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## Mary Miller to Present *Art And Representation In The Ancient New World* for the Fifty-Ninth A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts at the National Gallery Of Art, Washington



Mary Miller, dean of Yale College and Sterling Professor of History of Art, and Fifty-Ninth A. W. Mellon Lecturer.

Mary Miller, dean of Yale College and Sterling Professor of History of Art, will present the **Fifty-Ninth A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts** series, entitled ***Art and Representation in the Ancient New World***, this spring at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

The series will include the following lectures:

April 18: *The Shifting Now of the Pre-Columbian Past*

April 25: *Seeing Time, Hearing Time, Placing Time*

May 2: *The Body of Perfection, the Perfection of the Body*

May 9: *Representation and Imitation*

May 16: *Envisioning a New World*

All lectures take place Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the East Building Auditorium. The programs are free and open to the public, and seating is first come, first served.

*Art and Representation in the Ancient New World* examines the evolution of the field of pre-Columbian art over the past four decades. The lectures take as their starting point the works of art themselves, exploring the questions inherent in those works and how these questions have found echoes in more modern study and historiography. In this way, Miller explains, the series illuminates “an expanding universe: the black hole of pre-Columbian art...what it means for those who try to study it,” and how the corpus of pre-Columbian works can help us to understand principles so grand that they transcend cultural boundaries.

The Gallery’s bookshop on the Concourse will offer the new title *The Aztec Calendar Stone* (2010), coauthored by Miller and Khristaan D. Vilela, as well as Miller’s books *Maya Art and Architecture* (1999), *The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya: An Illustrated Dictionary of Mesoamerican Religion* (with Karl Taube, 1993), *The Art of Mesoamerica: From Olmec to Aztec* (1986), *The Blood of Kings: Dynasty and Ritual in Maya Art* (with Linda Schele, 1986), and the exhibition catalogue for *Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya* (2004), which was on view at the National Gallery of Art from April 4 through July 25, 2004.

### **The A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts**

The A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts were established by the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art in 1949 "to bring to the people of the United States the results of the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing upon the subject of the Fine Arts." The program is named for Andrew W. Mellon, the founder of the National Gallery of Art, who gave the nation his art collection and funds to build the West Building, which opened to the public in 1941.

**Mary Miller**

Mary Miller is the dean of Yale College and Sterling Professor of History of Art. A specialist in the art of the ancient New World, Miller curated the exhibition *Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya* at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. She is the author of *Maya Art and Architecture* (1999), *The Gods and Symbols of Ancient Mexico and the Maya: An Illustrated Dictionary of Mesoamerican Religion* (with Karl Taube, 1993), *The Art of Mesoamerica: From Olmec to Aztec* (1986), and *The Blood of Kings: Dynasty and Ritual in Maya Art* (with Linda Schele, 1986). Miller has won national recognition including a Guggenheim Fellowship and election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is completing her archaeological project to document and reconstruct the Maya wall paintings at Bonampak, Mexico.

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## General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit [www.nga.gov/renovation](http://www.nga.gov/renovation) (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/ngadc](http://twitter.com/ngadc).

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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