Reflections on World Art History, Theoretical and Practical  
Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, Princeton University

Thursday, September 27, 2012  
Krannert Auditorium, 7:30 - 8:45 pm

The Art History faculty and students are delighted to invite you to a lecture by Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, Frederick Marquand Professor of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University, on the challenge of World Art History.

Abstract:
James Elkins has argued that world art history presents far and away the most pressing problem for the field, and its biggest challenge. But how can a coherent account be offered that encompasses all eras and areas of human material and visual products? This paper will offer some reflections on the problems and possibilities of a new global art history, addressing in particular some of the theoretical issues that Elkins and others have raised. It will also briefly sketch a practical approach to the problem.

Speaker:
Throughout his long and productive career, Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann has been noted for the quality of his scholarship, especially on Central Europe, his effort to establish a more global history of art, and his services for international collaboration and mutual understanding among nations. He is the author of many influential books and essays, including the groundbreaking study Towards a Geography of Art (2004). Professor Kaufmann served for many years as the vice president of the National Committee of the History of Art, and in 2003 he was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which selects the Nobel Prizes.

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