

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is a scholar of Performance and Jewish Studies and a museum professional. Professor Emerita of Performance Studies at New York University and University Professor Emerita, she is best known for her interdisciplinary contributions to Jewish studies and to the theory and history of museums, tourism, and heritage. She is currently the Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, in Warsaw.

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She received her PhD in 1972 from Indiana University, Bloomington, where she studied folklore, anthropology, ethnomusicology, sociolinguistics, and material culture. She has held faculty appointments at the University of Texas, Austin (English Literature and Anthropology), Columbia University (Linguistics and Yiddish Studies), University of Pennsylvania (Folklore and Folklife), and New York University (Performance Studies) since 1981, where she chaired her department for more than a decade. She is also Affiliated Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies in the Graduate School of Arts and Science.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett served as President of the American Folklore Society from 1988 to 1992 and as the AFS delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. She serves (or recently served) on boards and advisory committees for the following institutions: Getty Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities; Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies, Smithsonian Institution; Stanford Humanities Center; Association for Museum History; the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe College; Association for Jewish Studies Executive Board and AJS Women's Caucus; the American Center for Wine, Food, and the Arts; Social Science Research Council; and International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University, among others.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett has served or currently serves on editorial boards for such journals as *Museum and Society*, *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, *Museum Worlds*, *Museum Anthropology*, *Journal of the History of Collections*, *Tourist Studies*, *Contemporary Jewry*, *Jewish Cultural Studies*, *Journal of Yiddish Research*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *American Ethnologist*, *Journal of Folklore Research*, *Narodna umjetnost: Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research*, *Senses & Society*, *TDR The Drama Review*, *Text and Performance: A Journal of Performance Studies*, *All about Jewish Theater*, *Postmodern Culture*, *Gastronomica*, and *Cuizine*. She has served or currently serves on the editorial boards of such book series as California Studies in Food and Culture (University of California Press), Jewish Folklore and Ethnography (Wayne State University Press), and Jewish Cultural Studies (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization). She served on the editorial boards of the *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore*, and *Encyclopedia of Food and Culture*.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett has served or is currently serving as a consultant internationally for many museums, exhibition projects, and cultural festivals among them Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot (Tel Aviv), the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, D.C.),

Yeshiva University Museum (New York), The Jewish Museum (New York), Skirball Museum (Los Angeles), National Museum of Jewish History (Philadelphia), Spertus Museum (Chicago), Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C.), National September 11 Memorial Museum (New York), Museum of Jurassic Technology (Los Angeles), and the Los Angeles Festival, among others. She currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Jewish Museum Vienna, Jewish Museum Berlin, and Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, Moscow, as well as serving as an advisor for museum and exhibition projects in France, Lithuania, Albania, Israel, Belarus, and the United States. She is a member of ICOM, UNESCO's International Council of Museums, and serves on the Advisory Board of CAJM, Council of American Jewish Museums.

Her publications include: *Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864-1939* (with Lucjan Dobroszycki, 1996); *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage* (1998); *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust* (with Mayer Kirshenblatt, 2007); *The Israel Experience: Studies in Youth Travel and Jewish Identity* (with Harvey Goldberg and Samuel Heilman, 2001); *Writing Modern Jewish History: Essays in Honor of Salo W. Baron* (2006); *The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times* (with Jonathan Karp, 2007); *Museum Frictions: Public Cultures/Global Transformations* (with Ivan Karp and Corinne Kratz et al, 2006); *Art from Start to Finish* (with Howard Becker and Robert Faulkner, 2005); and *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory* (with Jeffrey Shandler, 2012).

In 2008, she was honored with the Foundation for Jewish Culture award for lifetime achievement and the Mlotek Prize for Yiddish and Yiddish Culture. She was designated Distinguished Humanist for 2003 by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at Ohio State University and honored with the Shofar Award of the 25th Annual Jewish Music Festival in 2010. She has received honorary doctorates from the University of Haifa, Indiana University, and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the 2015 Marshall Sklare Award for her contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry. She was decorated with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for her contribution to the creation of POLIN Museum. . She was admitted, by invitation, to the American Academy for Jewish Research, the Society of American Historians, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and recently received the Dan David Prize.

Previous awards include the Guggenheim Fellowship and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Endowment for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Humanities. She was a Getty Scholar at the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities in 1991-1992, in residence at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Conference and Study Center in 1991, a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar in 1995, a Winston Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1996, a University of Auckland Foundation Visitor in 1998, a fellow at SCASSS (Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences) in Uppsala in 1998, and a resident research fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 2001.