

PRESS RELEASE

Virginia Wojno-Forney Art Lecture Series, with additional support from The Willa Cather Institute and the Womens' Studies Program, Presents a Variety of Fine Arts Events and Opportunities for 2006-07

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The Virginia Wojno-Forney Art Lecture Series announces its second annual program of art and art history lectures and presentations: "Topics in American and European Art." According to Dr. Geraldine Kiefer, coordinator of the series, fall semester offerings will feature European and American portraiture, American nineteenth-century Impressionist painter Cecilia Beaux, and the human figure in contemporary drawing. The spring series will feature Victorian art and body politics, Ophelia and photography. Guest speakers and presenters are Dr. Sarah Meschutt, curator of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley; Dr. Tara Tappert of Tappert & Associates, Archives and American Art Consultants; Dr. Kimberly Rhodes, associate professor of art history at Hollins University; and Ms. Christine Carr, assistant professor of art at Hollins.

The series, intended to broaden and deepen the fields of art and art history for students, staff, faculty and the community, is generously underwritten by Virginia Wojno-Forney, a major supporter of the arts and historic preservation in northern Ohio. Wojno-Forney has received awards and recognition for her leadership of the Cascade Locks Park Association, a non-profit organization which has restored buildings and land along the Ohio & Erie Canal. She is also a supporter of the Akron Art Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art, among many other organizations. Wojno-Forney, Dr. Kiefer's mother, is excited about these ventures in Virginia and honored to be a part the greater SU fine and performing arts community.

Co-sponsoring the series are The Willa Cather Institute and SU's Women's Studies program. Details on the fall programs follow.

On Tuesday, October 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Hester Auditorium, Dr. Sarah Meschutt will explore how portraiture evolved in Europe and America from 1500 to 1900. Her overview of this fascinating field will show how identities were crafted and how fashion pervades portraiture. Dr. Meschutt will examine the functions and forms that portraits have taken, and how styles of dress and formal poses have evolved. Students in Dr. Kiefer's American Art course will be delving into this topic in depth, as she and Dr. Meschutt will be co-teaching four classes on European and American art in the Julian Wood Glass galleries of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley.

On Thursday, October 26, from 7 to 8:30 in Hester, Dr. Tara Tappert will illuminate the art of portraiture as practiced by Cecilia Beaux. Painting became the life work of Beaux; the artist came to regard her career as a "sacred calling" made at the exclusion of marriage. During her lifetime, Beaux's sumptuous, high-style portraits of America's elite brought her recognition on both sides of the Atlantic.

Introducing Dr. Tappert will be an American Art student working on a special term paper and presentation on Beaux, "Cecilia Beaux and Willa Cather." Students matriculating in Dr. Kiefer's American Art course, Art 216, and who are interested in this project must submit a two-to-three-page proposal on Thursday, September 14, to Dr. Kiefer in class. This proposal is to consider the lives, careers, and art work produced by Cecilia Beaux and Willa Cather. The project will address the lives of both women, how their work was a reflection of their lives, and roles of the professional woman at the beginning of the twentieth century in America. Dr. Tappert will serve as the major advisor for this project.

All events are free and open to the public. Questions concerning the programs and SU's American Art course may be directed to Dr. Kiefer at 540-545-7323 or 540-247-7093.
