

## **CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: THE SCHOLARSHIP OF PROFESSOR PAMELA H. SIMPSON**

Art historian Dr. Pamela H. Simpson will present a public lecture on Wednesday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shenandoah Arts Council main gallery in Winchester. Her presentation, entitled "I Can't Believe It's Not Art: The History of Butter Sculpture," will examine the history of butter sculpture and its continued popularity. The 7:30 lecture will be preceded and followed by a reception that will also serve as the opening for the exhibition, "Celebrating Women's History Month: The Scholarship of Professor Pamela H. Simpson." The exhibition will be comprised of books, articles, posters and other items relative to the scholarship of Dr. Simpson. On Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m., Dr. Simpson will give a companion lecture, "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists." She will provide an overview of women's exclusion from art history and their strategies for successful inclusion. This second lecture will take place in the main conference room on the first floor of The Knowledge Point, Shenandoah University's History and Tourism Center in Winchester. The exhibition, having been relocated, will be in the exhibition gallery (Room 213) on the second floor of the History and Tourism Center. The lectures and exhibition are free and open to the public.

The Ernest Williams II Professor of Art History at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, Dr. Pamela H. Simpson has been active in national and regional organizations, presented and published papers, and chaired sessions at art conferences and vernacular architectural forums. She is currently the president of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians and co-editor of *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*. Her focus and research in the areas of architecture, sculpture, and building materials led to the publication of her books including *The Architecture of Historic Lexington* (co-authored with Royster Lyle, University of Press of Virginia, 1977); *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930* (University of Tennessee Press, 1999); and *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women, Art and the Landscapes of Southern Memory* (co-edited with Cynthia Mills, University of Tennessee Press, 2003).

Dr. Simpson's extensive research and knowledge of architecture and sculpture are reflected in the exhibition of her scholarship. Her books, articles, exhibition catalogues and butter sculpture images reveal the history of art and the materials used to produce it.

Presenting the illustrated slide lecture, "I Can't Believe It's Not Art: The History of Butter Sculpture," Dr. Simpson will provide a revealing look at the history of butter art, the role of women amateurs in its origins, and the reasons for its continued popularity. In her companion lecture, "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?" she will look at how women, using various strategies, have overcome their exclusion from art history. She will also show how, in recent years, they have righted the balance. Dr. Simpson will reveal how Women's Studies makes one rethink history.