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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON NOVEMBER 15 AT NOON**  
***THE PORTRAIT THAT CREATED A PRESIDENT: RALPH E. W. EARL'S ANDREW JACKSON***  
**PRESENTED BY RACHEL STEPHENS**

Montgomery, AL (11/02/2018)- *Food for Thought* continues another year of fascinating lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) on **Thursday, November 15 at 12:00**, when Rachel Stephens presents ***The Portrait that Created a President: Ralph E. W. Earl's Andrew Jackson***.

Born in New England, artist Ralph E. W. Earl arrived in Nashville in 1817 to paint the heroes of the Battle of New Orleans. His 1818 portrait of General Andrew Jackson, now held in the ADAH's permanent collection, became the cornerstone of his artistic career. During this presentation, Stephens will discuss the significance of the portrait and how it contributed to the public's favorable perception of the future President of the United States. Stephens' presentation will shed new light on a little-known portrait and portraitist and reveal Earl's work to be a significant vehicle of Jackson's successful career.

Dr. Rachel Stephens is an Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Alabama, and currently a Tyson Fellow at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Her book *Selling Andrew Jackson: Ralph E. W. Earl and the Politics of Portraiture* was released in June 2018 from the University of South Carolina Press. She holds degrees in art history from Sewanee: The University of the South and Vanderbilt University as well as a PhD from the University of Iowa. Her research focuses on nineteenth-century American art, particularly in the South.

Admission to *Food for Thought* presentations is always **FREE**. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages will be provided. **For additional information call (334) 353-9270.**

*Food for Thought 2018* is sponsored by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and made possible with support from the daughters of Judge Alex A. Marks, in his memory.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov) or call (334) 242-4364.

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