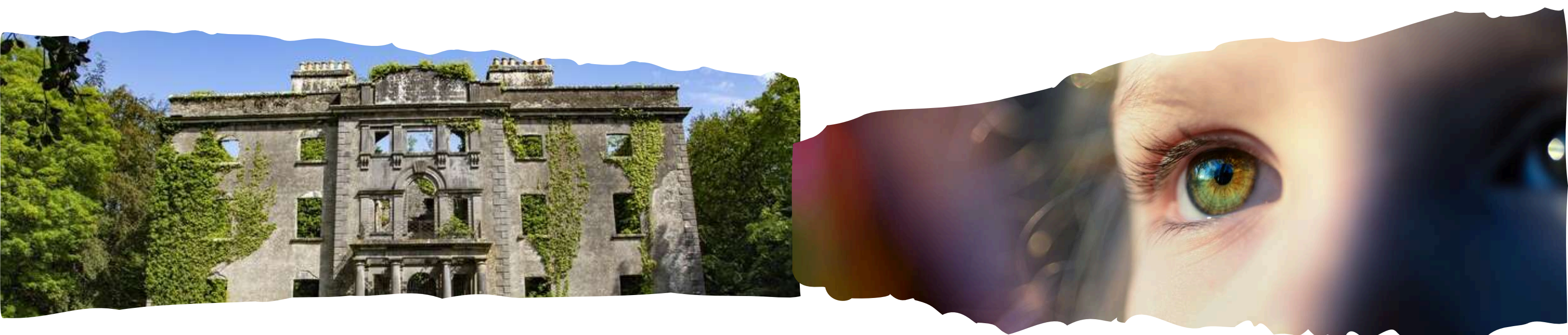


## **OPEN TALKS 2025**

# **PARALLEL NARRATIVES IN HOUSE MUSEUMS**

## **DETAILED PROGRAM**





WEDNESDAY 11.06.25



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Franklin "Frankie" Vagnone

Franklin "Frankie" Vagnone is a visionary Public Historian and founder of Twisted Preservation Cultural Consulting, an internationally recognized firm transforming how cultural institutions engage with audiences. He was co-author with Deborah Ryan of the groundbreaking book "The Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums," which expounded his innovative approaches to cultural preservation. The book earned him numerous accolades, and his popular blog reaches readers in over 85 countries.

After his keynote presentation at the joint ICOM DEMHIST-CECA conference (2017), we are pleased to invite him to again present at our Open Talks 2025. His Keynote presentation, **Allegorical Interpretation: When Houses Roam** introduces the concept of allegorical interpretation as developed in his forthcoming book "When Houses Roam: Pillow Talk with Historic Sites".



Drawing from John Hejduk's insight that "a house roams at night when its occupants sleep," he will demonstrate how heritage sites perform meaning beyond their intended purpose when allowed to speak their full truth. In our current political moment, when heritage sites increasingly become tools of propaganda pressed into service of rigid national narratives, allegorical interpretation offers a vital alternative. Traditional interpretation globally privileges a single, authorized narrative tied to a specific period. However, houses are vessels of memory, and an allegorical approach accesses parallel narratives that exist between our careful documentation, revealing stories that transcend political appropriation and rigid interpretation.



## WEDNESDAY 11.06.25

### SESSION 1



### PRESENTATIONS

- **Grabriela Steinitz.** Trude Sojka House Museum, Ecuador.

*The Trude Sojka House Museum: from the story of three generations, to a story of regeneration.*

This presentation focuses on Holocaust survivor and artist Trude Sojka, along with her family's next generations of women artists managing the museum. Beyond preserving personal histories, the house museum inspires ecological awareness and regeneration, standing as a living example of how art, history, and environmental care can intertwine to shape a more conscious future.

- **Paulo de Freitas Costa.** Ema Klabin House Museum, Brazil.

*The multiple memories of a house.*

Memory may stem from tradition, fostering an image of an idealized past, which may never have truly existed. Conversely, memory can also be progressive, bringing forth silenced elements, striving for a more comprehensive perspective, acknowledging contemporary challenges. Through recent initiatives addressing domestic work and overlooked perspectives, the Ema Klabin House museum seeks to reveal the complexities of identity, labor, and memory within a historic home.

- **Joanna Sieracka.** Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejówek, Poland.

*Between National and Local, Public and Private, Universal and Gendered: Parallel Narratives at the Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejówek.*

The Józef Piłsudski Museum navigates the delicate balance between public history and intimate narratives, questioning gendered divisions and integrating local voices into national memory, through its two spaces: a modern exhibition building tracing Piłsudski's political legacy, and a historic manor house offering a glimpse into his family's private world.

### VIRTUAL TOURS



**Maria Gravovscaia.** A. Pushkin House-Museum, Moldova.

*"Genius loci" in the golden triangle of old Chisinau.*



**Mario Nascimento.** Museu de Lisboa – Palácio Pimenta, Portugal.

*Casa Veva de Lima: a case study.*



## THURSDAY 12.06.25

### SESSION 2



### PRESENTATIONS

- **Angelica Policeno Fabbri.** Casa di Portinari Museum, Brazil.

*Heritage Education Project of the Casa de Portinari Museum in Brodowski (Brazil) Schools: Strengthening Narratives for Cultural Identity Formation.*

How can a historic house museum strengthen community identity through education? The Casa de Portinari Museum, former home of renowned painter Candido Portinari, reconnects local children and families to their cultural heritage through the Portinari Goes to School program, deepening ties between the artist's legacy and people of his hometown.

- **Iñaki Urricelqui Pacho & Silvia Lizarraga Pérez de Zabalza.** Gobierno de Navarra, Spain.

*Carlism Museum: new stories in a history museum.*

Political history offers many challenges regarding parallel narratives. The Museum of Carlism uses its collections — many drawn from Carlist domestic spaces — to reveal the layered, often conflicting stories within this historic movement. Through inclusive exhibitions, collaborations, and creative initiatives like escape rooms and contemporary art, it reinvents itself as a dynamic, participatory space for dialogue and reinterpretation.

- **Elena Sánchez Cortina.** Colegio de San Ignacio de Loyola Vizcaínas, Mexico.

*The House of Chaplains in the School of Saint Ignatius Loyola Vizcaínas, an Eighteenth century building in Mexico City.*

The School of Saint Ignatius Loyola Vizcaínas has been a place of education, devotion, and resilience since 1767. From its baroque chapel with original altarpieces to its transformation into a museum in 1990, the building preserves centuries of art, daily life objects, and community memory. Today, it tells the layered story of a house that witnessed faith, politics, and education evolving within its walls.

### VIRTUAL TOURS



**Belén Navazo Hourcade & Ingrid Sandell Bull-Njaa.** Museum Stavanger, Norway.

*Contextualizing Stavanger's Past. A New Narrative Approach to the three house museums: Ledaal, Breidablikk and Holmeegenes.*



**Matjaž Koman.** Institute for Tourism and Culture Žirovnica, Slovenia.  
*Parallel Narratives in Prešeren's Birth House in Vrba.*



## THURSDAY 12.06.25 SESSION 3



### PRESENTATIONS

- **Hillary Walker.** Toronto History Museum, Canada.

*A look at Historic New England's evolving queer interpretation at Beauport, the Sleeper-McCann House.*

What does it mean to queer a house museum? Through the evocative interiors of Beauport, the Sleeper-McCann House, one of the first U.S. house museums to openly acknowledge its queer history, this presentation will trace how intimate, domestic spaces can powerfully convey queer heritage. Reflecting on two decades of evolving interpretation, it invites museum professionals to embrace the complexity of sexuality in historical narratives — and to consider how house museums, in particular, can give voice to lives once lived in the margins.

- **Jenny Seeman & Jennifer Wise.** Craigdarroch Castle Historical Museum Society, Canada.

*Whose History is it Anyway? The challenge of bringing a Syilx woman's memoirs to life inside a colonial castle.*

Craigdarroch Castle has long told a story of Gilded Age splendor. But a playwright's discovery of Marie Houghton — a Syilx Nation historian connected to the Dunsmuir family — exposed deeper, untold histories of colonial harm, overlooked lives, and hidden resilience. How do you honor these hidden stories in a house built to exclude them? Join curator Jenny Seeman and playwright Jennifer Wise as they reveal their work to confront uncomfortable truths, amplify silenced voices, and rethink Craigdarroch's legacy for today.