

A MACHINE AUTOPSY

Vittorio Marchis, Politecnico di Torino

Friday, April 19, 8:30 pm

FREE and Open to the Public

Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel

101 Lyon Street, Ballroom A

*Sponsored by Canada Science and
Technology Museum*

Historian of technology and material culture

Vittorio Marchis will physically dissect a Canadian-made Dawn Telephone (SR1008) while discussing its context in technology, the arts, literature, and social history. His work combines performance art with the curator's deep understanding of historical objects.

Conjuring the modern crime laboratory and layered with metaphor, Marchis will disassemble the telephone while raising questions about the meaning of artifacts in

public humanities, as well as the digital age. Accompanied by video clips and a lecture assistant who will read aloud from various texts (as was the practice in classic 18th- and 19th-century anatomy lectures), Marchis invites the audience to consider how embedded we are in technology. His message: a real knowledge of the past is built on material contact with it.

Marchis has presented similar dissections many times, including performances on Italian radio and television. He teaches history of technology, Italian industrial history as well as material culture history at the Politecnico di Torino, where he is also the director of the Historical Documentation Centre and Museum of the Politecnico of Turin.



This performance is part of the 2013 National Council on Public History conference, April 17-20. All are welcome to register for the conference (\$195; single-day \$100) onsite at the Delta Hotel. Participants include historical interpreters, museum professionals, government historians, archivists, oral historians, cultural resource managers, curators, film and media producers, historic preservationists, policy advisers, local historians, and community activists, among many others interested in historical thinking. www.ncph.org