

## 2012 Lois E. Matthews Lecture

# Eros and *poesis*: Towards a Language of Seduction in Eighteenth-Century Spain

A lecture by

**David T. Gies**

University of Virginia

**April 19th 2012**

**4:00 PM**

**Faculty Center**

**Hacienda Room**



François Boucher, "La toilette"

This presentation takes a look at the language of rococo eroticism in eighteenth-century Spain, tying European visual and decorative arts —the paintings of Boucher, Fragonard, and Watteau; architectural styles and *objets d'art*— with the poetic production of authors such as José Cadalso and Juan Meléndez Valdés. This language, and the class determined cultural habits it signified, marked a radical shift away from frivolity, innocence and playfulness towards a paganized and dark (if joyous) corruption from which there was no turning back.