

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## FIRST ANDREW W. MELLON PROFESSOR ANNOUNCED

### AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) announced today the appointment of Elizabeth Cropper as the first Andrew W. Mellon Professor. The professorial chair has been made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the National Gallery of Art.

The Andrew W. Mellon Professorship has been established to enable a distinguished art historian to pursue a project of scholarly research for a period of two years in residence at the Center. Cropper will begin her tenure in September, 1994.

A specialist in seventeenth-century Italian art, Cropper is professor of art history at The Johns Hopkins University and director of the Charles S. Singleton Center at the Villa Spelman in Florence. She is the author of many studies on art theory, iconography, and painting of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In addition to numerous articles, Cropper has written two books: The Ideal of Painting: Pietro Testa's Düsseldorf Notebook in 1984 and Pietro Testa: 1612-1650, an exhibition catalogue, in 1988. She received a Ph.D. in art history from Bryn Mawr College in 1972.

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During her Andrew W. Mellon Professorship, Cropper will advance her research on the art of seventeenth-century French painter Nicolas Poussin.

Her awards and honors include appointments as Slade Professor at the University of Cambridge (1992-93), Directeur d'Etudes Associé at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris (1990), visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (1989), and fellow at Villa I Tatti in Florence (1978). Cropper was awarded the Arthur Kingsley Porter Prize of the College Art Association of America in 1978. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1993.

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