This seminar considers the art of Georgia-born artist Jasper Johns (b. 1930, Augusta), whose career now spans almost 70 years. Johns’ works have pushed critical boundaries since the 1950s, when early paintings seemed uncategorizable, and generated characterizations of his practice as Neo-Dada and proto-Pop; recent commentary continues to mark its conceptual obliqueness and opacity, a seemingly paradoxical proposition alongside his (mostly) familiar imagery and meticulous crafting. Through various techniques—drawing, printmaking, sculpture, as well as painting—he has extended ideas across media and revisited images for decades, as his recent retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art showcased. Doubling and duality, representation and reflection have marked Johns’ contributions and framed their reception, as these two, simultaneous exhibitions exemplify. We will look together at notions of retrospection, in Johns’ art and in the critical writing about it, aiming for an understanding of both current and historical perspectives. Participants will receive *Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror*, the catalogue from the recent Whitney show.

The seminar leader is Katherine Smith, Professor of Art History at Agnes Scott College and author of *The Accidental Possibilities of the City: Claes Oldenburg’s Urbanism in Postwar America* (University of California Press, 2021). A scholar of postwar and contemporary American art, Smith has a longstanding interest in and enduring fondness for Johns’ art; his paintings from the 1960s were the subjects of her M.A. thesis and her first professional presentations. She is thrilled to come to Emory in this capacity, and to return to this topic with this seminar.

This Great Works Seminar will meet at The Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry @ Emory University from 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. on the following Wednesday evenings during the 2022 fall semester: October 5, 12, 19, & 26. Participants are expected to attend all four sessions. For further information and to reserve a spot on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar.