Collecting Things Collecting People

How do people collect themselves by collecting things? Etymologies of “collect” point to practices of assembling and gathering, with reference to money, religion and politics. Scholars have recently insisted on the need to understand “the social” as constituted by processes of assembling, while “things” have been reinterpreted through the collectives that make them meaningful. This interdisciplinary symposium explores the reciprocity between collecting things and collecting people, and the novel cultural mixtures produced thereby.

10:00 Welcome: James Delbourgo
10:15 Miguel Tamen, University of Lisbon and University of Chicago
Collecting Experiences: The Very Idea
Moderator: Jonah Siegel, English
11:05 John Tresch, University of Pennsylvania
Social Gathering / Social Engineering in Nineteenth-Century Paris
Moderator: Brad Evans, English
11:55 Break
12:10 Alessandra Russo, Columbia University
In Search of Lost Things: Material Archives, Mestizo Objects, or How to Work with the Uncollected
Moderator: Lynn Festa, English
1:00 Lunch
2:30 Ann Fabian, Rutgers
Troubling Possessions
Moderator: Virginia Yans, History
3:20 Break
3:35 James Delbourgo, Rutgers
The Global Cabinet of Curiosities
Moderator: Carla Yanni, Art History
4:25 Closing roundtable discussion
5:00 Conference end

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