

WORLD AFFAIRS

Massey lecturer Welsh visits

Salt Spring Forum
event on Friday

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“History is back, with a vengeance.”

Jennifer Welsh, who joins the Salt Spring Forum in conversation at ArtSpring on Friday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m., delivered this arresting message in her 2016 CBC Massey Lecture titled *The Return of History: Conflict, Migration and Geopolitics in the 21st Century*.

Clearly, there are many causes for serious concern. From U.S. President Donald Trump’s attempted ban on refugees and immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, to continued violence in the Middle East, Russian authoritarianism and expansionism, and deepening economic inequality in the West.

Welsh — who served as the UN Secretary General’s special adviser on



Jennifer Welsh.

the “responsibility to protect” — points out that the 21 century has seen the reappearance of trends and practices that many believed had been erased. These include attempts to annihilate ethnic and religious minorities, arbitrary executions and the starvation of besieged populations.

In 1989, as the Berlin Wall fell and the Cold War ended, American political commentator Francis Fukuyama predicted in his famous essay *The End of History* that the strug-

gles of the past would be replaced by lasting peace and social equity.

However, history did not end. Instead, as Welsh points out, it has returned.

But while history is back, it is not over. Welsh reminds us that as individual citizens we must all take a more active role in the preservation and growth of our own liberal democratic society, which was not inevitable but was built.

Welsh is professor and chair in international relations at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. She is also a fellow of Somerville College at the University of Oxford and co-founded the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict.

She is a brilliant thinker; the best possible person to help us understand and address the pressing issues of our time.

Tickets are available through ArtSpring and Salt Spring Books.