

Mary Sheriff

*Daniel W. Patterson Distinguished
Term Professor, University of
North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

**April 2, 2001
Monday 4:00 pm**

Room 62, Krannert Art Museum
500 East Peabody, Champaign
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Naked Truth?

Women, Knowledge and the Visual Arts in 18th-Century France

How did women in eighteenth-century France picture themselves as artists when the dominant view held them to be incapable of creating great art? This talk focuses on pictorial allegories of creativity and explores the French Enlightenment view that women were governed by passions and fantasies hatched in an overly sensitive imagination. This belief opened other possibilities precisely because imagination was not only a source of dangerous fantasy, but also fundamental to all higher thought and creativity.

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