

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY'S STUDY CENTER APPOINTS

SIMPSON ASSISTANT DEAN

WASHINGTON, D. C. December 1, 1980. The National Gallery of Art's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts has appointed Marianna Shreve Simpson to the newly created position of assistant dean. Responsibilities of this position include administration of the scholars and fellows programs offered through the Center and organization of the Center's lectures, symposia, colloquia and other scholarly activities.

Prior to her appointment at the Gallery, Miss Simpson served in 1979-80 as research associate in Islamic art at the Freer Gallery of Art and as lecturer in fine arts at Georgetown University, where she continues to teach as a member of the adjunct faculty. During the winter and spring of 1979, she was visiting assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles. She has also taught at Harvard University, and has worked at the Fogg Art Museum, The Baltimore Museum of Art and the National Museum of American Art.

Miss Simpson attended Harvard University where she concentrated on the tradition of manuscript illustration in medieval Islamic art, earning a Ph.D in 1978. She studied Byzantine art at Johns Hopkins University in 1971-72, after receiving a BA in art history from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970.

Miss Simpson's publications include Arab and Persian Painting in the Fogg Art Museum (Fogg Art Museum, 1980) and The Illustration of an Epic: The Earliest Shahnama Manuscripts (Outstanding Dissertations in the Fine Arts, Garland Publishing Company, 1979). In addition to museum guides on various aspects of the Islamic

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collection in the Freer Gallery of Art, she has written articles on the 16th-century Houghton Shahnama, the 14th-century Denotte Shahnama, Baghdad in the post-conquest period, and the narrative structure of a 13th-century Iranian beaker.

Her research has received support from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Arts, Harvard University, the Fogg Art Museum and the Smithsonian Institution.

The Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, established by the National Gallery in 1979, awards fellowships to pre- and post-doctoral scholars for independent or Gallery-related research. These scholars use the facilities of the Gallery, including its art reference library, photographic archives, offices, carrels, and seminar rooms in addition to the collections and special exhibitions, and other major resources in Washington.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer) or Mary Dyer, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington D. C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4315, ext. 511.