The Search is On: Curating Museum Exhibits

Asaf Galay

Description: There are many research tools available for curators to consult while planning an exhibit. These can include personal archives, libraries, individual interviews with the subject/the family/or their friends, other museum exhibits and galleries, etc. Once the material is gathered, how does a curator decide what to include and how to arrange these items to create an exhibit? Case studies will be discussed using exhibits Asaf curated at Bet Ha-Tefutso (Museum of the Jewish People) in Tel Aviv: Bob Dylan (“Forever Young”), Jewish Humor (“Laughing at History”), Jewish fashion designers (“Dream Weavers”) and “Amy Winehouse – A Family Portrait.”

Asaf Galay is a museum curator and an award-winning filmmaker. He was the head curator of exhibits on Bob Dylan (“Forever Young”), Jewish Humor (“Laughing at History”), Jewish fashion designers (“Dream Weavers”) and “Amy Winehouse - A Family Portrait” at Beit Hatefutsot (Museum of the Jewish People). His films include The Muses of Bashevis Singer, about the Nobel Prize-winning Yiddish author, The Hebrew Superhero and The Adventures of Saul Bellow about the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, which won a Library of Congress/Ken Burns award in 2019. He has also directed numerous award-winning documentaries for Israeli television, including a series called Hasidistock about pop music in the Ultra Orthodox world.