

**ARE CURATORS UNPROFESSIONAL?
BANFF INTERNATIONAL CURATORIAL INSTITUTE
THE BANFF CENTRE**

Friday, November 12, 18:00 – 22:30
Saturday, November 13, 9:30 – 17:00
Sunday, November 14, 9:30 – 18:00

Organized by the Banff International Curatorial Institute in collaboration with the Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery, University of British Columbia and JMB Gallery, University of Toronto

The Banff International Curatorial Institute's *Are Curators Unprofessional?* symposium gratefully acknowledges the support and partnership of Laura Rapp and Jay Smith; the Alberta Foundation for the Arts; the Audain Foundation; the Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage; JMB Gallery, University of Toronto; the Mondriaan Foundation; the Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery, University of British Columbia; and *Mousse*

Is curating a profession? What does it mean to be a professional and when is it necessary to become unprofessional? What is professional and what is amateur? Does curating have a code of conduct? What are the ethical considerations? What is the relationship between curatorial power and responsibility?

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:30 – 17:30

Matthew Higgs Exhibition Workshop

Students and recent graduates of curatorial studies programs will create, promote and install an exhibition on campus in one day

11:00 – 12:00

Registration and check-in

16:30 – 18:00

Max Bell Lobby

18:00 – 19:30

Keynote Address: Bruce Ferguson

Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, The American University in Cairo

Moderator: Tom McDonough

Associate Professor, Art History, Binghamton University, New York

Max Bell Auditorium

19:30 – 21:30

God's Dice, Geoffrey Farmer, Opening Reception

Walter Phillips Gallery

Matthew Higgs Exhibition Workshop Opening Reception and Tour

Jeanne and Peter Lougheed Building Lobby

21:30 – 00:00

After Party

Maclab Bistro, Kinnear Centre for Creativity and Innovation

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:30 – 8:30 **Beginner Yoga class**
Sally Borden Gym
Everyone welcome, please dress appropriately
FREE

8:45 – 9:30 **Registration and check-in**
Max Bell Lobby

9:30 – 12:00 **Are Curators Unprofessional (enough)?**
Max Bell Auditorium

Presenters will analyze moments of crisis in the profession and ask: When is it necessary to be *unprofessional*? What issues exist within a field that is demarcated by instability? How should curatorial education respond to this instability? How is the curator defined within the post-museum biennial sphere?

Keynote: Cuauhtémoc Medina

Independent Curator, Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, University of Mexico

Speaker: Ann Demeester

General and Artistic Director, de Appel Arts Centre, Amsterdam

Speaker: Louise Déry

Director, Galerie de l'UQAM, Université du Québec à Montréal

Speaker: Pier Luigi Tazzi

Independent Curator and Critic, Florence

Moderator: Teresa Gleadowe

Independent Curator, Writer, and Consultant, London

14:00 – 17:00 **Judge and Jury**
Max Bell Auditorium

The panel will illuminate the politics of taste, consider the ramifications of judgment with respect to curating and identify continuing attempts to re-distribute the power of judgment. Who has the right to judge, what apparatus is used, and what role does the judgment of art have in curatorial studies programs? In an era of reality TV, where a panel of judges can kick start an artist's career, and where "peoples' choice" awards are widespread, is the curator still needed as an arbiter and tastemaker?

Keynote: Tom McDonough

Associate Professor, Art History, Binghamton University, New York

Speaker: Judy Radul

Artist, Vancouver

Speaker: Dieter Roelstraete

Curator, MuHKA, Antwerp

Speaker: Lori Waxman
Art Historian and Critic, Chicago

Moderator: Monika Szewczyk
Head of Publications, Witte de With, Rotterdam

22:15 – 00:15

Late Night Soak, Banff Upper Hot Springs

22:15 Bus departs from the Professional Development Centre lobby for Hot Springs

23:00 – 00:00 Late night soak at Banff Upper Hot Springs

00:15 Bus departs from Hot Springs for the Professional Development Centre

Limited space

FREE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:30 – 8:30

Outdoor morning walk

Meet in the Sally Borden lobby

Everyone welcome, please dress for cold weather

FREE

9:00 – 9:30

Registration and check-in

Max Bell Lobby

9:30 – 12:00

Craftwork

Max Bell Auditorium

Panelists will explore the craft of exhibition making, by examining exhibitions that have provoked paradigm shifts. Is curating a trade or craft, rather than a profession? If exhibition making is a craft, what are the qualities that define this craft? What skills must a curator possess? Which exhibitions have provoked paradigm shifts?

Keynote: Ute Meta Bauer

Director and Associate Professor, Visual Arts Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Speaker: Teresa Gleadowe

Independent Curator, Writer, and Consultant, London

Speaker: Paul Chaat Smith

Associate Curator, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Washington

Speaker: Andrea Viliani

Director, Fondazione Galleria Civica-Centro di Ricerca sulla Contemporaneità di Trento

Moderator: Scott Watson

Director, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

14:00 – 17:00

The Catalogue is Out!

Max Bell Auditorium

Speakers will scrutinize the emergence of curatorial writing as a genre and question its unique position and function in relation to art criticism and art history. What is the function of the exhibition catalogue? How does it mediate between the work of art and the world? Is curatorial writing the lowest genre of art writing? What is the difference between criticism, curatorial writing and art history?

Keynote: Bruce Ferguson

Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, The American University in Cairo

Speaker: Matthew Higgs

Director, White Columns, New York

Speaker: Philip Monk

Director, Art Gallery of York University, Toronto

Speaker: Monika Szewczyk

Head of Publications, Witte de With, Rotterdam

Moderator: Michael Turner

Novelist, Vancouver

17:00 – 18:00

Wrap Up Session

Max Bell Auditorium

Jennifer Fisher

Associate Professor, Art History and Curatorial Studies, York University, Toronto

Diana Nemiroff

Director, Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa

Sarah Robayo Sheridan

Director of Exhibitions and Publications, Mercer Union, Toronto