ROSENBERG LIBRARY
MUSEUM BOOK CLUB
SPRING 2013
March 20, 2013
12:00 noon—1:00pm

PROGRAM AGENDA

12:00 noon
Welcome & Introductions

12:00-12:15
Art & Artifact Presentation

12:15-1:00
Open Discussion

For additional web resources, please visit:
www.gardnermuseum.org
www.ulrichboser.com
www.gardnermuseum.org/theft/resources
Includes information about the heist and a complete inventory the of stolen works
www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk
See other Dutch works from the original Royal Poniatowski collection
www.concordia.ca/campus-life/arts-and-culture/max-stern/
Learn more about the Max Stern Art Restitution Project
www.degas-house.com
Web site for a New Orleans bed and breakfast which was once the home of the home of the Degas family.
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/05/arts/design/museums-grapple-with-onerous-restrictions-on-donations.html?hp&_r=0
http://www.boston.com/metrodesk/2013/03/18/feds-reveal-investigative-developments-publicity-campaign-gardner-heist-probe/VmSiOGRgKbRakLJr1wCA3I/story.html

BOOKS BY ULRICH BOSER
The Gardner Heist
The Code of Trust (coming 2013)

Interview with Ulrich Boser

Rosenberg Library's Museum Book Club provides a forum for discovery and discussion, linking literary selections with art from our permanent collection.
“Gardner would also have to endure the treacheries of the art market and steer clear of the scores of well-executed counterfeits...” ~pg. 50

**Discussion...Museum Security**

Ulrich discusses the conflict between curators—who want to offer viewers an intimate experience with art—and security personnel who want to protect it.

Who do you think is right?

Do you think the stolen paintings from the Gardner will ever be found? Where do you think they are? How would you solve the crime?

**Discussion...Art Ethics**

Isabella Stewart Gardner worked with a network of respected experts when selecting artworks yet when she purchased Govaert Flink’s Landscape with an Obelisk, she believed it was a Rembrandt (pg. 74). The discovery of Rembrandt’s forged signature happened only a few years before the Heist and visitor guides still attributed the painting to Rembrandt.

Discuss how forgery impacts both individually purchased and museum held / displayed art.

Boser states that art crimes are more mundane and far less glamorous than Hollywood portrayals. What is he referring to?

**Discussion...Collecting**

The author reveals that art provided an emotional refuge for Gardner as she struggled to overcome tragedies in her personal life.

Were you surprised that collectors like Gardner will spend such large sums of money for individual works of art?

Consider how art is displayed. When John Singer Sargent saw the room Gardner constructed for El Jaleo, he said that “she had done more for the artwork than he ever had,” (pg. 222).

How does setting enhance the meaning of art for you? Can you relate to having created a setting for a work of art that in ways, became part of the art?

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