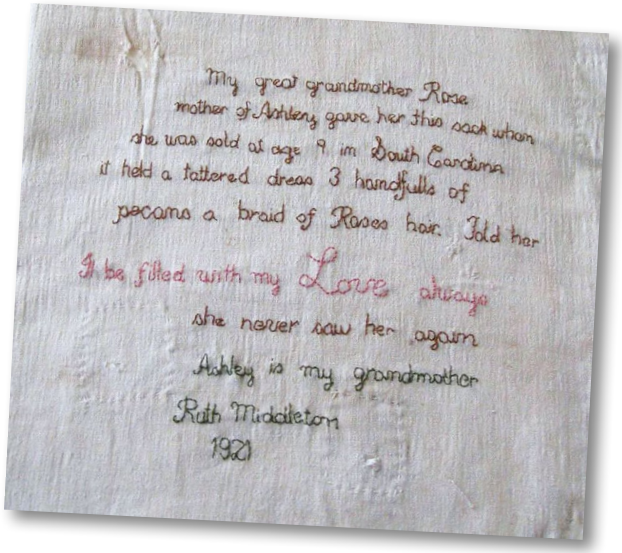
FIRST ANNUAL

Director's Lecture

Rose's Gift: Slavery, Grief, and Resilience in an Object of Memory

MSU Museum | Entry Hall
Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 6:00 pm
Dr. Mark Auslander



New MSU Museum Director Mark Auslander shares his recent research on one of the most enigmatic artifacts on display in the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Discovered ten years ago, "Ashley's Sack" is a simple seed bag, on which is embroidered a haunting narrative of a nine-year-old girl, sold away from her mother in the mid-1800s. Dr. Auslander recounts his two-year quest to recover the identities and the stories of the women recorded in the object's needlepoint, and to reconstruct the history of their family across two centuries of slavery and freedom.

He also discusses interpretive and display challenges posed by this heart-breaking object, and reflects on the power and possibilities of museums—in our fractured, polarized era—for engaging diverse publics in productive explorations about race, power, and the burdens of history.

This lecture marks the start of the MSU Museum's new membership drive. Please support the work of the museum in safeguarding our shared heritages in science, culture, and art

FREE and open to the public.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM
WHERE SCIENCE AND CULTURE MEET

museum.msu.edu

Museum Fall Semester Hours
Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sundays closed

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