"Art on the Move"

Speaker: Rochelle Steiner
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A recognized curator and writer, Steiner has organized over 60 major art exhibitions and large-scale public art projects in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Prior to joining the Roski School, where she served as Dean from 2010-12 and teaches courses in curatorial practice and public art studies, she was the Director of the Public Art Fund in New York; Chief Curator of the Serpentine Gallery in London; and Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Saint Louis Art Museum in Missouri. Steiner curated 6 Under 60, an interactive exhibition about six emerging cities for the 2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism with faculty and students from the USC School of Cinema, School of Architecture and Roski School of Art & Design; and since 2011 has co-led Emergent Cities, an ongoing interdisciplinary working group of faculty and professionals, focusing on issues facing cities globally as well as locally in Los Angeles, including urban planning and cultural development, public spaces and placemaking, technology and the development of smart cities. She was the editor and lead author of a monograph on Korean artist Do Ho Suh’s drawings (DelMonico Prestel, 2014) and is currently editing and writing a monograph about American photographer Sarah Charlesworth (Prestel, 2017). Steiner earned PhD and MA degrees in Visual and Cultural Studies from the University of Rochester, and a BA from Syracuse University in English and Advertising.

Description of the lecture: For decades, artists have presented their works in public spaces. Most typically we think of public art as sculptures in parks and plazas, or murals on the facades of buildings, which appear either through civic invitation or individual intervention. But contemporary artists have also taken great interest in the language of the streets, including billboards and electronic signs as well as modes of transportation. Busses, subway cars, and metro stations are among the platforms that have fascinated artists and are providing spaces for engaging the public—through both official sanctioned channels and more independent avenues. These artworks are gestures set into motion, circulating and crossing the public routes as people traverse the city. They are art on the move.

Discussant: David Sloane
Professor, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy