

The Art in Maps Rocky Mountain Map Society Map Month 2017

About the Rocky Mountain Map Society

The Rocky Mountain Map Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and appreciation of maps, holds regular meetings throughout the year. We invite individuals with an interest in cartography, exploration or history to join our organization.

RMmaps.org

Presenting Sponsor

[Denver Public Library](http://denverlibrary.org)

Founded in 1889, the Denver Public Library connects people with information, ideas and experiences to provide enjoyment, enrich lives and strengthen our community. The Western History & Genealogy Department is dedicated to sharing resources and services about African-American history, Western history, genealogy and the conservation movement in the Rocky Mountain West. [Denverlibrary.org](http://denverlibrary.org)

The Art in Maps

Maps represent an attempt to draw an image of a place on paper. From the earliest times, artistic components have been used to embellish these cartographic images, not only to enhance their appeal, but also to convey critical ideas. The lectures in the 2017 Rocky Mountain Map Society's Map Month examine how the cartographic and artistic elements have been brought together in different ages and cultures.

Exhibits

[The Art in Maps](#)

April 3 – June 2

Denver Central Library

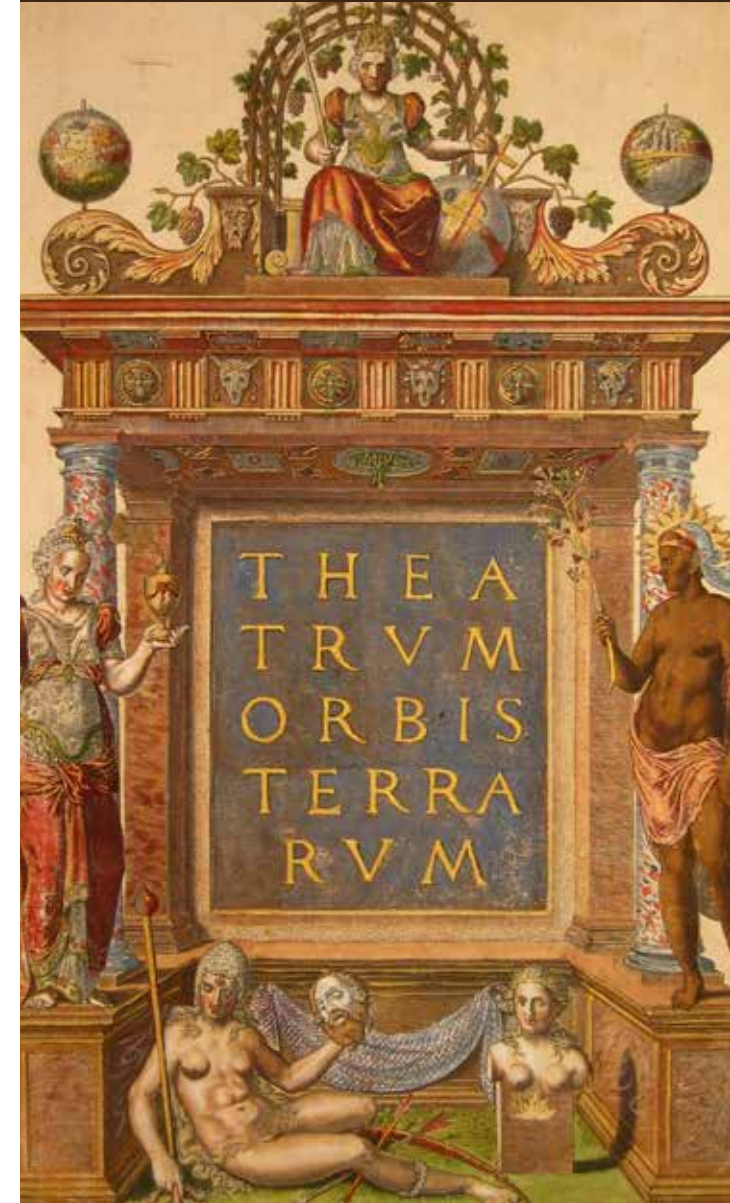
Western History and Genealogy Department

[Native American Geographies](#)

May 1 – July 7

University of Colorado, Boulder

Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences & Map Library



MAP MONTH 2017 – LECTURES

All lectures will be held at the Denver Central Library Conference Center at 14th & Broadway starting at 5:30 p.m. Parking is available at the Cultural Center Garage (entrance on 12th Ave.) For further information, call (303) 322-4757

May 2: Maps in Paintings

Presented by: Kathleen Stuart

Artists have long used maps in their paintings to assert ownership or dominion over a particular locale. This talk will present a range of diverse examples – from medieval sacred images to Renaissance portraits to 17th- and 18th-century still lifes and scenes of everyday life – exploring the role given to the map in each picture.

Kathleen (Kate) Stuart is curator of the Berger Collection, a private collection of British art on loan to the Denver Art Museum. She received her M.A. degree from Hunter College of the City University of New York, and worked as a curator of drawings and prints at the Morgan Library in New York before moving to Denver in 2007.



May 9: Maps as Art and Maps as Information: Beauty vs. Utility in Early Modern Japan

Presented by: Marcia Yonemoto

In early modern Japan (c. 1590-1868), *maps as art* were primarily decorative, such as six-fold standing screens. However, the



majority of early modern maps were *informational documents* of places and spaces, woodblock-printed on sturdy paper of various sizes, meant to be used and studied by many people. This talk will focus on the differences between maps as art and maps as information during this era.

*Marcia Yonemoto is Associate Professor of the history department at University of Colorado Boulder and Director of the Graduate Teacher Program. She is the author of **The Problem of Women in Early Modern Japan**, (University of California Press, 2016).*

May 9: The Selden Map and Ming China's Maritime World

Presented by: Tianlong Jiao

The early 17th century Selden Map is considered an anomaly among known Chinese antique maps. Although it employed traditional Chinese painting techniques, its primary focus was on the coast and the islands in east and southeast Asia rather than the mainland. Thus, it presents a very different impression of the relationship between the Ming Empire and its adjacent islands and coastal countries from the official world view at that time.

Tianlong Jiao is Josef de Heer Curator of Asian Art at Denver Art Museum. He curated the exhibition of the Selden Map in 2013 when he was the chief curator of Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

May 16: Art and Cartography

Presented by: Susan Schulten

Join us for a tour of some of the most powerful integrations of art and cartography over the



past two centuries of American history. We will focus primarily on popular artistic maps, ranging across politics, culture, education, and even military conflict. These examples indicate the diverse ways that maps appeared in American life, capturing efforts to convey much more than spatial relationships.

*Susan Schulten is professor and chair of the history department at the University of Denver. Her newest project, **A History of America in One Hundred Maps**, is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press and the British Library.*

May 23: The Crossroads of Cartography and Cartooning

Presented by: John Roman

While cartographic maps follow mathematical and geographical guidelines, *illustrated maps* present the world as translated by our minds. Historians credit conceptual mapmaking as one of the oldest forms of art. This talk delves into the origin of illustrated maps and explores the parallel between *caricatured* mapping and the author's own work as a nationally syndicated comic strip artist. Roman will show many of his own illustrated maps as well as those of those of contemporary artists from around the world.

*John Roman is a cartographic illustrator and author of the recently-released book, **The Art of Illustrated Maps** (HOW Books, 2015). He is also Assistant Professor of Illustration at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. A Q&A and book signing follow the talk.*

