The decades-old debate over whether to highlight art objects’ stunning formal qualities or, instead, emphasize their rich cultural histories in an art museum context continues to polarize museum professionals and visitors today. Hale will discuss the complex issues at stake in this enduring dichotomy as well as potential strategies to transcend them - including the increasingly common practice of integrating technology with museum education models. In particular, she will discuss her recent exhibition and related website project, Art & Life in Africa, a freely accessible resource that brought together more than fifty scholars, technicians, collectors and institutions from around the world. Looking forward, Hale will address her role as Curator of the Arts of Africa and the Americas at the Cantor Arts Center and the wide-ranging possibilities for innovative collaborations and interdisciplinary projects.

Catherine M. Hale is the Phyllis Wattis Curator of the Arts of Africa and the Americas at the Cantor Arts Center. She holds a PhD and AM in African art from Harvard University, and an MA in Canadian Art History, with a focus on indigenous arts, from Carleton University. Prior to joining the Stanford community this past Fall, Hale was Curator of African and Non-Western Art at the University of Iowa Museum of Art, where, in partnership with Prof. Christopher D. Roy, she developed the Art & Life in Africa website. Her most recent research focuses on the potential of digital technology to support inquiry-based museum education models and connect indigenous communities and material culture resources globally.

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
12:00pm - Seminar Room

Location: Building 500
488 Escondido Mall
Room 106

If you have any questions regarding our events, please contact:

Julie Hitchcock
(650) 723-5731
julieh1@stanford.edu