrait Gallery and co-Curator, “Hide/Seek”

6:55 p.m.

Public questions and comments

7:15 p.m.

**Representing Sensitive Topics: Gender and Sexuality**

*What particular issues of curatorial responsibility have emerged with regard to representations of gender and sexuality in museums, including the recent “Hide/Seek” exhibition?*

Moderator: **Kinshasha Holman Conwill**, Deputy Director, National Museum of  
African American History & Culture

**Jonathan Katz**, Chair, Visual Studies, SUNY Buffalo and co-Curator,  
*Hide/Seek*

**Charles Francis**, Founder, Kameny Papers Project  
**Thom Collins**, Director, Miami Art Museum  
**Karen Milbourne**, Curator, National Museum of African Art

8:05 p.m. Public questions and comments

8:45 p.m. First day program concludes

**Wednesday, April 27**

*Freer Gallery of Art, Meyer Auditorium*

9:30 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction**

**Johnnetta Cole**, Director, National Museum of African Art

**Curation: Listening to Artists, Scientists, Public Figures, Cultural Communities**

*What is the role of the curator vis-à-vis the artist and the presentation of work? What is the role of the curator in presenting scientific findings? To what extent do public figures have a say in how they are presented? How do we listen to cultural communities and account for their sensibilities and sensitivities?*

Moderator: **Johnnetta Cole**, Director, National Museum of African Art

**Cristián Samper**, Director, National Museum of Natural History

**Tim Johnson**, Associate Director for Museum Programs, National Museum of the American Indian

**Kerry Brougher**, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden

Commentator: **Blake Gopnik**, Art and Design Critic for *Newsweek* and its Web site, *The Daily Beast*

10:30 a.m. Public questions and comments/Break

10:50 a.m. **Exhibitions in National Museums & Public Institutions**

*What are the special characteristics of national and public museums with regard to sensitive topics/treatments and controversial issues? Should there be? How do politics affect curation? What accountability do curators, museum directors and boards have, and to whom?*

Moderator: **Ellen McCulloch-Lovell**, President, Marlboro College and former Executive Director, President's Committee on Arts and Humanities

**Frank Hodsoll**, Principal, Hodsoll and Associates and former Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

**Bill Ivey**, Director, Curb Center, Vanderbilt University and former Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

**Ford Bell**, President, American Association of Museums

11:40 a.m. Public questions and comments

12:00 noon Break/Lunch

1:30 p.m. **Museum Stakeholders and Curation**

*What stakes and roles do funders, boards, critics, museum audiences and other constituents have in curation? How specific are those roles with regard to influencing, approving, supporting exhibitions?*

Moderator: **Elizabeth Duggal**, Associate Director for External Affairs and Public Programs, National Museum of Natural History

**Ann Hamilton**, Artist and Member, Board of Trustees, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

**Henry Muñoz**, Chair, National Museum of the American Latino Commission

**Jed Perl**, Art Critic, *The New Republic*

Commentator: **Kaywin Feldman**, Director and President, Minneapolis Institute of Arts and President, Association of Art Museum Directors

2:20 p.m. Public questions and comments/ Break

2:40 p.m. **Concluding Thoughts**

**Lonnie Bunch**, Director, National Museum of African American History & Culture

**Martin Sullivan**, Director, National Portrait Gallery

3:00 p.m. **Thanks and Going Forward**

**Richard Kurin**