

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Art and Design

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

Michael Rodemer, 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:

M.F.A. 1986 Ohio State University, Sculpture, Columbus, OH
M.A. 1984 Pennsylvania State University, Comparative Literature, University Park, PA
B.A. 1977 Michigan State University, English and German, East Lansing, MI

Professional Record:

2002 – present Associate Professor, with tenure, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
1996 – 2002 Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
1993 – 1996 Assistant Professor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1989 – 1993 Lecturer, Eberhard-Karls-Universität, Tübingen, Germany

Evaluation Summary:

Teaching – Professor Rodemer is a passionate and gifted teacher who is able to effectively teach across the School of Art and Design curriculum, from required freshman foundations courses to the senior-level integrative project to graduate seminars and directed studio practice situations. He utilizes his wide range of skills and experiences to help students employ a diversity of media in their creative practices as well as develop critical and systemic thinking skills necessary for success. Students describe Professor Rodemer as a knowledgeable, patient, generous and engaging instructor with endless enthusiasm and curiosity about the world. He sets high standards and gives students the tools needed to reach his expectations.

Creative Work/ Research – Professor Rodemer's creative achievements span several traditional categories of media, including performing arts, electronic arts, sculpture, and installation. His work has been exhibited or performed widely in the United States and abroad. His most recent creative focus – a collaboration with composer Stephen Rush to produce multi-media operas – has yielded seven new full-length works, with Professor Rodemer responsible for libretto, set design, costume design, and construction. In addition, Professor Rodemer and Rush have completed commissions from Michigan State University and the Swedish composer Soren Hermansson for multi-media pieces incorporating music and video. Professor Rodemer has lectured on his work both nationally and internationally, and his work can be found in the permanent collections of the cities of Bremen and Fellbach (Germany), the Museum for Holography and New Visual Media (Cologne, Germany), and numerous collections in the United States.

Significant Recent Work and Activities:

- 2008 *Two Candles Burning*, Premiere Performance, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2008 Exhibition of the kinetic sculpture "Rapprochement," featured in the group exhibitions *Up!*, Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI, and *Changing Matters*, Royal Academy of Art, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2008 "delta t," Group Exhibition, Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, National Exhibition Gallery, Alexandria, VA
- 2006 "Rapprochement, Berlin 2006," Group Exhibition, Cothenius Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2005 *vidGod*, Performance, Landestheater Tubingen, Tubingen, Germany
- 2005 *Stop Blaming Columbus*, Premiere Performance, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2004 Commission to create *Inferno*, a multimedia piece for low brass, by the School of Music, Michigan State University [Piece premiered in 2005]

Service – Professor Rodemer’s service record is exemplary. He has served on a number of curriculum committees and currently coordinates the Integrative Projects course, the year-long senior thesis/exhibition experience. He has served on the School’s Executive Committee, chaired faculty and staff search committees, and was a member of the University’s Multidisciplinary Learning and Team-Teaching Steering Committee. He has expanded the School’s technology environment through actively seeking grants for equipment purchase, teaching and organizing workshops, and providing formal and informal consultation to faculty and students across campus in 3D and interactivity technologies.

External Reviewers

Reviewer A: "Mr. Rodemer clearly had a multifaceted education in both the United States and Europe and this is manifest in his work and the impressive range of courses that he teaches... This continues on to his present work with collaborations in the performing arts (including such varied activities such as set and costume design for the opera), video production and kinetic and interactive sculptures."

Reviewer B: "In 1990 or so, well before what we know now as commonplace with current computer technologies, Mike had begun teaching himself hypertext markup language as a means to develop experiential works that were driven by a combination of computers and programming... The changes in art, art technology and art education I see today Mike foresaw years ago."

Reviewer C: "I believe that Mike Rodemer is an ideal Professor for an educational environment focused on collaborative practice and theory in the arts, and to the development of artistic expression at the intersections of the disciplines among music, studio arts, dance, film, video, creative writing, cultural studies, art history, and theater... With his unique combination of intellectual generosity, academic rigor, and friendliness, Michael is a great asset. I recommend him very highly."

Reviewer D: "Michael is self evidently an artist of great humanity, haunted by history’s momentum and grip. He is collaborative, multi-disciplinary, and he has flourished at the boundaries of knowledge taxonomies for long years before these terms became fashionable... Through his innovative work in kinetic sculpture, he has made himself an expert on the use of the computer to engineer interactive social experience, on multiple platforms, from

gallery to theater to classroom to the internet to a rich variety of public arenas in the US and Europe.”


Reviewer E: “...Michael is an ideal instructor, colleague, and collaborator. He is extremely giving of his time; he takes risks, and follows through on his initiatives...He challenges students to explore deeply.”

Reviewer F: “A last but important remark to his latest creative works, the operas...this creative step is not only congruent, but an important advancement of his installations. From the beginning interested in political and social coherences, the opera as a total artwork allows Michael to accommodate all the different aspects he wants to work with.”

Reviewer G: “He has worked hard to develop and hone curriculum; taught electronics, interface development and interactive art when it was still being boot-strapped in art schools; continued to focus new areas of art exploration including 3D printing (rapid prototyping), and sensing paradigms; helped to develop the tools that many other departments picked up on – thus he developed an ‘extended notion’ of teaching that transcends the individual institution...He has consistently treated the student as a ‘whole person’ and sought for personal and intellectual exchange at the highest level of creative development and exploration.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Rodemer is an innovative artist-designer, one who is recognized by his peers as an influential leader in emerging media. He is an engaging and inspiring educator who excels at undergraduate and graduate teaching and who makes contributions through all areas of the curriculum. I strongly recommend him for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design.



Bryan Rogers
Dean, School of Art and Design

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