

"A DAM AGAINST THE SPRING TIDE OF MEMORIES": COLLECTING/COLLECTIVE IDENTITY AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PAST

DR. TIM GRUENEWALD



1/F TT TSUI BUILDING
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
6 APR [THU] 6:30PM

Many collectors of African American cultural and historical objects declare rewriting American history and art history as central to their endeavor. They also aim to contribute to a re-imagining of African American identity. In their view, the African American story has too long been presented in a limited and distorted manner, which collectors hope to correct through their practice of collecting and exhibiting. As a conclusion to the Kinsey exhibition lecture series, this talk explores the history and conceptual approaches of collecting and exhibiting African American art and history and its contribution to the development of an African American collective identity.

This talk is part of a series of lectures organized by the American Studies Programme (SMLC) and inspired by the exhibition "Rising Above: The Kinsey African American Art and History Collection" which is on show at the University Museum and Art Gallery until February 26, 2017.

The exhibition is co-organized by the Faculty of Arts and the University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong in collaboration with KBK Enterprises, Inc. and the Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Arts & Education. Goldman Sachs is a Silver Sponsor and American Airlines is the exhibition's Official Airline. Supporting organizations include the Consulate General of the United States of America in Hong Kong and Macau, the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Lan Kwai Fong Group, and the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong. With special thanks to Caripelago Trading Limited.



Dr. Tim Gruenewald is Director of the American Studies Programme at HKU, where he teaches U.S. popular culture and cultural studies. He is the contributing co-editor of the forthcoming volume *Benevolent Empire in U.S. Popular Culture since 9/11* and an edited volume inspired by the Kinsey Collection of African American Art and History. His current research examines how remembrance of difficult histories in national memorial museums contributes to the national imagination in the United States. He is the writer and co-director of the documentary film *Sacred Ground* (2016), which explores memory discourses at Wounded Knee and Mount Rushmore.

All are welcome. No registration is required. For enquiries, please contact Dr. Tim Gruenewald at tgruene@hku.hk