

CAN ART SAVE US FROM FUNDAMENTALISM?



Philip Salim Francis

**Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies
University of Maine-Farmington**

**Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 3:30 pm
Wells Fargo Auditorium (Beatty 115)**

Can art change a life? For the past 10 years, Philip Francis has been documenting the accounts of hundreds of former evangelical Christians who underwent a sea change of religious identity through the intervention of the arts. In this lecture, he focuses on interviews with former students at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. He tells their stories and analyzes his findings: how is it that the arts have the power to unsettle and rework our most deeply entrenched religious beliefs and practices? How do we navigate experiences of profound self-remaking through the supple medium of the arts?

**This lecture is co-sponsored by the departments of
Religious Studies, Art History,
and the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art.**