

# Inaugural Svetlana Boym Memorial Lecture

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 4-7pm

**Svetlana Boym** (1956-2015) was the Curt Hugo Reisinger Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literatures at Harvard University and a Faculty Associate of the Graduate School of Design. She studied Hispanic literatures at Leningrad State Pedagogical Institute and at Boston University and received her PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. A native of St. Petersburg, Russia, Svetlana Boym was also a writer and media artist. Her photographs were exhibited in Berlin, Madrid, Ljubljana, Copenhagen, Glasgow, New York, Cambridge, MA and at the Venice Architectural Biennial (2010). See [www.svetlanaboym.com](http://www.svetlanaboym.com).

She received a Guggenheim Fellowship as well an American Academy in Berlin Fellowship and was Gauss Lecturer in Criticism in Princeton University. For her teaching and advising she was awarded the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award in 2009.

Her works include *The Off-Modern* (forthcoming in June from Bloomsbury), *Another Freedom: The Alternative History of an Idea* (2010); *The Future of Nostalgia* (2001); *Architecture of the Off-Modern* (2008); *Territories of Terror: Memories and Mythologies of Gulag* (2006); *Ninotchka: A Novel* (2003), *Common Places: Mythologies of Everyday Life in Russia* (1995), and *Death in Quotation Marks* (1991).



THIS EVENT WAS ORGANIZED BY:  
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE,  
THE DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES,  
THE DAVIS CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES,  
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDIES

AND WITH GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO  
YURY AND MUSA GOLDBERG

Fong Auditorium, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard  
Screening at 4:00pm, lecture at 5:15pm,  
with a reception to follow in the Ticknor Lounge

Introductory remarks by Professor Robin Kelsey  
Dean of Arts and Humanities, Harvard

Film Premiere:

*Svetlana Boym: Exile and Imagination*  
by  
Judith Wechsler



Judith Wechsler has written and directed 28 films, predominantly on art. She taught for many years at MIT and has been a visiting professor at Harvard and at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris and Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and in France she was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des arts et des lettres. Her books include *The Interpretation of Cézanne* and *A Human Comedy: Physiognomy and Caricature in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris*. Her films include a film called "Drawing the Thinking Hand" (made for the Louvre), "Rachel" with the Comédie Française, and films for the Metropolitan Museum and others. Like many of her films, *Svetlana Boym: Exile and Imagination* will be distributed by The Museum of Modern Art in New York, and archived at Harvard's Film Archive.

## Svetlana Boym Memorial Lecture:

**Andreas Huyssen**



### **The Politics of the Off-Modern in the Art From Elsewhere**

Andreas Huyssen is the Villard Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he served as founding director of the Center for Comparative Literature and Society (1998-2003). He chaired the Department of Germanic Languages from 1986-1992 and again from 2005-2008. He is one of the founding editors of *New German Critique* (1974-), and he has published widely in German and English. His books include *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism* (1986), *Twilight Memories: Marking Time in a Culture of Amnesia* (1995), and *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory* (2003). His most recent book is *Miniature Metropolis: Literature in an Age of Photography and Film* (Harvard UP 2015). He is currently working on a book about contemporary visual artists from beyond the Northern Transatlantic whose work re-articulates the relationship between politics and aesthetics in novel ways.