

## Additional Resources:

This program, slideshow and links below can be found at Rosenberg Library  
[www.rosenberg-library.org](http://www.rosenberg-library.org)

Or visit:

Edmund de Waal's website  
[www.edmunddewaal.com](http://www.edmunddewaal.com)

Videos of Edmund de Waal  
<http://youtu.be/UMci7etxN8U>  
<http://youtu.be/DIUgZ2j-704>

Photos of netsuke from De Waal's collection  
<http://www.vintage-books.co.uk/books/harewithambereyes/>  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/gallery/2010/jun/25/edmund-de-waal-netsuke-hare?intcmp=239>

Interviews  
<http://www.vintage-books.co.uk/authors/vintage-podcasts/Podcast6/>  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/audio/2010/jun/24/israel-maggie-gee?intcmp=239>

Website of the Ephrussi-Rothschild Villa & Gardens in southern France  
[www.villa-ephrussi.com](http://www.villa-ephrussi.com)

Museum of Fine Arts Houston [www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org)

*The Rosenberg Library Museum Book Club wishes to acknowledge MFAH and Edmund de Waal for the resources and suggestions*



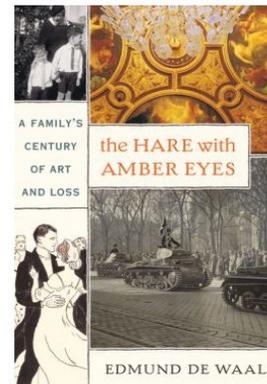
ROSENBERG LIBRARY  
MUSEUM BOOK CLUB  
**FALL 2012**

November 3, 2012

11:00am—12:00 noon

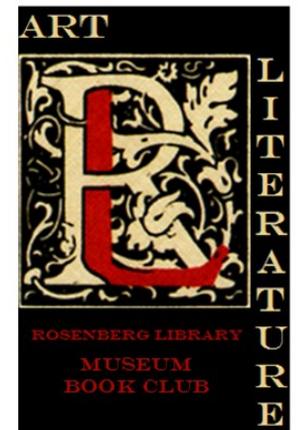
## PROGRAM AGENDA

12:00 noon	Welcome & Introductions
12:00-12:15	Artifact Presentation
12:15-1:00	Open Discussion



**Rosenberg Library's  
Museum Book Club provides  
a forum for discovery and  
discussion, linking literary  
selections with art from our  
permanent collection.**

MUSEUM BOOK CLUB  
*The intersection of Art & Literature*



*Discuss. Discover.*



Consider de Waal's initial descriptions of his netsuke collection,

***"It is a very big collection of very small objects.***

***I pick one up and turn it round my fingers, weigh it in the palm of my hand."***

**Japanese netsuke**  
*Gift of the Estate of Frances A. Mattei (80.134.2)*

### **Discussion...Senses**

When you visit a museum or admire a display, how do you experience the art?

Is touch necessary to understand objects or appreciate artifacts?

How is your experience interacting with netsuke today different from viewing a display?

**Portrait of Rabbi Henry Cohen (1863-1952)**  
*Gift of Galveston Children's Center Board of Directors (86.015.2)*



*"It wasn't just Renoir who disliked the Jews. ...Protecting your name and your family's honour was increasingly difficult as a Jew in Paris." ~The Hare with Amber Eyes, Chapter 10*

### **Discussion...Anti-Semitism**

The story of Charles is linked very closely to the history of the period—the Dreyfus Affair and anti-Semitism, particularly within the art community.

How familiar were you with this aspect of history?

Consider the work of Rabbi Cohen in Galveston - the Temple Forums, work with the Newspaper Editor, discussion over "the Merchant of Venice" - how do you think his efforts had an effect on anti-Semitism in Galveston?



**Rabbi Cohen's cuff links, cigar holder, ink well, linen shirt cuffs, and bow tie**  
*Permanent loan courtesy Sam Rosenstein*

**"Objects need biography—there aren't many books out there that take objects themselves seriously."**

*Edmund de Waal, Interview in The Guardian*

How do you interpret this?

**Kimono, ca. 1890**  
*Gift of Catherine Davis Gauss (85.032.2)*



### **Discussion...That with which we surround ourselves**

Consider the artifacts you have seen today. Are you satisfied with the biography of these objects?

What would you want to know if this was your collection?

Is examining objects owned and valued by people a good way to find out who they were / are? Why or why not?

What do your personal collections or 'treasures' say about you?