

Collection and Recollection Educational Initiative

■ Presentations and Workshops ■

What are the things in our homes and museums that mean the most to us? How do we preserve the past and speak to the future? What would you save if your house were on fire? Using excerpts and additional material from the PBS documentary film *Objects and Memory*, filmmaker Jonathan Fein raises questions about fundamental human responses and how otherwise ordinary things become transformed into precious conveyers of experience, emotion, and identity.



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Focusing on meaningful objects invites discussion of issues of value, memory, the urge for community, contemporary history, museum collecting, heirlooms, artistic response, and authenticity. These entertaining and stimulating presentations challenge the audience to question what is taken for granted and what we hold most dear.

Why collect things?

How do we respond to important events?

How do curators select items to preserve and display?

Why do we imbue objects with value?

How does the physical represent the intangible?

What is the relationship between story and object?

How do meaningful objects trigger memory?

What is a symbol?

What defines an historical moment?

How do objects bridge the past and the future?

How do objects connect people?

What is authenticity and why is it important?

Why do people make art? How do people experience art?

Why do people offer meaningful physical things?

By asking what we value, we rediscover who we are. By examining the things we most value, we illuminate the human urge to preserve the past and speak to the future.

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