

## GALLERY DIRECTOR NAMED CHAIR OF STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Lamont Gallery Director Karen Burgess Smith has been named chair of the N.H. State Council on the Arts by Governor John Lynch.

Smith joined Exeter's art department faculty in 2003, serving as an instructor and director of the Lamont Art Gallery. Since then, she has organized and served as curator for more than 15 original exhibitions at the Academy, yielding positive reviews from *Art New England* magazine and other industry publications.

Smith says she was "completely thrilled" when she learned of her appointment last December. "I have been working with the State Arts Council for several years now, and my new role is a wonderful compliment," she says. She also noted a home-state relationship to Governor Lynch. "The governor and I both graduated from the University of New Hampshire in the same year (1974). Although we did not know each other at the time, I thought it was wonderful that one UNH graduate would appoint another UNH graduate."

In her role as chair, Smith presides over monthly council meetings, and reviews grant and artist fellowship applications submitted by a wide range of N.H. artists and organizations. "We have incredible art and artists in New Hampshire," says Smith, "and that makes being on the State Arts Council such an honor. It's important to note that the artists, writers and performers can range from the virtually unknown to the well-experienced, and they bring their talents to schools, communities and the general public everyday through Arts Council grants and other support."

Smith says one of her initiatives will be to incorporate the arts into areas and institutions where it is not often found. "One of the many strengths of the Arts Council is our interest in expanding the roles and visibility of the fine and performing arts," she says. "One way that this can happen is by linking the arts to specific educational or societal issues, such as healthcare and aging."  
—FW



*As the newly appointed chair of the N.H. State Council on the Arts, Lamont Gallery Director Karen Burgess Smith (shown here with a Roy Lichtenstein print) looks forward to "expanding the roles and visibility of the fine and performing arts in New Hampshire."*