2015 Essay Prompts

1) In your own words, discuss the myth of the “tortured artist.” In responding, you may wish to address the origins of the myth or to discuss why it is a myth. You may also wish to address the real-world concerns, beyond personal expression, that might motivate a designer, such as the needs of patrons or clients, or the pressures and influences of the broader culture or society. Think broadly and be creative in your response.

2) In your own words, discuss cities as holistic design environments. In your response you may wish to consider how design shapes cities and is also shaped by the wide range of activities that take place in cities. You may focus on New York in your response, but this is not required. Think broadly and be creative in your response.

3) In your own words, discuss the idea of monumentality as expressed on or by the Iowa State University campus. You may discuss the campus as a whole, or you may focus on a particular structure/landscape/artwork/area within the campus. Consider what monumentality means, how it is perceived, and toward what ends it is used. Think broadly and be creative in your response.