

The Feminist Research Institute

presents



The Changing Landscape of a Peripatetic Philosopher: Health and Home in the Life of Mary MacLane

Julie Williams

Department of English

Monday, November 4, 2013

12:00—1:00 PM

SUB Luminaria

Mary MacLane scandalized the nation when her memoir was published in 1902, as her depictions of same-sex desire and rejection of strict gender roles challenged the restrictions society placed on women's bodies and desires in turn-of-the-century America. The social philosophy of MacLane's early work was intricately intertwined with the Montana landscape, which offered a sense of freedom from the restrictions normally placed upon women in the early twentieth century. The radical ideas she put forth as a young woman are mostly absent in her later work, produced after she was forced to return to Butte due to a bout of scarlet fever from which she never truly recovered. The openness of the landscape did not provide her the same freedom as in her youth, and MacLane's weakened health and inability to take the peripatetic walks on which she formulated her social critique in her youth was a contributing factor to how her later memoir lacks the radicalism expressed in *The Story of Mary MacLane*.

For more information about this presentation or the Feminist Research Institute Schedule of Events, scan this barcode with your smartphone or visit <http://femresin.unm.edu/events/>

