

Center for New England Culture Announces Heritage New Hampshire Lecture Series Presentation

Donna M. Cassidy will present "Yankee Queer: Marsden Hartley, Region, and Sexuality" on September 29, 2005, at 12:30 p.m., in MUB Theatre I. The lecture will be followed by a reception and book signing for Professor Cassidy's *Marsden Hartley: Race, Region, and Nation* (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 2005).

Professor Cassidy's lecture will explore the images of New England, particularly its local Maine folk, in terms of Hartley's presentation of the region in his paintings of the late 1930s and early 1940s. Her study of Hartley breaks exciting new ground in the study of this important artist, and her book was recently featured in the New York Times Sunday book review section. Professor Cassidy is the "first scholar to reassess his late work in light of contemporary American perceptions of race, ethnicity, place, and history." Professor Bruce Robertson writes, "Donna Cassidy offers us the most complete portrait we have of Marsden Hartley as an artist. . . . The larger issue the book tackles is modernism itself: it is a very welcome addition to the state of that question." Professor Wanda Corn calls the book "a fresh and forceful study. Cassidy places Hartley's writings and paintings of the late 1930s and early 1940s within the discourses of New England tourism, primitivism, Regionalism, and Nazism, giving us a complex picture of the aging artist seeking to become 'the painter from Maine.'" The lecture is free and open to the public, and even those previously unaware of Hartley's work will find the subject and Cassidy's presentation lively, engaging, and informative.

Donna Cassidy is a Professor of American & New England Studies and Art History at the University of Southern Maine. She has served as the Director of American & New England Studies, 2003-05. Professor Cassidy received her Ph.D. in 1988 in Art History, Boston University, her M.A. in 1982, in Art History, Boston University, and her B.A., in 1979, in American Studies, University of Massachusetts (Lowell). She is the author of *Painting the Musical City: Jazz and Cultural Identity in American Art, 1910-1940* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1997), "Picturing Place: Portland and the Visual Arts," in *Creating Portland: History and Place in Northern New England*, edited by Joseph A. Conforti (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 2005), and many other studies of the art of New England. She served as the editor of the Art Section of the *Encyclopedia of New England*, eds. Burt Feintuch and David H. Watters (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005).

The Center for New England Culture's Heritage New Hampshire Lecture Series is supported by an endowment from Heritage New Hampshire. The series annually presents lectures on the images, people, and places of New England, featuring the best of contemporary scholarship on the region. For further information, contact David H. Watters, Director, Center for New England Culture, University of New Hampshire (603-862-0353; david.watters@unh.edu).

