

# Martha Graham's Cold War:

## THE DANCE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY



**A Lecture by Dr. Victoria Phillips**

Co-sponsored by the History Department and the  
Physical Education and Recreation Department.

**4:30 PM • TUESDAY**

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**SILSBY 028**

**DARTMOUTH COLLEGE**

**Dr. Victoria Phillips** is a professor of History at Columbia University, director of the Cold War Archival Research project (CWAR), and Visiting Fellow in the Department of International History at the London School of Economics. She specializes in cold war history and cultural diplomacy.

Dr. Phillips is the author of *Martha Graham's Cold War: The Dance of American Diplomacy*, which explores the international political life of Martha Graham to promote the United States in over thirty nations for every presidential administration from Franklin D. Roosevelt through George H.W. Bush. Graham famously denied that her work was political, yet documents, oral histories, and even the dances themselves show a deep promotion of freedom and the constitutional principles of the United States. Joining her denial of her modernism, missionary religiosity, and feminism, the book explores how and why she performed these denials as a fundamental response to the Cold War to promote seemingly a-political messages. Her choreographic works, preeminence as a company leader, and dynamism as a performer both on and off-stage, made her an invaluable Cold War cultural expert. As one star dancer from the early Cold War said to Victoria, "Never forget: Martha was a genius."