

NEWS RELEASE

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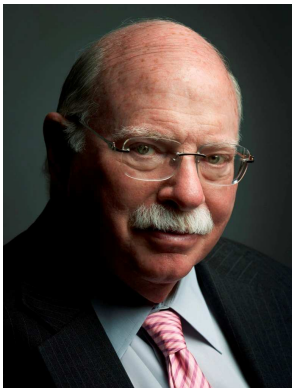
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Philanthropist and Art Collector Michael Steinhardt to deliver the Kanof Lecture at the N.C. Museum of Art

RALEIGH, N.C.—**Jewish philanthropist and art collector Michael H. Steinhardt** will deliver the 11th annual Abram and Frances Pascher Kanof Lecture at the North Carolina Museum of Art on **Sunday, March 27, at 2 p.m. in the Museum's auditorium**. The lecture is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture.



A near-legendary name in Jewish philanthropy, Michael Steinhardt has devoted his energy, enthusiasm and considerable resources to encourage the global revitalization of Jewish culture and identity, most notably through the Birthright Israel project. Steinhardt is also a distinguished art collector of antiquities, contemporary art and South American textiles. His collection of Jewish ceremonial art is one of the finest of its kind in private hands. For Steinhardt, art collecting and philanthropy are all part of his personal commitment to Jewish renewal and optimism.

For this year's Kanof Lecture Steinhardt has chosen a deliberately provocative topic: "Reflections of a Judaica Collector Who is Both an Atheist and Deeply Jewish." He notes that his lecture "will include the history of my collecting and how my theology, or lack thereof, has impacted my choice of objects." As a passionate, mission-driven collector of art, Steinhardt will offer sharp, surprising perspectives on the role of art in the transmission of cultural ideas and ideals from one generation to the next.

The Abram and Frances Pascher Kanof Lecture is presented in honor and memory of two of the Museum's most devoted patrons. Until his death in March 1999 at age 95, Dr. Abram Kanof served the Museum as a longtime trustee and founding curator of the Judaic Art Gallery. The program and the reception that follows is the gift of the Kanof family.

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The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the Southeast. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum recently opened its new gallery building, home to the permanent collection. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Beverly Eaves Perdue, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Linda A. Carlisle, secretary. Admission to the Museum's permanent collection and Museum Park is free. Museum hours are Tuesday–Thursday and Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Closed Monday. For information call (919) 839-NCMA, or visit www.ncartmuseum.org.