

TROUBLING MEMORIALS: DISGRACED MONUMENTS AND PROBLEMATIC PUBLIC ART IN AMERICA

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13 MAR 2019 (WED) 4:30-6:00PM

CRT-4.36, RUN RUN SHAW TOWER,
CENTENNIAL CAMPUS, HKU

From the toppling of a statue of King George III in New York in 1776 to the recent removal (or relocation) of statues and monuments that pay homage to the Confederacy, the United States has had a long history of “reckoning” with memorials, monuments, and other forms of public art that citizens deem oppressive, shameful, hateful, or simply “out of sync” with current values and ideals. This lecture traces how, why, and when Americans target public art, and the dilemmas of dissent and historical accountability in public culture.



Erika Doss teaches in the Department of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Her books include *Benton, Pollock, and the Politics of Modernism: From Regionalism to Abstract Expressionism* (1991), *Spirit Poles and Flying Pigs: Public Art and Cultural Democracy in American Communities* (1995), *Looking at Life Magazine* (editor, 2001), *Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America* (2010), and *American Art of the 20th-21st Centuries* (2017). The recipient of several Fulbright awards, Doss has also held fellowships at the Stanford Humanities Center, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum Research Center, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

All are welcome. No registration is required. For enquiries, please contact Dr. Emily Chow, at echowq@hku.hk.



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