

## **Harry Siddons Mowbray and the American Renaissance (1876-1917)**

**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 6:30pm

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"Mural painting may safely be called the most exacting, as it certainly is the most complicated, form of painting in the whole range of art; its scope includes figure, landscape, and portrait; its practice demands the widest education, the most varied forms of knowledge, the most assured experience." *Edwin Howland Blashfield*

Josephine Rodgers discussed the paintings of Mowbray, a former Washington resident and master muralist at the turn of the last century. A slideshow presentation was included with photographs from the collection of the Gunn Historical Museum, the Yale University Art Gallery, and St. John's Episcopal Church. Following the presentation there was a discussion with the audience.

### **Program Description**

In a rush of the post-Civil War construction of capitol buildings, courthouses, libraries, train stations, art museums, and private residences, painters and sculptors of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries tested their talents in large-scale art programs. This lecture will offer a fresh perspective on the American mural movement during this transformative period in American cultural history. The idealism embodied in Mowbray's allegorical murals serves as a visual assertion of the humanist values that captivated a generation of American artists from the nation's centennial to World War I.

### **About Josephine Rodgers**

Josephine W. Rodgers is the Marcia Brady Tucker Fellow, Department of American Paintings and Sculpture at the Yale University Art Gallery. She earned her Ph.D. from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 2015, focusing on 19th-century American Art. Since September 2018, she has been working closely with Mark D. Mitchell, the Holcombe T. Green Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, coordinating details for the Gallery's upcoming exhibition on the American Renaissance and researching the Edwin Austin Abbey collection. She has held positions at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the National Gallery of Art, and the Cooper Hewitt, the Smithsonian Design Museum in New York.



Mowbray's ceiling mural at the Gunn Memorial Library



Josephine Rodgers