



## **Call for Artist Proposals for Group Portrait Painting of Yale's First Women PhDs for Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library**

The Yale Women Faculty Forum seeks to commission a painted portrait of the first seven women to earn PhDs at Yale, to be displayed at Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University. The group portrait should be based on historical photographs of the subjects and creatively utilize elements representing the seven women's fields of study and scholarly achievements in their fields (Chemistry, Astronomy, English Literature, History, and Romance Languages) in order to honor these pioneering alumnae, who are among the first women to earn doctorates in the United States, and to commemorate the opening of the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to women in 1892.

Archival research by the Yale Women Faculty Forum has yielded photographic images of six of the seven women, along with information about their scholarship, fields of study, and professional accomplishments, which can be used as the basis for the portrait. For the one woman whose picture is not available yet, we have a photographic image of her sister.

Proposals for traditional or contemporary interpretations are welcome, following these guidelines:

1. **Size and location:** The finished, framed portrait should fit on a wall 6 feet wide and 10 feet high, and thus should measure no more than 5 feet wide and 9 feet high. A horizontal or vertical format will be considered. Existing portraits of Yale individuals in the surrounding spaces in the nave of Sterling Memorial Library depict Edward Bouchet, the first African American man to earn a PhD in the US (2x3ft, on a pendant wall); the library's architect J. Gamble Rogers (4x5ft, directly across from the WFF portrait's intended location); and John William Sterling (4x5ft). A mural representing *Alma Mater*, by Eugene Savage, occupies an opposite wall, visible at <http://www.yale.edu/publicart/almamater.html>. The nave of Sterling Memorial Library is open to the public.
2. Oil paint on canvas
3. Proposed portrait should incorporate likenesses of all seven women (based on available photographs) as well as elements representing their diverse fields of study.

Selection process: Artists first should submit an expression of interest with (1) documentation of previous portrait artwork as a link to an online portfolio or up to ten jpg's as attachments or on CD; and (2) a short resume by email to [wff@yale.edu](mailto:wff@yale.edu) or to Yale's First Women PhDs Artist

Selection Committee, Yale Women Faculty Forum, PO Box 208347, New Haven CT 05620. Deadline for receipt: March 15, 2012. Semi-finalists will be notified in the Spring of 2012 and provided with a detailed Prospectus, listing additional information about the portrait's subjects (including their photographic images) and images of the space where the portrait will be located. Semi-finalists will be awarded a small honorarium in order to create and submit within 3 months (1) a detailed sketch of the proposed portrait, (2) written statement describing the proposed portrait (one page); (3) budget including total cost of the commission.

Final decision of the Selection Committee is scheduled for Summer 2012, with portrait delivery and installation expected within one year, with formal unveiling celebration in Fall 2013.

The Yale Women Faculty Forum (WFF) promotes scholarship on women and gender at Yale and gender equity in higher education. For more information about the Yale Women Faculty Forum, WFF's research on Yale's First Women PhDs, and the visible history of women at Yale, please visit <http://www.yale.edu/wff> and <http://www.yale.edu/womenat Yale>. Please contact Liena Vayzman, [wff@yale.edu](mailto:wff@yale.edu) with any questions. Thank you.