

# ART HISTORY PROGRAM

## Lecture Series

**UC DAVIS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

<http://arthistory.ucdavis.edu>



SPRING QUARTER 2009

## Ellen McBreen

### Matisse's Sculpture 1907-1908: *L'Humanité féminine* and the Origins of Difference

Several of Henri Matisse's sculptures from 1907-1908 were modeled after plates from the ethnographic-erotica revue *L'Humanité féminine*, where these photographs ostensibly functioned as documents asserting the absolute difference of their North African-identified models. The works Matisse made with these photographs, however, also appropriated concepts from Sub-Saharan African figural traditions in ways that destabilized, rather than secured, the identities of their depicted subjects. This lecture examines the relationship between the hybrid primitivism of Matisse's nudes and the hybridity of his studio sources.

Ellen McBreen received her Ph.D from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. She is currently teaching at Parsons Paris School of Art & Design.

**Monday, March 30th • 4:10 pm in ART 210D**