

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

Robert D. Platt, assistant professor of art and design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	Kyoto City University of the Arts, Kyoto, Japan
M.A.	2001	Royal College of Art, London, England, UK
Cert.	1997	Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (Art & Design), Institute of Education, London, England, UK
B.A.	1996	Nottingham Trent University of Art & Design, Nottingham, England, UK

Professional Record:

2011 – present	Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2009 – 2010	Lecturer, Kyoto Saga University of Art, Kyoto, Japan
2008 – 2009	Visiting Tutor, Hanazono University, Kyoto, Japan
2001 – 2003	Lecturer, The Arts University Bournemouth, Poole, England, UK

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Platt is a passionate and dedicated teacher who is not only able to help students develop skills of a formal, material and technical nature, but awakens students' investigations of the broader context of their creative practices. He is equally effective at all levels of instruction, from required freshman courses to graduate seminars, and has led study abroad courses in Ireland and Japan. He sets high standards in all of his classes and foregrounds creative and scholarly work, no matter the level of instruction, in the context of academic discipline, inquiry and discovery. Students describe his teaching as rigorous, imaginative, and enthusiastic and cite his global perspective and cross-cultural knowledge among his many attributes as a highly sought-after mentor and teacher.

Creative Work / Research – Professor Platt is an accomplished cross-disciplinary artist and researcher working at the intersection of landscape theory, media archaeology, speleology, optics and Japanese studies. His investigations of the role of contemporary landscape, human perception, surface and materiality in the age of increasing virtuality take many forms – virtuosic paintings, installations, moving images, architectural objects. His creative work has been recognized internationally and in the US, including exhibitions in New York, South Korea, Ireland, and China; artist residencies in India, Japan, and the Arctic Circle; and, local and national press, including a review in the highly-influential journal *Art in America*.

Significant Recent Works and Activities

2016	Solo Exhibition, "Temporary Position," The Incident Room, Hudson, NY.
2016	Solo Exhibition, "Derelict Man in The Garden of Mirrors," Gallery Gowoon, Changwon City, South Korea.

- 2016 Solo Exhibition, “Dazzle: Dissolution,” Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, County Clare, Ireland.
- 2016 Group Exhibition, “An Evening of Art + Science,” The Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI.
- 2016 Festival Screenings of “Arising from the Surface,” (Experimental short film, Roland Graf, co-creator), including: The Mosaic World Film Festival (Rockford, IL); AVIFF Art Film Festival (Cannes, France); The International Speechless Film Festival (Minneapolis, MN).
- 2015 Selected Group Exhibition, “Displacements,” Renmin University of Arts, Beijing, China.
- 2015 Invited Lecture, “Neither Here Nor There,” Locating Practice, Questioning Method in Arts Research Annual Symposium, Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, County Clare, Ireland.
- 2014 Group Exhibition, “A Rose is a Rose,” The Butcher’s Daughter, New York, NY.
- 2013 Solo Exhibition, “Insubstantial Pageants of The Mind’s Eye,” The Butchers Daughter, Detroit, MI.
- 2013 Solo Exhibition, “Insubstantial Pageants of The Mind’s Eye,” The Butchers Daughter, Detroit, MI.
- 2013 Exhibition Panel Discussion, “Septentrion: Exploring the Arctic Circle,” Union Gallery, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2012 Solo Exhibition, “The Phantom Hut and The Ornamental,” Muzz Program Space, Kyoto, Japan.
- 2012 Artist Residency, “The Arctic Circle Art Residency 2012,” Svalbard, Norway [an expeditionary residency traveling around the Arctic Circle].

Service – Professor Platt is a dedicated university citizen and active contributor to the work of the faculty. In addition to service on a range of Stamps School committees, Professor Platt currently serves as the course coordinator for the school’s senior capstone course, Integrative Project, where he coordinates a team of eight faculty and four graduate students, and oversees instruction in this year-long course which serves 100+ students. Also active at the campus level, he is a member of the steering committee for the University of Michigan Bicentennial Time Capsule Project and is a faculty affiliate in the Center for Japanese Studies.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Platt is operating at a level of production and international recognition that places him on a par with others in his peer group. I would say that compared to his profile in the art-gallery representation and festival/exhibition circuit, which is established, his standing within the scholarly, academic community is emerging and will continue to develop.”

Reviewer B: “The quality of Professor Platt’s work, both conceptually and in its realization, has been consistently outstanding for years...the record he has amassed places him well above the vast majority of his peers at a similar point in their career.”

Reviewer C: “The range and focus of Professor Platt’s research is impressive. The consistency of his production is also impressive. Each body of work is rich and deep with many substantial

works. I have every expectation that Professor Platt will continue to investigate, probe and produce work that poses questions that continue to matter.”

Reviewer D: “...the making of thoughtful and strong work in the service of a larger cross-cultural concern is what is most important to artists of this century...Platt’s work embodies the best of what artists are attempting to do now, helping us see others and ourselves in unfamiliar ways.”

Reviewer E: “Robert Platt is an artist-researcher for whom philosophical inquiry and studio work are interdependent. A remarkable technician who is also a theorist, he complements the strengths of the program, broadening its repertoire pedagogically and in research. Furthermore, as he has already demonstrated, he is able to lend expertise to meaningful collaborations within the School of Art and beyond.”

Reviewer F: “Robert Platt’s work spreads out in all directions in the way that it addresses the relationship between old technological devices like the camera obscura and the periscope and the latest digital technologies. The range of Robert Platt’s interests convey genuine creative and intellectual energy and excitement. I am sure that this energy is conveyed to his students.”

Reviewer G: “With his virtuosity of painting skills he has been realizing works of mesmerizing density and richness, both in the sense of painterly quality and also of conceptual context.”

Reviewer H: “Platt’s work exists favorably in the context of high profile, respected artists. This is what you want in a university professor: someone who is expert, knowledgeable, articulate, taking risks with the medium, and probing the forefront of the arena for cultural inquiry, all in an international context.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Platt is a dedicated teacher, a committed member of the academy, and an interdisciplinary artist expanding the boundaries of his profession. I strongly recommend Robert D. Platt for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.



Gunalan Nadarajan
Dean and Professor
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

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