

**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



*Long Jakes*, 1844  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 24 7/8 in.

Denver Art Museum. Purchased in memory of Bob Magness with funds from 1999 Collectors' Choice, Sharon Magness, Mr. & Mrs. William D. Hewitt, Carl & Lisa Williams, Estelle Rae Wolf - Flowe Foundation and the T. Edward and Tullah Hanley Collection by exchange. Other contributions are Marcy & Bruce Benson, Joy Burns, Denver Broncos, Mr. & Mrs. Cortlandt S. Dietler, Diane & Charles Gallagher Family Fund, Mr. & Mrs. Frederic C. Hamilton, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hayden, A. Barry & Arlene Hirschfeld, Lisa & George Ireland, Kay Lawrence, Kalleen & Bob Malone, Jan & Frederick Mayer, Carol & Larry A. Mizel, Victoria & Trygve Myhren, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Petrie, Daniel Ritchie, Timet Corporation, Jack A. Vickers Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Vierra, Jim & Mary Beth Vogelzang and the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

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# "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



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

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**AMHERST COLLEGE PROFESSOR  
TO OFFER FREE LECTURE ON FUR TRADER IMAGERY AT OU**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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/>. For accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-5939.

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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.