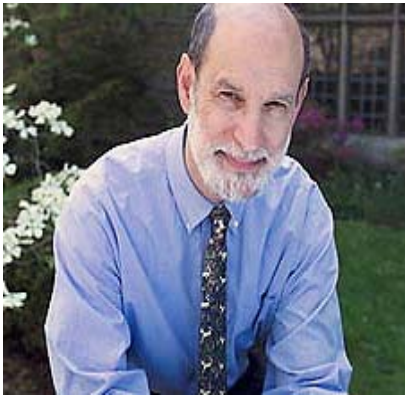


**Western Michigan University's Department of History
presents the Annual H. Nicholas Hamner Lecture**

Dr. Michael Kammen

Newton C. Farr Professor of American History and Culture at Cornell University and Cardozo Visiting Distinguished Professor at Yale University



VISUAL SHOCK: CONTROVERSIAL ART IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Wednesday November 9

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Fetzer Center Room 1005

Michael Kammen is one of today's most prolific, wide-ranging, and engaging scholarly commentators on the American past. In his lecture, Kammen will discuss the reasons why the history of controversial art provides such a rich window on American society and culture, such as why there has been a pervasive, ongoing call for art appropriate to a democratic society, and why the 1960s marked such a pivotal turning point in the emergence of iconoclastic ("in your face") art. He will use many illustrated narratives involving monuments and memorials, modernism, decency and sexuality, museums as sites of controversy, and the emergence of feminist art. This lecture will draw upon Professor Kammen's forthcoming book about art and cultural contestation in American history, which will be published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2006.

Dr. Kammen is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and served in 1995-96 as President of the Organization of American Historians. He has been a Regents Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, served on the Smithsonian Council, and on the Advisory Board of the National Park System. His books include *People of Paradox: An Inquiry Concerning the Origins of American Civilization* (1972), awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History; *A Machine That Would Go of Itself: The Constitution in American Culture* (1986), awarded the Francis Parkman Prize and the Henry Adams Prize; *Mystic Chords of Memory: The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture* (1991); and *A Time to Every Purpose: The Four Seasons in American Culture* (2004).

Dr. Kammen's lecture is part of an annual series named for Dr. H. Nicholas Hamner, WMU professor emeritus of history, who established a permanent endowment in 1999 to fund the series. Hamner, a specialist in British history, retired in 1992. The series is designed to bring to WMU outstanding historians to speak on topics of interest to students, faculty members and the larger community. It is an opportunity for the History department to contribute to the campus and the broader community by having a distinguished scholar address a theme of broad interest.