

SPRING 2018 COURSE OFFERING

HA 898 Franklin Murphy Seminar in Art History:  
**Public Art in Modern America**

Taught by KU art history professors David Cateforis and Charles Eldredge  
and visiting Murphy Professor Erika Doss

*Meets Tuesdays, 2:30-5 PM, in SMA 207*

What is public art? Why is it made? Who is it for? How and why may it be controversial?

This seminar will examine episodes in the history of public art in the U.S. from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, examining its politics and aesthetics from the perspectives of its producers and audiences. Topics to be explored may range from the decorative murals and public statuary of the Gilded Age to government sponsored art programs of the 1930s, from modern abstract sculptures erected in public squares to war memorials (Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea or Vietnam) and commemorations of tragic events (Oklahoma City bombing or 9/11 attacks).

Students will submit weekly questions in response to assigned readings, periodically lead seminar discussion, and write a substantial and original research paper analyzing a topic within the seminar's scope of inquiry.



Erika Doss is Professor of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame. A leading historian of modern American art and culture, she is the author of several books, including *Spirit Poles and Flying Pigs: Public Art and Cultural Democracy in American Communities* (1995) and *Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America* (2010). Dr. Doss will be in residence at KU for two separate weeks in March and April 2018, during which she will meet on numerous occasions with the seminar, hold individual conferences with students, and deliver public lectures at the Spencer Museum of Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

*Please contact Prof. Cateforis or Prof. Eldredge for further information or permission to enroll.*