

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Achim Timmermann, assistant professor of the history of art, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and assistant professor of architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of the history of art, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of architecture, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	University of London
M.A.	1992	University of London
B.A.	1991	University of London

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Assistant Professor, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2004 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of Michigan
2003 – 2004	Instructor, European College of Liberal Arts
2002 – 2003	Lecturer, Department of History of Art, University of California, Berkeley
2001	Visiting Lecturer, Institute for Art and Visual History, Humboldt Universität
1998 – 1999	Research Scholar, Index of Christian Art, Princeton University
1997	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Visual Arts, Morley College
1996	Visiting Lecturer, Department of History of Art and Screen Media, Birkbeck College, University of London

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Timmermann is an excellent teacher as his consistently high student rankings attest. He has generously responded to departmental needs by designing a large number of new courses at all levels, on subjects ranging over a span of more than a thousand years and media ranging from architecture and urbanism to liturgical arts, painting, and sculpture. All of the classes are designed to inculcate skills in visual analysis and critical reading of primary sources, and all are informed by a creative use of new media and the development of innovative assignments. In keeping with his close attention to the physical properties of art, nearly every one of Professor Timmermann's undergraduate classes has included a field trip. In conjunction with a graduate seminar on Chartres Cathedral, he led an intense week-long excursion to France. Professor Timmermann is currently sitting on six dissertation committees (as co-chair in one case), and outstanding students are now applying to work with him.

Research – Professor Timmermann's research interests are broad and extend from Gothic architecture and micro-architecture to anti-Semitic imagery and monuments once placed in "moralized" rural landscapes. He contributes significantly to the department's reputation as one of premier places in the country to study medieval and early modern art. His learning is prodigious and his productivity impressive. His book, *Real Presence: Sacrament Houses and the Body of Christ, c. 1270-1600*, is a mature work of scholarship, at once learned and subtle, praised as field-defining. He has already made serious headway on research toward his second and third books. His numerous articles and his book place him in the top tier of an impressive new generation of architectural

historians who are opening the field up to such domains as liturgy, theology, politics, economics, social history, and urban studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Real Presence: Sacrament Houses and the Body of Christ, c. 1270-1600, Architectura Medii Aevi, 4, Brepols Publishers, in press.

“Paysage moralisé: The Zderad Column in Brno and the public monument in the Later Middle Ages,” in *Transactions of the British Archaeological Association, Prague 2006*, Z. Opáć (ed.), London: BAA, 2009, pp. 148-160.

“Altissimum ac pretiosum: The Vienna Cathedral Lodge and Sacrament House design in East Central Europe,” *Umění*, 53, 2005, pp. 539-550.

“The avenging Crucifix: Some observations on the iconography of the Living Cross,” *Gesta*, 40, 2001, pp. 141-160.

Service – Professor Timmermann approaches his service commitments with conscientiousness and a sense of responsibility. As a long-standing member of the departmental graduate committee, he is appreciated for his willingness to take on extra tasks and for his trenchant assessments. An especially noteworthy contribution was the co-organizing of a symposium on a cross-cultural theme: “Kinetics of the Sacred in Medieval European and East Asian Art, 800-1600: Passages of Space, Place, Time” (2006). Outside of Tappan Hall, Professor Timmermann serves on the executive committee for the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. He recently established an affiliation with the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, which both programs see as full of potential.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Given the interest in the eucharist as a kind of touchstone in so many different areas of inquiry, this is a book that scholars of religion as well as art history will turn to repeatedly both as a source and as a point of departure for their own inquiries. It [*Real Presence*] certainly will rank among the more important contributions to the study of later medieval architecture and architectural furnishings in many years.”

Reviewer (B)

“I am most impressed by the depth and breadth of this candidate’s scholarly writing, and, indeed, by its literary excellence. ...I would rank this as one of the most impressive scholarly performances I have seen in the context of a tenure case.”

Reviewer (C)

“Professor Timmermann’s major work could be described as being within the history of architecture. However, his approach to the subject...is quite broad in terms of field, discipline, method, and geography. Professor Timmermann’s studies, approach, and competence cut across and involve the history of painting, printmaking, sculpture, metalwork, and other so-called minor arts; they involve the history of liturgy, theology, social history, political history, and even to a degree economic history; they encompass all of Europe from the Iberian peninsula to Russia, and from Italy to Scandinavia.”

Reviewer (D)

“...the work of Achim Timmermann steps forward as impressively original in its geographical scope of inquiry, in its methodological fluency, and in the layered depth of its analyses.”

Reviewer (E)

"In his specific field Achim Timmermann can rightfully be seen as the most productive and innovative scholar of the last decade. Compared with all other recent publications in this field, Timmermann's are the most valuable and elaborate by far. His studies are especially convincing in respect of the integration of medieval art history into a modern cultural history – an approach that may be worthwhile for a fruitful cooperation with scholars of visual culture, social history, theology and historical linguistics in Ann Arbor, nationwide and abroad."

Reviewer (F)

"He is, in my view, one of the most intelligent and innovative of the art historians [of his generation] now working on later medieval and early modern topics... That I consider him to be extremely highly qualified and would—if I could—immediately offer him a position should be clear from my evaluation."

Reviewer (G)

"In the context of his generation of European researchers in the art of 14th and 15th centuries, A[chim] T[immermann] has clearly set himself apart by the specific choice of his research topic. While most of the best minds concentrate on reinterpretations of well-known material, thoroughly researched by several previous generations of art historians, he has identified an interesting but neglected topic, namely the microarchitectural monuments."

Reviewer (H)

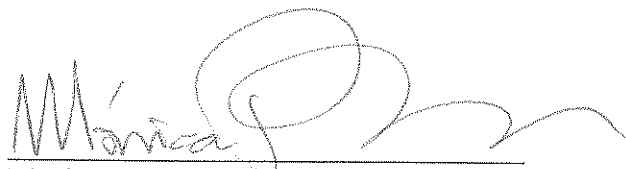
"His mind is formidable in organization, subtle in analysis and sympathetically imaginative in historical understanding. ... His work is methodologically diverse... He has re-united the artistic media of medieval public culture (so long divided into media-based specialism) into an interdisciplinary whole."

Summary Recommendation:

Professor Timmermann is an important and innovative scholar at the forefront of his field. He is a very successful teacher at all levels and eagerly serves his department. The Executive Committees of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning recommend and we recommend that Assistant Professor Achim Timmermann be promoted to the rank of associate professor of the history of art, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of architecture, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



Monica Ponce de León, Dean
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture
and Urban Planning

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