

Presented by

THE ASSEMBLY SERIES



CENTER FOR THE

HUMANITIES

FACULTY BOOK CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

4:00PM | UMRATH LOUNGE

**“The Praiseworthy One:
Devotional Images of the Prophet
Muhammad in Islamic Traditions”**

Christiane Gruber

***Associate Professor, History of Art,
University of Michigan***

This talk discusses a number of paintings of the Prophet Muhammad produced in Persian and Turkish lands from the 14th century to the modern day. Ranging from veristic to abstract, these images represent Muhammad’s individual traits, primordial luminosity and veiled essence. Their pictorial motifs reveal that artists engaged in abstract thought and turned to symbolic motifs in order to imagine Muhammad’s primordial origins and prophetic standing. Artists and viewers alike also were inspired by various mystical beliefs and practices, in the process seeking to express piety through both verbal and pictorial language. Within a variety of Islamic expressive cultures, paintings thus function as a powerful means (among many) for devotional engagement with Muhammad, the “praiseworthy” Prophet and Messenger of Islam.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Catherine Keane

Associate Professor of Classics

Juvenal and the Satiric Emotions (Oxford, 2015)

Zhao Ma

Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese History and Culture

Runaway Wives, Urban Crimes, and Survival Tactics in Wartime Beijing, 1937–1949 (Harvard University Press, 2015)

RELATED EVENT

“The Book as Artifact”

Panel Discussion

Featuring Faculty Book Celebration speaker **Christiane Gruber**,

Robert Hegel (East Asian Languages & Cultures) and **Ken Botnick**

(Kranzberg Studio for the Illustrated Book); moderated by

Nancy Berg (Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

11:30 am–1 pm | Washington University, Umrath Hall, Umrath Lounge

RSVPs appreciated to cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu

Co-sponsored by University Libraries

For Questions

Please call (314) 935-5576 or
visit cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu

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Washington University in St. Louis