

Noted art historian to deliver lecture

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James Elkins, art historian and author, will deliver the final lecture in this year's School of Art and Design's Visiting Artists and Lecturers Series, "The Intelligence of Pleasure." His talk is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, in Holmes Auditorium in Harder Hall on the Alfred University campus. Elkins' talk will center on the topic of his most recent book, *Pictures and Tears: A History of People Who Have Cried in Front of Paintings*. He is a professor of art history, theory and criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he has taught since 1989. He is a prolific writer and lecturer on and perception. Some of his books, such as *What Painting Is* and *Why Are Our Pictures Puzzles?*, are exclusively on fine arts, while others are on scientific and non-art images and archeology, such as *The Domain of Images*, and *On Pictures and the Words that Fail Them*. *How to Use Your Eyes* includes natural history as well. A native of Ithaca, NY, Elkins earned a BA degree in English and Art History, and received an MA, an MFA and a Ph.D degree, with honors, from the University of Chicago. Elkins' academic interests include theories of images; non-art images (maps, schemata and heraldry); connections between Renaissance and modernism; connections between art and science; historiography of art history; history and theory of perspective; relationship between art practice and art history; and representations of the body. Other interests include freshwater microscopy, optics, stereo photography, playing piano and winter ocean diving.