



John Steuart Curry (1897–1946) is recognized as a prominent American artist from the Regionalism movement of the 1930s. Along with fellow artists Thomas Hart Benton and Grant Wood, Curry created works depicting the realities of everyday life in the Midwest.



LAW VERSUS MOB RULE

JUSTICE OF THE PLAINS: THE MOVEMENT WESTWARD

In *Law Versus Mob Rule*, a black-robed judge defends a fugitive fleeing from an angry crowd. Without the intervention of justice, one is certain the fugitive's fate would be left to the mob, whose central character Curry named "vicious Death with a rope." This character's original skeleton-like face brought protests from various officials. Thus, two years after installation, Curry painted over Death's face with what is now seen as a red bandana.

In *Justice of the Plains: The Movement Westward*, Curry realistically portrays the pioneers' journey westward.



LUNETTE MURALS
OIL ON CANVAS, 1937

THE FOUR ELEMENTS: EARTH, AIR, FIRE, AND WATER

The four sculptures *Earth*, *Air*, *Fire*, and *Water* were conceived and modeled by Carl Paul Jennewein, and completed in 1936 by Roger Morigi, a master stone carver. They are among the fifty-seven pieces conceived by Jennewein, who was responsible for overseeing the sculptural works of the Department of Justice building during the 1930s.



FOUR LIMESTONE
SCULPTURES, 1936

Upon Morigi's completion of the first figure, Jennewein declared, "...it is the most beautiful bit of carving that I have ever seen in my experience."



Carl Paul Jennewein (1890-1978)

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