MDOCS Presents:

John Beckman, ‘94
EXPERIENTIAL STORYTELLING
&
SCIENCE EXHIBITS

February 18, 5:30 pm
Davis Auditorium

Co-sponsored by Arts Administration, Art History and with the support of the Frances Young Teaching Museum
ABOUT MDOCS

The John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative is an interdisciplinary center presenting the stories of the human experience in documentary media and technologies: old and new; visual, oral and written; analog and digital. Providing resources for and fostering collaborations between Skidmore’s academic programs and documentary practitioners, MDOCS invites students, faculty and staff to learn and use the documentary arts for critical inquiry, discovery, civic engagement, and exposition.

MDOCS, on its own and in partnership with individuals and programs, offers classes in the principles of documentary and instruction in documentary filmmaking, audio storytelling, and exhibition, among other documentary forms.

In addition, the Saratoga-Skidmore Memory Project, Storytellers’ Institute and internships support Skidmore students, faculty and staff as they develop documentary projects in partnership with the community.

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MDOCS is generously supported with funding from several sources. The Collaborative continues a long partnership between Skidmore and the Moore family, dating to the College’s second President Henry T. Moore (1925-1957), and has continued with Moore’s son John B. and wife Bettina and a third generation, Jim and Sue Towne. The Moores and Townes generously seeded the Storyteller’s Institute, the Skidmore-Saratoga Memory Project and academic year faculty and student development plans with an initial endowment to promote dialogue between documentarians and the Skidmore community and to showcase how a liberal arts education prepares students for professional success by supporting hands-on training to complement the existing curriculum with new summer collaboration opportunities.

Additional support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will help launch the Collaborative and its participation as one of three initiatives supported by a three-year, $750 thousand grant for visual communication, “Project VIS.”

EVENTS @
THE TANG

Curator’s Tour of Nicholas Krushenick: Electric Soup
With Tang Dayton Director Ian Berry
FRI FEB 20
12:00 PM

Dance Delight
Workshop with Crazy Legs
Learn hip-hop from legendary b-boy Crazy Legs.
SAT FEB 21
3:00 - 4:30 PM

Hip Hop Dance Competition
With Siena College’s Hip Hop Club and Skidmore’s 213 Crew, Breakbeats, Rhythmos, Stompin’ Soles, and Ujima Step Team. Followed by a one-on-one freestyle battle open to all with special guest Judge Crazy Legs!
SAT FEB 21
6:30 - 9:00 PM

Ayurvedic Workshop
Join Eliza Kent, Professor of Religion, in exploring this system of traditional Hindu medicine.
WED FEB 25
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Tang Guide Tour
With Molly Lockwood ’18 and Eliza Mittelsteadt ’18
THU FEB 26
5:30 PM

ArtWork: Careers in the Visual Arts
Skidmore alumni working in the visual art industry speak about their professions.
THU FEB 26
7:00 - 9:00 PM

South Asian Festival
Celebrate South Asian culture through food, dance, music, and art-making. Co-organized with Skidmore’s Hayat.
SAT FEB 28
3:00 - 7:00 PM

More events @ tang.skidmore.edu
About the Discussants

Raymond J. Giguere, Class of 1962 Term Professor of Chemistry (2007-2012), joined the Skidmore faculty in 1988. Giguere holds a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from the University of Hannover (Germany) and a BA degree from Kalamazoo College. In the 1990s he created a Liberal Studies course for non-science majors, "Playing Nature: Organic Synthesis and Society, 1900-1975", which he taught for nearly a decade. That pedagogical experience formed the conceptual basis for the Molecules That Matter exhibition, which was co-curated with John S. Weber, then Dayton Director of the Tang Museum. Molecules That Matter opened at the Tang in fall 2007, and traveled nationally to the Chemical Heritage Foundation, the College of Wooster, and Grinnell College.

Mary Crone Odekon, Professor and Chair, Department of Physics, is an astrophysicist who studies the formation of galaxies and large-scale structure in the universe. She earned her BS from the College of William and Mary and her PhD from the University of Michigan, and has also worked at the University of Pittsburgh and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. In collaboration with Ian Berry and Margo Mensing, she co-curated the 2004-2005 exhibit A Very Liquid Heaven at the Tang Museum.
PROGRAM

5:30 PM

John Beckman, ’94
Director, Exhibit Design & Development,
Museum of Science & Industry, Chicago

Experiential Storytelling and Science Exhibits

Discussion led by:
Raymond Giguere (Chemistry)
and
Mary Crone Odekon (Physics)

Q&A The Audience

Moderator:
Jordana Dym,
Interim Director,
John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative

About the Speaker

John Beckman (BA, ’94, theatrical design and art history) also trained at the Motley Theatre Design Course in London, England and the Studio School of Stage Design, Jersey City.

Since joining the Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago, IL) in 2002, John has conceived and executed several blockbuster exhibitions including Action! An Adventure in Moviemaking (2004), which included the first-ever public display of all 50 Academy Awards® prior to the ceremony broadcast and won an AAM MUSE award for excellence in the use of media and technology, as well as a Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) THEA award.

In 2006, John led the creation of the exhibit-event, Leonardo da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius, which received national news attention, and contained an original Leonardo drawing displayed for the first time in the U.S., ground-breaking and world-premiere interactive software, and the scholarly work of the world’s three most respected Leonardo experts. Subsequent projects included Numbers in Nature and Robot Revolution.

Prior to joining the Museum, John served as a project manager for Chicago Scenic Studios, Inc., a Chicago-based entertainment construction company. He was a founder, Resident Designer and Managing Director of the award-winning Visions & Voices Theatre Company (V&V), a troupe devoted to producing new plays in Chicago’s Off-Loop theatre scene.

In addition to work at MSI, John serves on the Eastern Board of the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), is the Chair of Television Production for the nationally televised McDonald’s Thanksgiving Parade® and the Chair of Admissions for Skidmore College’s Alumni Board of Directors.