

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

Adopted by the
Regents
March 19, 2015

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

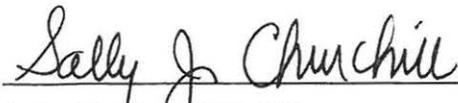
Joel L. Cressman, M.F.A., professor of art in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design and professor of Residential College in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2014.

Professor Cressman received his B.S.D. and M.F.A. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1968 and 1975, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as a lecturer in 1977, and was promoted to associate professor in 2004, and professor in 2012. Professor Cressman served as director of the Residential College Art Gallery from 1996-99, 2002-03, and 2009-10.

An exceptional artist, teacher, and mentor, Professor Cressman created sculptural drawings that occupy physical space with a visual eloquence and spatial intelligence that belies disarmingly humble materials. His practice while deeply rooted in the traditions of drawing and printmaking is by no means limited by these traditions. Professor Cressman used the formal vocabulary of the draftsman—of graphite on paper, of line describing form in space—to levitate from the confines of the flat surfaces that habitually root drawings and prints, and that have for centuries placed them in the realm of illusion. His work has been extensively exhibited at museums and galleries across the nation. Professor Cressman developed a site specific installation on the grounds of el Corral del Carbón that activated the spaces between major structural columns of this 14th century building to create a majestic screen of suspended linear elements. (*Spora 2009: Biennial International Exhibition*, Granada, Spain) He fostered creative, engaged, and experimental learning environments that challenged his students to explore a perceptual and cognitive world that is primarily visual and frequently technical. Professor Cressman received LSA's Excellence in Education teaching award in 1996.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist and educator for his dedicated service by naming **Joel L. Cressman professor emeritus of art and professor emeritus of Residential College**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2015