

# SPEAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHY

11th Edition

## Recovering History: The Buried Negatives of Henryk Ross

Henryk Ross worked as an official photographer, employed by the department of Statistics, Lodz Ghetto, in occupied Poland between 1940–1944. Having access to film and processing facilities to produce identity and propaganda pictures, he recorded the grim reality of the struggling Jewish community at considerable risk to his life. Upon the final liquidation of the Ghetto by the Nazi regime, Ross buried his negatives; they were excavated in 1945. Many were destroyed, but miraculously, nearly 3000 negatives survived. Their importance resides in their value as primary objects of examination and research, revealing a narrative of the photographer's original point of view, and revising mediated perceptions of Ghetto life.

Over her long and fruitful career at the Art Gallery of Ontario, **Maia-Mari Sutnik** founded its photographic exhibition program and photography collection of historical, vernacular, and contemporary photographs, beginning in 1978. Among the 70 exhibition she has organized are *Josef Sudek: The Legacy of a Deeper Vision* and *Memory Unearthed: The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross*. A pillar of Canadian photographic studies – now at Ryerson University as an adjunct faculty member – Maia-Mari Sutnik is currently working on a book about Toronto photographer Michel Lambeth.



"Henryk Ross photographing for identity cards, Lodz Ghetto," 1940, Art Gallery of Ontario, gift of Archive of Modern Conflict, 2007

## Maia-Mari Sutnik

*Curator Emeritus Photography  
Art Gallery of Ontario*

**MAR/9/2018**  
6:30pm

**York Amphitheatre, EV 1.605**  
**1515 Sainte-Catherine St. W.**  
**H3G 2W1**  
**Metro Guy-Concordia**

*Lectures are free and open  
to the public.*

*For more information, please visit*  
[speakingofphotography.concordia.ca](http://speakingofphotography.concordia.ca)

**Speaking of Photography** is organized by the Department of Art History. The series, now in its eleventh year, is made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor, with additional support from the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art, *Ciel Variable* magazine, and Château Versailles Hotel.



GAIL AND STEPHEN A. JARISLOWSKY  
INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN CANADIAN ART



FACULTY OF FINE ARTS  
Department of Art History



**CIEL VARIABLE**  
ART PHOTO MEDIAS CULTURE