

COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

KKK Rally on Monument Avenue at J.E.B. Stuart Monument, 1920s



ERA

Early 20th Century, Jim Crow

THEMES

Lost Cause Myth, Public Memory, Public Art, Media, Violence

CITATION

Ku Klux Klan parade at Stuart Circle on Monument Avenue, Richmond, Va., ca. 1920, Holladay, V.2023.35, The Valentine

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What message does this image communicate?
2. Who is the audience for this image?
3. Why do you think the KKK members picked this location?

CONTEXT

The Ku Klux Klan is an American white supremacist hate group founded in Tennessee in 1865 as a vigilante group committed to violent intimidation against African Americans and others who supported equal rights and Reconstruction. The KKK, or Klan, has had several resurgences over time including in 1915 when they also were against Catholic and Jewish immigrants, and the 1960s when they worked against the Civil Rights Movement. Members wore white hoods to conceal their identities and prevent them from being arrested when committing acts of violence and intimidation. Many Black Americans left the South moving north during the Great Migration in the 20th century to escape the intolerable living conditions created by the racism fostered by white supremacists.

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