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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer

Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Julia Dabbs anthology released by Ashgate Publishing Group

Summary: The author will speak about researching, writing, and publishing her work at a reception on January 26, 2010.

(January 11, 2010)-Ashgate Publishing Group has released Life Stories of Women Artists, 1550-1800 by Julia Dabbs, associate professor of art history. A reception will be held in honor of Dabbs and in celebration of the completion of her book on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, from 6 until 8 p.m., at LaFave House, 305 College Avenue, in Morris. Dabbs will speak about her new book and the publishing process during a short program at 6:30 p.m.

Specializing in "cutting edge research publications and specialized reference books," Ashgate accepted the manuscript for Life Stories of Women Artists, 1550-1800 for publication after review by noted authorities in the art history field. The original manuscript content began with 25 women artists. After its review, the Ashgate editorial board asked Dabbs to expand the content to 46 women artists, because of the book's usefulness and interest.

The anthology provides a unique compilation of the earliest-known biographical texts about women artists. Dabbs investigated many rare books of the period. She translated the information she found into English—with the assistance of Pieranna Garavaso, professor of philosophy, Viktor Berberi, lecturer in Italian, Edith Borchardt, professor of German, and Stacey Aronson, associate professor of Spanish—or coordinated translation by fellow scholars.

The compiled life stories afford insight as to how women artists were characterized during a time in which they were rarely encouraged to pursue art other than through domestic activities deemed appropriate for women. The anthology provides accessibility to students and scholars interested in women's studies, history, biography, and art history.

Dabbs earned a doctorate in art history at the University of Maryland, College Park. She teaches a variety of art history courses, including Renaissance to Modern Art, Baroque Art, American Art to 1900, and Women and Art. Her research areas include 17th century French art and theory, and women artists of the early modern period.

The University of Minnesota, Morris Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Program, the Commission on Women, and the Rodney A. Briggs Library will host the reception.

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