

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan School of Art and Design

Marianetta Porter, associate professor of art, with tenure, School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

B.F.A.	1975	Hampton University, Art Concentration Hampton, VA
M.F.A.	1986	University of Michigan, Weaving and Textile Design Ann Arbor, MI

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Associate Professor, with tenure, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan
1995 – 2001	Associate Professor, without tenure, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan
1994 – 1995	Visiting Associate Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan
1993 – 1994	Associate Professor, with tenure, School of Design, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
1987 – 1993	Assistant Professor, School of Design, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Marianetta Porter is an effective and inspiring teacher. Extensive student reviews of her teaching consistently indicate that she is an educator who challenges students to work to high standards of research and craft while being supportive, caring and generous. Her experience as an interdisciplinary researcher and artist supports her teaching and assists students in expanding their research skills and media horizons. Her strong background in a wide variety of media and basic design creates a strong foundation for basic students in the curriculum. Professor Porter's commitment to broader communities both on campus and in Detroit is reflected strongly in her teaching. The outreach component of her upper level studio courses leaves a lasting and meaningful impression on her students. She is a significant role model and mentor for our students.

Creative Work / Research – Professor Porter is an accomplished interdisciplinary artist. Her work draws upon a wide variety of media and disciplines including history, anthropology, literature and folklore of African American material culture. Her work uses visual language to draw correlations between historic memory and modern African American life. Her source material has included primary research in West Africa, Appalachia, South Carolina and the collections of the Smithsonian. She has consistently received significant support and sponsorship for this research, including a prestigious Fellowship from the Smithsonian Institution. Since her last promotion she has received six awards, participated in twenty exhibitions and fifteen public lectures and symposia. Professor Porter is a productive artist whose work continues to grow and inform an ever-broadening spectrum of Americans.

Significant Recent Works:

- 2005, *Giving Voice*, Solo Exhibition, Gray Gallery, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
- 2005, *Red Clay Blues*, Solo Exhibition, McLean Center for the Arts, McLean, VA
- 2005, *Floor to Ceiling*, Group Exhibition, Buckham Gallery, Flint, MI
- 2004, "Stories Told in Sunday School," Presentation at the Atlantic Studies Initiative Colloquium: What is the Atlantic?, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2003, *Memory and Oblivion*, Group Exhibition, Hampton Museum of Art, Hampton University, Hampton, VA
- 2001, *Four Women Four Ironing Boards*, Group Exhibition, Artemisia Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2001, Recipient, Smithsonian Senior Research Fellowship, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

Service – Professor Porter has consistently demonstrated genuine dedication to local and regional groups. She is deeply invested in community outreach via her teaching and her own work. She has initiated and sustained significant relationships with several communities in Detroit. These include her "Living History Project" with the Latino Family Services, "Stanton Park Project," a collaboration with School of Natural Resources and Environment faculty, "Horizons Upward Bound Initiative," and "Alternatives for Girls." Each of these projects supported students and communities that are considered at risk and or have limited means to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. Professor Porter has also demonstrated her commitment to campus issues by spearheading projects at Mott Children's Hospital and a collaboration with AEIOU, a group focused on AIDS education and awareness. Professor Porter has regularly served on many cross-campus committees including: 2005 Provost Search Committee, Provost's Committee on Education for a Diverse Democracy, Rackham Executive Board, Executive Committee for the Arts of Citizenship, and many others. At the School of Art and Design, she has contributed to many committees including: executive committee, undergraduate committee, student and faculty search committees, and many others.

External Reviewers

Reviewer A: "Her work nudges the observer, pinches the observer who must then contend with the consequences of emphasis—Porter places emphasis on the familiar; she underscores the object, highlights the object, brings it into focus so that the cultural and historical weight of her chosen objects becomes inescapable."

Reviewer B: "Associate Professor Porter has exhibited an extraordinary pattern of productivity and her level of activities are remarkable...Her commitment to advancing our profession is both ambitious and essential."

Reviewer C: "...Professor Porter is an exceptionally valuable member of the academic community. Her obvious commitment to excellence in research and teaching are beyond question."

Reviewer D: "Professor Porter's dossier clearly establishes her record as a strong interdisciplinary artist...Her record as a productive teacher is equally impressive."

Reviewer E: "Her work has nationwide significance in the arts. She brings considerable expertise and energy to the field of art."

Reviewer F: "She is truly interdisciplinary: a scholar of national prominence, a gifted teacher, a widely-exhibited artist, and a community activist in the best sense of the term."

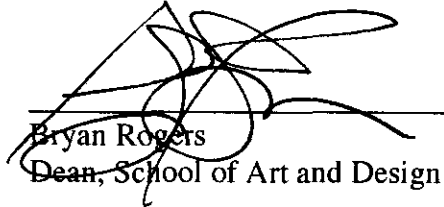
Reviewer G: "She is clearly a multifaceted mentor who draws out the best in young artists and allows them to perfect their visions...She continues to prove herself to be a talented, creative and independent member of your educational and artistic community."

Reviewer H: "Clearly, one of Porter's strengths and areas of major contribution is that she seems to fluidly work across traditional borders. She works eloquently, and with notable originality, in her rich mix of approaches."

Reviewer I: "...my assessment is that Marianetta Porter is a gifted artist, scholar, educator and an articulate writer who will continue to be an asset to the University of Michigan and its students."

Summary of Recommendation:

Marianetta Porter is a committed educator and nationally-recognized artist. With the support of the Executive Committee, I strongly recommend her promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, in the School of Art and Design.



Bryan Rogers
Dean, School of Art and Design

May 2006