



## March 15, 2018

### Robert Mapplethorpe, Obscenity Law, and the First Amendment: A Discussion with Professor Amy Adler

#### Contact Info:

John Plotz  
jplotz@pennlaw.upenn.edu

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Gittis 214, Haaga Classroom

Join Penn Law and the Arts and Lambda Law on March 15 at noon in Gittis 214 for a discussion with Professor Amy Adler featuring the intersection of art, obscenity law, and sexuality.

Professor Adler will discuss gay artist Robert Mapplethorpe's 1989 exhibit, *The Perfect Moment*, which was curated at Penn's own Institute of Contemporary Art before traveling across the country. The exhibit's explicit treatment of gay sexuality quickly met with controversy and was ultimately targeted by the United States Congress. As uproar around the show grew, fueled by anxieties about AIDS, homosexuality, race, government funding for the arts, and the vanishing boundary between art and pornography, it led to the first obscenity trial against an art museum in the history of the United States. Professor Adler will talk about the litigation, its implications for artists working today, and the significance of the court's granting First Amendment protection to a gay, openly HIV-positive artist at the height of the AIDS crisis.

Professor Adler is the Emily Kempin Professor of Law at NYU, where she studies the First Amendment, Art Law, and Feminist Jurisprudence. She is a graduate of Yale Law School and Yale College.

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Feedback