

For immediate release
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Feminist artist Judy Chicago to appear at USI as Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar

Judy Chicago, America's most visible female artist, will present "From the '70s to the '90s: Judy Chicago Presents an Overview of her Work" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 18, in Carter Hall, University Center, University of Southern Indiana as Part of the Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar series. A reception and book signing will follow the lecture. Several of her books will be available to purchase. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Chicago's lecture will highlight her most famous projects and illuminate how she uses art as a vehicle for intellectual transformation and social change.

An art educator, feminist, intellectual, and author of seven books, whose career spans more than three decades, Chicago has expanded art to include women, minorities, and art forms such as embroidery, weaving, and china painting. Her universal themes, writings, and ambitious collaborative projects have touched the lives of many women and men not usually involved with contemporary art.

Dr. Hilary Braysmith, assistant professor of art history, said, "Judy Chicago is one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Her greatness exceeds her exemplary aesthetic prowess because her artistic achievements derive from her moral and intellectual courage to investigate inclusive ways of seeing, thinking, and behaving, as well as creating, and because she aims to empower her entire viewership, helping us all to realize a healthy, integrated society."

Chicago received a B.A. and an M.A. from University of California, Los Angeles.

In the 1970s, Chicago pioneered feminist art and art education by establishing women's art programs at Fresno State University and the California Institute of the Arts. *The Dinner Party* (1979), a collaborative work, involved over 400 women artists in its five-year creation. A triangular table laid with 39 place settings symbolically unites mythological and historical women for an evening of celebration and exchange. A ceramic floor is inscribed with the names of 999 women rulers, artists, and thinkers to represent a grand history of women's achievements.

Subsequent large-scale collaborations include *The Birth Project* (1980-85) and *The Holocaust Project: From Darkness to Light* (1985-93). Chicago's most recent collaborative artwork is *The Millennium Project: A Stitch in Time* (1994-99), which combines painting and needlework and playfully reinterprets traditional adages and proverbs. Her latest book, *Women and Art: Contested Territory*, co-written by British art historian Edward Lucie-Smith, was released fall 1999.

For more information, contact Dr. Hilary Braysmith at hbraysmith@usi.edu or 812/464-1740; or view the online site http://199.8.93.1/a_chicago/index.html.