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