

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Elona D. Van Gent, M.F.A., professor of art in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

Professor Van Gent received a B.A. degree in English literature from Hope College (1984) and an M.F.A. degree in sculpture from the Tyler School of Art (1989). Prior to joining the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan, Professor Van Gent was at Grand Valley State University where she was granted tenure as an associate professor in 2000. Professor Van Gent joined the Stamps faculty in 2004 as a visiting associate professor. She was promoted to associate professor, with tenure, in 2005 and professor in 2012. Professor Van Gent served as associate dean for academic programs from 2013-2019 where she was a strong advocate of interdisciplinary art and design education.

Professor Van Gent is an esteemed scholar and a visual artist whose work has been seen around the globe, She borrows computer techniques typically used to create characters and special effects in film and video to investigate themes encountered at the intersection of art, science, and technology that manifests as speculative creatures and environments. Her work is highly regarded and has been exhibited widely. She has exhibited at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City, Beijing Today Art Museum, Peter the Great Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, Roda Sten in Sweden, and Sydney's University of Technology. Professor Van Gent's teaching focused on guiding students in the creative use of 3-dimensional computer technologies such as 3D modeling, animation, special effects, and 3D printing. Students would design objects which would then be brought to life through computer animation or special effects software. At the graduate level, she taught courses on creative process and critique methods and many of her students now lead successful careers in academia and other creative fields.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist and educator for her dedicated service by naming **Elona D. Van Gent, professor emerita of art**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

March 2024