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# Art-Related Controversies in the United States Michael Kammen

### Slides

## **Monuments and Memorials**

- 1. Horatio Greenough, *George Washinton* (1842). Moved from U.S. Capitol to Smithsonian. Nicknamed "George Jupiter Washington"
- 2. Robert Mills's elaborate plan for a Washington Monument (ca. 1845).
- 3. Washington Monument incomplete, 1855-78. Gigantism and inadequate funding.
- 4. Henry Bacon, Lincoln Memorial (1922). Greek temple.
- 5. John Russell Pope, Jefferson Memorial (1943). Roman Pantheon.
- 6. Maya Lin, Vietnam Veterans Memorial (1982). Postmodernism.
- 7. Frederick E. Hart, *The Three Servicemen* (1984). The call for representation.

#### Nudity and Decency

- 8. Hiram Powers, *Greek Slave* (1843). Six versions. Careful public relations.
- 9. Auguste Rodin, *The Kiss* (1886). Victorian prudery.
- 10. A male model in a life drawing class at the Art Students' League (1906).
- 11. Nuns in a life drawing class at the Art Institute of Chicago (1938).

# American Resistance to Modernism

- 12. Henri Matisse, *Blue Nude* (1906). Chicago's negative response to the Armory Show of 1913.
- 13. Matisse, Sailboat (1952). Hung upside down for a long time at MoMA.
- 14. John Sloan, McSorley's Bar (1912). The "Eight" and ordinary life.
- 15. Robert Henri, Salome (1909). The opera craze of "Salomania" (1909-12).
- 16. Constantin Brancusi, Bird in Space (1926). Plumbing supplies!
- 17. Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Circus Girl Resting (ca. 1944-45). "I'm a Hottentot."
- 18. "The Irascibles," Life magazine (Dec. 1950). Jackson Pollock in the center.

## Transformation of the American Museum (late 1950s-)

- 19. Frank Lloyd Wright, The Guggenheim Museum, Manhattan (1959).
- 20. Joseph Hirshhorn and the model for his museum (ca. 1970).
- 21. Hirshhorn Museum of Contemporary Art and Sculpture Garden (1974).
- 22. Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World (1948). Most popular artist in the U.S.
- 23. Andrew Wyeth, Black Velvet (1972). National Gallery of Art, 1987.
- 24. Andrew Wyeth, Overflow (1978).

#### Iconoclasm and Political Protest

- 26. Diego Rivera, Man at the Crossroads (1933). Destroyed by Rockefellers (1934).
- 27. Marc Morrel, Cross (1966). In court, 1966-74. Flag desecration.
- 28. Kate Millett, The American Dream Gone to Pot (1970). Revived in 1994-96.

### Public Art and Sculpture

- 29. Frederick MacMonnies, Civic Virtue (1922). A male tramples 2 females (sirens?)
- 30. Robert Motherwell, *New England Elegy* (1966). Boston. GSA commission. Role of the media becomes increasingly important.
- 31. Pablo Picasso, stabile for the Chicago Civic Center (1967). Afghan hound? Wife?
- 32. Alexander Calder, *La Grande Vitesse* (1969). 1<sup>st</sup> NEA commission. Art in Public Places.
- 33. George Sugarman, Baltimore Federal (1977). A haven for terrorists.
- 34. George Segal, Abraham and Isaac: Kent State Memorial (1978). Rejected.
- 35. Richard Serra, Tilted Arc (1981-89). Lower Manhattan. Minatory minimalism.
- 36. Andrew Leicester, The Cincinnati (Bicentennial) Gateway and *Flying Pigs* (1987-89). Cooperation with the community and good public relations.

## Feminism and Radical Performance Art

- 37. Judy Chicago, The Dinner Party (1979). Permanent home at BMA (2002).
- 38. " " Place setting for Emily Dickinson
- 39. " " Margaret Sanger
- 40. " " Georgia O'Keeffe
- 41. " " Sojourner Truth
- 42. Carolee Schneemann, Interior Scroll (1975). Performance art.
- 43. Karen Finley, "We Keep Our Victims Ready" (ca. 1990). The NEA 4 (1990-98).

# Photographic Iconoclasm: Religious offense, sexuality, & "kiddie porn"

- 44. Andres Serrano, Piss Christ (1987).
- 45. Andres Serrano, Heaven and Hell (1984).
- 46. Robert Mapplethorpe, *Man in Polyester Suit* (1980).
- 47. " *Helmut and Brooks* (1978).
- 48. " *Lisa Lyon* (1980-82). He also did portraits and flowers.
- 49. " Lisa Lyon. Joshua Tree National Monument (1980-82).
- 50. " *Ken and Tyler* (1985).
- 51. " *Jessie McBride* (1976).
- 52. Sally Mann, Emmett, Jessie, and Virginia (1984-90). Her own children!
- 53. " " Jessie and Virginia (1990-91).

## Racial Issues

- 54. Paul di Pasquale, Statue of African-American tennis star *Arthur Ashe* on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Va., former capital of the Confederacy (1996).
  - a. A <u>nude</u> statue of Ashe by Eric Fischl was put up in 2000 where the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament is played in Forest Hills, Queens, New York. <u>Protests</u>!