

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan School of Art and Design

Heidi E. Kumao, assistant professor of art, School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A. 1991 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Photography, Chicago, IL
B.S. 1988 University of California, Davis, Chemistry, Davis, CA
B.A. 1988 University of California, Davis, Art Studio, Davis, CA

Professional Record:

2003 – present Assistant Professor of Art, without tenure, School of Art and Design,
University of Michigan
2001 – 2003 Roman J. Witt Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design,
University of Michigan
1997 – 1998, Visiting Assistant Professor, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
1992 – 1995
1991 – 1992 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Art, University of
Maryland, Baltimore County

Evaluation Summary:

Teaching – At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, Heidi Kumao is an energetic, inspiring, and highly effective teacher. Student evaluations are consistently positive, often mentioning Professor Kumao's technological expertise, enthusiasm for the subject area, and familiarity with contemporary art practice. They describe her teaching as "well-rounded," "rigorous," "structured," and "empowering." Her courses are organized to couple skill development with theoretical inquiry and conceptual development. As a result the work students produce is not only well crafted but also socially relevant and conceptually rich. Many of her student projects have been screened publicly on Michigan Television, at the Michigan Theatre, and at the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

Creative Work / Research – Heidi Kumao has an exceptional record as a practicing artist. She exemplifies a new generation of artists who incorporate digital media of all types – interactive digital media, robotics, animation, film and video production and editing, and object design and fabrication – into projects that explore, satirize, and critique personal identity, social structures, and national politics. Professor Kumao's work has received broad exposure and recognition. She has mounted ten solo exhibitions and participated in forty group exhibitions in the past ten years. Her work has been reviewed or appeared in major publications, including *The New York Times*, *Wired Magazine*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *IEEE Computer Society*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, *Exposure*, and *Artforum*. She has served as a visiting artist and lecturer at schools and colleges across the United States, and her work can be found in numerous public and private collections. Her work has been recognized through grants, awards, and fellowships from the Creative Capital Foundation, the National Academy, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Blue Mountain

Center, the MacDowell Colony, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and many others. Most recently, she received a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation.

Significant Recent Work and Activities:

- 2008 *Misbehaving: Media Machines Act Out*, Solo Exhibition, Urban Institute of Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids, MI.
- 2007 *Noema: Galeria de Arte Digital*, Group Exhibition, Galeria Vermelho, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 2006 *ZerOne San Jose and ISEA 2006: A Global Festival of Art on the Edge*, Juried International Biennial Group Exhibition, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA.
- 2006 *The 181st Annual: An Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*, Annual Invitational Exhibition, National Academy Museum, New York, NY. Received the Malvina Hoffman Award for Sculpture.
- 2006 *Always On*, Group Exhibition, Sonar: 13th Barcelona International Festival of Advanced Music and Multimedia Art, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Spain.

Service – Heidi Kumao’s service record is exemplary. She has been an active contributor and participant on numerous faculty committees and has worked to expand the School’s international initiative. In the community, she has served as a member of the Executive Board and the screening committee for the Ann Arbor Film Festival, a member of the Executive Board of the 555 Gallery in Detroit, and has organized and conducted teen technology education programs for the Detroit Upward Bound Program and the San Jose Museum of Art.

External Reviewers

Reviewer A: “A multimedia researcher, Heidi Kumao is engaged with the most important trends in the digital arts field, like video art, interactive installations, video performances, and cross media projects.”

Reviewer B: “Ms. Kumao seems to be a highly engaged, extremely effective teacher, who offers students a bright, intellectually curious and restless leader as a model—someone unafraid to try anything, to experiment, to collaborate, and to offer with utmost generosity the results. It doesn't get better than this.”

Reviewer C: “This is likely to be the most enjoyable tenure review I ever do...[the work] is extremely sophisticated, elegant, witty, humorous, innovative, and remarkable both technologically as well as artistically.”

Reviewer D: “One of the challenges in working in a new media is to avoid becoming overwhelmed by the myriad new technologies, however, Heidi has clearly demonstrated her ability to specifically choose what she needs to realize projects without overshadowing the aesthetics, emotional content and sense of humor in her work.”

Reviewer E: “Kumao’s work is unique in character and approach. She is serious in her thinking, has an underlying sense of humor in her work, and incorporates whimsical experimentation in her production.”

Reviewer F: “The conceptual underpinnings of the pieces have a light touch of feminist critique but larger doses of humor and general human drama. Most impressively diverse and difficult technologies are represented in the pieces but not in front. She appears to be prolific and to have processes in place that will keep her that way. For almost every piece I found myself making a note to get a reference so I could show it as an example in our classes.”

Reviewer G: “It is rare to find an artist who is able to communicate so succinctly and articulately pressing contemporary issues, create pioneering work and at the same time have a distinct creative identity.”

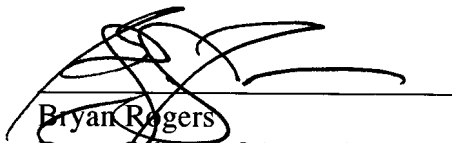
Reviewer H: “Ms. Kumao addresses important issues in her artwork in an assertive and yet accessible manner.”

Reviewer I: “...simultaneously conceptually engaged, technologically sophisticated and aesthetically seductive.”

Reviewer J: “Heidi represents a critical presence in the field, an important inspiration to aspiring artists, and a humorous and innovative voice for a woman’s perspective on art and technology.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Heidi Kumao is an internationally recognized artist and leader in the field of new media art practice. Her teaching is exemplary and her service to the University and community is significant. I strongly recommend her for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design.



Bryan Rogers
Dean, School of Art and Design

May 2008