

**The Frost Art Museum's  
The Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series  
presents  
Dr. Richard Kurin  
Under Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Author of  
*Hope Diamond: The Legendary History of A Cursed Gem***

Miami, (February 22, 2011) –According to folklore, the Hope diamond with its brilliant gray-blue color was cursed when it was snatched from an idol in India. This curse prophesied bad luck and even death not only for the owner of the diamond, but for all who even touched it. Whether or not you believe in the curse, it's beauty and story have survived centuries. With its rich history, which includes being owned by King Louis XIV, stolen during the French Revolution and eventually donated to the Smithsonian Institution- the infamous diamond draws thousands of visitors each year to its home in Washington, D.C. for a fleeting glimpse.

After over a decade of research, Dr. Richard Kurin wrote *Hope Diamond: The Legendary History of a Cursed Gem* (HarperCollins/Smithsonian Books, 2006). Kurin, expert on the Hope Diamond and Under Secretary for History, Art and Culture for the Smithsonian Institution, will speak on Friday, March 4, 2011 at 7 p.m. as part of The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum's Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series.

With his background as a cultural anthropologist, Kurin will discuss the impact that the presence of the diamond created across different cultures and societies throughout history. Replicas of the Hope Diamond will be on view in The Museum prior to the lecture.

Dr. Kurin is a former Fulbright-Hays fellow and earned his Ph.D in cultural anthropology from the University of Chicago. As Under Secretary for History, Art and Culture for the Smithsonian Institution, he oversees the Anacostia Community Museum; Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Freer Gallery of Art; Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum (New York City); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; National Museum of African American History and Culture; National Museum of African Art; National Museum of American History; National Museum of the American Indian and its George Gustav Heye Center (New York City); National Portrait Gallery; National Postal Museum; and Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery. He has worked with the Smithsonian Institution since 1976 when he was a consultant for the Bicentennial Festival of American Folklife.

Dr. Richard Kurin's lecture will be held in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center across from The Frost Art Museum on FIU's Maidique Campus. The Museum will be open prior to the lecture. This event is free and open to the public.

The replica of the Hope diamond will be on display in The Frost Art Museum's Permanent Collection galleries from February 24, 2011 through March 4, 2011.

**What:** The Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series presents Dr. Richard Kurin

**Where:** Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus  
The Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center  
11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> St. Miami, FL 33199

**When:** 7 p.m. Friday, March 4, 2011

**About The Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series**

Since 1981, the Frost Art Museum has enhanced its exhibitions and educational programs with the Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series, which has introduced numerous art world luminaries to the South Florida community. Internationally renowned artists, museum curators, scholars and critics have spoken on a variety of art topics to audiences of over 800. For more information, please visit <http://thefrost.fiu.edu/critics.htm> or call 305-348-2890.

**About The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University**

The Frost Art Museum opened its current 46,000-square-foot state of the art building in November 2008. Over **66,000** people have visited The Museum in its new building since its opening in November, 2008. Admission to The Museum is always free. The Frost is an AAM accredited museum and Smithsonian affiliate and is located at 10975 SW 17<sup>th</sup> St across from the Blue garage and adjacent to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and most legal holidays. For more information, please visit [thefrost.fiu.edu](http://thefrost.fiu.edu) or call 305-348-2890. Find The Frost Art Museum on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/frostartmuseum>) and Facebook (<http://facebook.com/frostartmuseum>).

**About FIU**

Florida International University is one of the 25 largest universities in the nation, with more than 42,000 students. Nearly 130,000 FIU alumni live and work in South Florida. Its [colleges and schools](#) offer more than 200 [bachelor's, master's and doctoral](#) programs in fields such as engineering, international relations and law. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU is worlds ahead in its local and global engagement, finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. The opening of the [Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine](#) in August 2009 has enhanced the university's ability to create lasting positive change in our community. For more information about FIU, visit <http://www.fiu.edu/>.

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