

MUSEUM HOURS

Tues-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4;
Second Fridays 10-8 (4-8 FREE)

Closed Mondays and
major holidays

Holiday closings 2015-2016:

December 24-25; and 31.
January 1.

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LOUISE W. AND EDMUND J.

KAHN LIBERAL ARTS INSTITUTE

SMITH COLLEGE
MUSEUM
OF ART

THE TEN THOUSAND YEAR COLLECTION

The future of museums, collections, & archives

By Elizabeth Merritt

The opening lecture in a two-part "Futurisms" colloquium--a collaboration between the Kahn Liberal Arts Institute and the Smith College Museum of Art

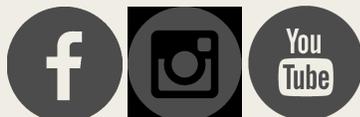
Thursday, December 10 | 5 PM
Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall | Smith College

Free and open to all

UPCOMING EVENTS

smith.edu/artmuseum

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IMAGES: Elizabeth Merritt; and
Anne Balsamo

Increasingly, today's museum experience is substantially different from that of only a couple decades ago. The 20th century museum model--not so great a contrast from the 19th-century model--no longer applies.

Elizabeth Merritt, a foremost authority on the future of museums, will share her insights on what is to come for museums, collections and archives,



during a public lecture at Smith College on Thursday, December 10, at 5 p.m. in Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall.

Merritt is Vice President, Strategic Foresight & Founding Director, Center for the Future of Museums at the American Alliance of Museums in Washington, D.C. The topic of her talk will be "The Ten Thousand Year Collection."

The December 10 talk is free and open to the public. No reservations are required; doors will open at 4:30 p.m.

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Today's museums and those being planned and reconfigured for future visitors must consider interactivity, new and emerging technologies, cultural shifts and changing societal needs and preferences both practical and intangible, as well as architectural concerns pertaining to shifting climates and changing weather patterns.

Through the chronological frame of 10,000 years (roughly the span of human civilization), Merritt's talk will consider what preservation and interpretation could really mean across millennia and within the context of shifting institutional culture, as well as the role of digital technology, ethics and value structures around collecting, archiving and providing access to works.

This program kicks off the first of a two-part multidisciplinary research colloquium titled "Futurisms," a collaboration between the college's **Kahn Liberal Arts Institute** and the **Smith College Museum of Art**

For more information on the Futurisms project, visit the [website](#).

Part I of the colloquium, December 10-12, will bring together scholars and museum professionals from Smith and the Five Colleges to explore the future of scholarship and the retrieval, storage and preservation of research materials, and other aspects of collections.

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Part II of Futurisms, titled "Intersections: Digital Humanities, Interactive Media and Cultural Heritage," will take place February 25-27, 2016, and will host guest lecturer **Anne Balsamo, Dean of the School of Media Studies and Professor of Media Studies at the New School in New York.**

Balsamo's work focuses on the connections between art, culture, gender, and technology. Her public lecture, entitled "The Cultural Work of Interactive Memorials: Lessons from the AIDS Memorial Quilt Digital Experience Project," is scheduled for February 25, 2016.



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The timing of Elizabeth Merritt's lecture and the Futurisms seminar are pertinent as Smith College embarks on a major redesign and reimagining of its main library, Neilson Library, in the center of campus. Like Futurisms, the library project, to be designed by architect Maya Lin, will deeply consider the needs and changing dynamics of collecting and archiving in the 21st century and beyond, while anticipating uses for the future.

The Louise W. and Edmund J. Kahn Liberal Arts Institute, located on the third floor of Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA is a research center that supports collaborative projects among Smith and Five College faculty, Smith students and visiting scholars without regard to the traditional boundaries of departments, programs and academic divisions.

The Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA), located at 20 Elm Street at Bedford Terrace, Northampton, MA holds a permanent collection including 25,000 works of art. Promoting visual literacy is at the core of SCMA's mission, supported by the museum's permanent collection and special exhibition galleries, classrooms, the Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings and Photographs, and varied programs for all ages.

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Written by Eric Weld, Publicity & Program Administrator, Kahn Liberal Arts Institute, Smith College, with assistance from Margi Caplan, Smith College Museum of Art (SCMA)

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