

## PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

### The University of Michigan

#### School of Art and Design

#### A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Annie Cynthia Pachikara, assistant professor of art and design, School of Art and Design, and assistant professor of architecture and urban planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and associate professor of architecture and urban planning, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

#### Academic Degrees:

- M.F.A. 1997 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Sculpture  
Urbana, IL
- M.A. 1997 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Architectural Studies  
Urbana, IL
- B.S. 1990 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Architectural Studies  
Urbana, IL

#### Professional Record:

- 2002 – present Assistant Professor of Art and Design, School of Art and Design, and Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
- 2001 – 2002 Assistant Professor, School of Art, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- 1999 – 2001 Assistant Professor and Chair, Intermedia Department, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR
- 1998 – 1999 Visiting Assistant Professor, Art Department, Reed College, Portland, OR
- 1997 – 1998 Visiting Instructor, Division of Art and Design, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

#### Evaluation Summary:

Teaching – Cynthia Pachikara is an excellent teacher who goes to great lengths in developing her student's creative capabilities. She has the ability to penetrate complex concepts and guide students by encouraging thorough research and conceptual clarity. She has a deep knowledge of contemporary art and artists, and her emphasis on precedence research pushes students to contextualize their responses. Her background in both sculptural art and architecture, coupled with a strong understanding of spatial relationships, enables her to bridge multiple disciplines and create a rich and unique learning environment where students can develop their creative independence. In her media-based teaching, she demonstrates a high level of technical skill, and her classes are forums for exchanging ideas and exploring visual possibilities. Her examination of digital and physical spaces offers unique experiences for students to identify and develop visual responses to complex situations and narratives.

Creative Work / Research – Cynthia Pachikara is a deep thinker who examines complex human conditions with extraordinary visual clarity. She is a widely acknowledged video artist/light

sculptor, and her works have been exhibited and reviewed nationwide. Her works are often based on cultural narratives where she questions the figurative, geographical and social significance of the past and present. Her visual presentations engage the viewer and invite mental, emotional and physical participation. Her creative sensitivity throws light on more than surfaces and space as she aids her audience in exploring multidimensional and complex situations. Her integrated use of video footage, still photography, spoken and written narrative, and space is unique.

#### Significant Recent Works and Activities:

- 2008 *Taking Place*, Solo Exhibition, Urban Institute of Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids, MI
- 2007 *Shadow Work: New York by Cynthia Pachikara*, Solo Exhibition, Gallery 210, St. Louis, MO
- 2007 Presenter, "Body-as-Screen," Aesthesia Symposium, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
- 2006 *Cynthia Pachikara, Interactive Video Installation*, Solo Exhibition, Herron Gallery, Indianapolis, IN
- 2006 Presenter, "Between Beams of Light," Standpunkte Lecture Program, Kraut & Zuker Atelier, Basel, Switzerland
- 2005 *Slave Moth*, Group Exhibition, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI

Service – Cynthia Pachikara has served on curricular development committees, chaired graduate and undergraduate admissions and review committees, and participated on several faculty search committees within the School of Art and Design. She helped shape the soon-to-be launched undergraduate degree program in Interarts Performance, a joint degree offered by the School of Art and Design and the School of Music, Theatre & Drama.

#### External Reviewers

Reviewer A: "Her sense of a 'twin' cultural background coupled with her dual education as a fine artist and an architect is unusual to say the least, and I am certain each aspect has been hugely influential on the nature and subject matter of her practice as an artist. This allows her to occupy a fairly unique position within the Faculty of a University, having both a command and an understanding of two different disciplines...My highest accolade is to say that if such a position were available here, and it was in my power to give it, I would unhesitatingly offer it to Professor Pachikara."

Reviewer B: "Overall, I am favorably impressed by this candidate's portfolio. What is particularly striking is that she has been able to create remarkable synergies between her professional work, her teaching and her service to the university."

Reviewer C: "I am excited and not surprised by CP's pedagogy...experimental, challenging, cross disciplinary, inventive and probably a real treat for faculty and students alike."

Reviewer D: "...Cynthia proved to be one of the most gracious and competent artists that I have ever had the pleasure of working with. No documentary material could approximate the real-time, real-space experience of Cynthia's ShadowWork projects."

Reviewer E: "She has achieved an international outreach with exhibitions and/or conference participation in Nova Scotia, Scotland and Switzerland. Her work has been received in a wide range of venues, commercial galleries, academic settings, and national competitions and/or symposia...I believe that Ms. Pachikara is producing some of the best work in this genre at this time."

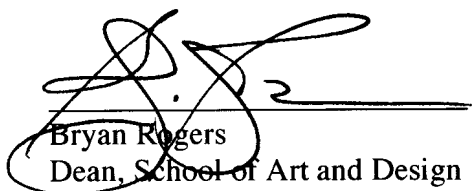
Reviewer F: "Qualitatively, Ms. Pachikara's work is that of a maturing, productive and creative artist with a wide range of interests and areas of expertise...It is a sign of her curiosity and growth as an artist that she has explored work in urban spaces that move beyond the traditional gallery and studio context...She is clearly a faculty leader with positive energy, and she is a creative and inspiring artist."

Reviewer G: "Professor Pachikara's record of accomplishment as an artist is outstanding...I found her work extremely compelling...Your institution and your students are fortunate to have the services of such a talented artist."


Reviewer H: "There is a sense of integrity to Professor Pachikara's efforts, a sobering feeling that everything has been thought through and designed so as to maximize the impact of the experience she offers...She seems to exhibit the intellectual rigor, visual ambition, and conceptual integrity of an excellent artist coming into her full powers, and I will look forward to hearing more of her in the future."

Summary of Recommendation:

Cynthia Pachikara is an exceptional artist and educator who is uniquely positioned to bridge art with architecture on an international level. We strongly recommend her for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, in the School of Art and Design, and associate professor of architecture and urban planning, without tenure, in the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Bryan Rogers  
Dean, School of Art and Design



Douglas Kelbaugh, Dean  
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

May 2008