

A SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

# (Re)Presenting America: *The Evolution of Culturally Specific Museums*

**J**oin an important conversation about the role of “ethnic” or “culturally specific” museums with museum directors and scholars from across the National Mall and beyond. Moderated by **Ray Suarez** of *PBS NewsHour*, the program features **Wayne Clough**, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; **Konrad Ng**, director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program; **Richard Kurin**, Smithsonian Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture; **Claudine Brown**, Smithsonian Assistant Secretary for Education and Access; and **Lonnie Bunch**, director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Participants also include **Clement Price**, professor at Rutgers University and director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience; **David Hurst Thomas**, Curator, Department of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History; **Philip Kennicott**, critic, *The Washington Post*; and Congressman **Xavier Becerra**. Lively panel discussions will feature **David Penney**, Associate Director for Museum Scholarship, National Museum of the American Indian; **Lawrence Pijaux**, President & CEO, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; **Helen Samhan**, Senior Outreach Advisor, Arab American National Museum; **Beth Takekawa**, Executive Director, Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience; and **Carlos Tortolero**, President, National Museum of Mexican Art.

Performance artist **Kip Fulbeck** engages the symposium audience with a dynamic performance exploring multiracial identity. At a reception following the symposium, artist **Bunky Echo-Hawk** (Pawnee/Yakama) will offer a “live art” performance during which he invites his audience to suggest themes that he incorporates into a painting that he then spontaneously creates.

## DATE AND TIME

Wednesday, April 25, 2012  
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Rasmuson Theater  
Reception to follow in the Museum’s  
Potomac Atrium, 6–8:00 p.m.

## LOCATION

National Museum of the American Indian  
Rasmuson Theater  
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Live webcast at  
<http://nmai.si.edu/multimedia/webcasts/>

## FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To RSVP or for further information,  
please contact [NMAI-SSP@si.edu](mailto:NMAI-SSP@si.edu)



Cultural interpreter Zandra Wilson (Diné[Navajo]) gives a tour to students visiting *Our Lives: Contemporary Life and Identities*, one of the inaugural exhibitions at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. Photo by R.A. Whiteside.