

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Art and Design

Susan E. Crowell, associate professor of art, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and associate professor in the Residential College, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and professor in the Residential College, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A. 1972 University of Michigan, School of Art and Design, Ann Arbor, MI
B.F.A. 1969 University of Michigan, School of Art and Design, Ann Arbor, MI

Professional Record:

2004 – present Associate Professor of Art, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and Associate Professor in the Residential College, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
1972 – 2004 Lecturer III, Residential College, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Crowell is a committed, demanding, and deeply passionate instructor. Though courses that are steeped in an interdisciplinary liberal arts context, she imparts technical skills and shapes students' understanding of the material world, and provides a solid foundation in history and cultural knowledge. Students note her high expectations and express appreciation for her investment in their growth and success. Whether teaching non-majors, undergraduate BFA or graduate MFA students, Professor Crowell teaches her students to work hard and produce high quality work.

Creative Work / Research – Professor Crowell is an internationally-recognized artist-designer who both honors and upends Baroque, Renaissance, and Japanese traditions to explore the natural world through the medium of clay. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally, with exhibitions in Denmark, China, Canada, and major cities in the United States. She has held an impressive number of international artist residencies at significant ceramics and clay centers throughout the world, including Jingdezhen Pottery Workshop (China), the International Ceramic Research Center (Denmark), the Bamboo Curtain Studio (Taiwan), and the Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada). Her practice as a ceramicist is research based, and she has lectured and written extensively on the historical underpinnings of her work as well as on contemporary techniques and issues. Her current research has focused on the development of ceramic sculptures based on an investigation of the forms, transport and behaviors of pollen.

Significant Recent Works and Activities:

2011 Solo Exhibition, The Apple Gallery, Skælskør, Denmark
2011 Resident Artist, Jingdezhen Pottery Workshop, Jingdezhen, China

- 2011 Resident Artist, International Ceramic Research Center, Guldagergaard, Skælskør, Denmark
- 2011 Solo Exhibition, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Group Exhibition, 33rd Annual Small Works National Exhibition, Harper College, Palatine, IL
- 2010 Lecture, *Italian Influence on Artistic Projects*, Tainan National University of the Arts, Tainan, Taiwan
- 2010 Lecture, *The Use of Ceramic Art for Cancer Patients and Their Families*, Sunyat Sen Cancer Center, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2009 Invitational Exhibition, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, MI

Service – Professor Crowell is an engaged citizen of both the Residential College and the School of Art and Design, serving on numerous committees in both units. In addition, she has directed the Residential College Gallery and the Residential College Art Program, directed University programs in Florence, Italy, served on the Executive Board of the Office of International Programs, and been an active participant in committees and task forces across campus.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Professor Crowell’s level and diversity of international activity is impressive. She has regularly worked abroad as a resident artist, and varied her approaches to engage classic Western cultures (Italy), northern European venues (Denmark), and the East (Japan, Taiwan, China). This represents significant contact with artists from many places beyond the residency location itself, and is invaluable in terms of learning, and – to use her terms – cross-pollination of ideas, programs, and representation.”

Reviewer B: “Crowell’s bimorphic forms place her work in a school with such heavy lifters as sculptors Kenny Price, Arlene Shechet, and Beverly Semmes, who also work in clay and whose work ‘displace the boundaries’ between art and craft. Crowell’s work is significant within this oeuvre...the work is celebratory, unflinching and a tiny bit shocking, like a closely observed animal’s heart or foot.”

Reviewer C: “Her pollen works are beautiful expressions of craftsmanship, and show an intimate understanding of the power of colour juxtaposition. Although her inspirations are varied, she has established a clearly identifiable style that persists through the various bodies of work even when the methods of manufacture are different.”

Reviewer D: “As a professional in the field of international ceramics, my work provides an opportunity to review and publish the ceramics of some of the best ceramic artists throughout the world. Crowell’s creative work certainly stands up in that competitive arena.”

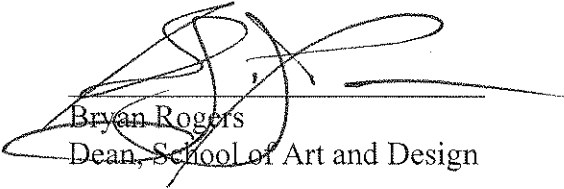
Reviewer E: “Quite simply, I am sincerely impressed with the depth of her creative energy and her high level of commitment to her work. Her ceramic works, which express a strong belief in the beauty and adaptability of nature, and by inference humankind’s relationship to the natural world, exhibit a personal vision and skill level I find admirable.”

Reviewer F: "Her artwork has developed over the year in a constant upward growth pattern, with outside influences and intellectual curiosity constantly breathing new life and energy into her work. Her ability to intertwine her conceptual ideas with her physical handling of clay is both insightful and intriguing."


Reviewer G: "Her 'bedside manner' helped the doctors to understand the great possible use of art as therapy, and she gained enough trust from the team, and her own courage, to eventually work with terminal patients...the two patients shown in the catalogue were willing to create art works, not as pain transfer, but with her coaxing, made works to be passed on as a unique gift of the patient to their loved ones."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Crowell is an exceptional teacher, University citizen, and an established artist with an international reputation. We strongly recommend Susan E. Crowell for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design, and professor in the Residential College, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Bryan Rogers
Dean, School of Art and Design



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

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