Merkel Family Foundation  
Fall 2006  
Distinguished Lecture Series  

The Charles M. Russell Center of the University of Oklahoma  
School of Art  

presents  
Carol Clark  
Professor of Fine Arts and American Studies  
Amherst College, Amherst, MA  

"white wanderers of the wilderness"  
Charles Deas’s Paintings of Trappers and Indians  

Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 7 p.m., free and open to the public  
Pitman Auditorium, Catlett Music Center, 500 West Boyd  
(enter on Elm Avenue)  

followed by a reception at 8 p.m  
at the Charles M. Russell Center, Old Faculty Club  
409 West Boyd Street  

The Charles M.  
RUSSELL CENTER  
for the Study of Art of the American West  

The University of Oklahoma School of Art • http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/ • (405) 325-5939  
The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. For accommodations on the basis of disability call (405) 325-5939.
AMHERST COLLEGE PROFESSOR TO OFFER FREE LECTURE ON FUR TRADER IMAGERY AT OU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharon Burchett
(405) 325-5939; russellcenter@ou.edu

NORMAN – The Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West at the University of Oklahoma School of Art will present a lecture by Carol Clark, professor of fine arts and American studies at Amherst College. She will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5, 2006, in Morris R. Pitman Recital Hall of the Catlett Music Center, located at 500 West Boyd St.

The lecture is part of the Merkel Family Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series and will be followed by a reception at the Charles M. Russell Center in the Old Faculty Club, 409 W. Boyd St. Both the lecture and reception are free and open to the public.
In her lecture “‘white wanders of the wilderness:’ Charles Deas’s Paintings of Trappers and Indians,” Clark will focus on the artist’s pictorial structures and detailed subjects alongside contemporary popular writings, some of them comic, to explore how he and his contemporaries expressed ideas linked to social mobility (particularly downward), unbridled commerce, and the uncertain consequences of westward expansion, especially its effects on the (re)construction of American manhood. Clark is co-author of a book on Deas (1818-1867) and guest curator for an exhibit of the artist’s work, which is scheduled to open at the Denver Art Museum in May 2008.

Clark is a leading authority on nineteenth-century American art and has published a number of books, including *Thomas Moran: Watercolors of the American West* (University of Texas, 1980) and *American Drawings and Watercolors in the Robert Lehman Collection* (The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Princeton, 1992). She co-authored *Maurice Brazil Prendergast and Charles Prendergast: A Catalogue Raisonné* (Prestel Verlag, 1990) and she is also currently co-organizing an exhibit on the wilderness and American art for the American Federation of Arts (2007).
Founded in 1998, the Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West is the first such university-based program in the nation. The center is dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in the field of American art history as it relates to the western United States. Through its resource holdings, national symposia, lecture series, course offerings and outreach programs, the Russell Center actively engages students and the public in developing a better understanding of, and appreciation for, 19th- and 20th-century Euro-American and Native American artistic traditions. Special focus is given to the art of Charles M. Russell and his contemporaries. For more information on the Russell Center, visit [http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/](http://art.ou.edu/russellcenter/). For accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-5939.

###

Editors: please find attached a scan of the painting *Long Jakes*, by Charles Deas, 1844, in the collection of the Denver Art Museum. This painting is considered to be an influential image in Rocky Mountain iconography and Dr. Clark will address the importance of this work and its artist, Charles Deas, in understanding art of the American West.