

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

Joan M. Kee, assistant professor of history of art, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history of art, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2008	New York University Institute of Fine Arts
J.D.	2000	Harvard Law School
B.A.	1997	Yale University

Professional Record:

2011	Visiting Scholar, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley
2008 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of Michigan
2006	Visiting Lecturer, History of Art Department, Cornell University
2001 – 2003	Visiting Scholar, Centre for the Study of Globalization and Cultures, University of Hong Kong
2001 – 2003	Associate Attorney, Capital Markets Group, Simpson, Thacher and Bartlett, Hong Kong and New York
2000 – 2001	Associate Attorney, Corporate Law Group, Hughes, Hubbard, and Reed, New York

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Kee is a dedicated and effective instructor of undergraduate and graduate students. Her courses on modern and contemporary Asian art have helped students understand the subject from multiple perspectives while they are also imparting skills of close observation, clear speaking, and lucid writing. In all her classes, she uses a variety of innovative strategies to professionalize her students, and she stresses experiential learning as an important means of understanding art. As her rising popularity with students suggests, she is rapidly becoming recognized as one of the department's intellectual leaders and a teacher who is valued because she brings out their best.

Research – Professor Kee is widely recognized as one of the leading scholars of modern and contemporary Asian art in the world. Her research is rigorous and sensitive to intra-Asian relations as well as relations of Asian art to the West. She has published a ground-breaking book, Contemporary Korean Art: Tansaekhwa and the Urgency of Method (2013), on Korean art between the 1960s and the 1980s, as well as seven substantial peer-reviewed essays on topics in modern and contemporary Asian art. In addition, she has also written numerous catalogue essays and art reviews that deal with issues of Asian art between 1900 and today. Professor Kee has made significant strides on a second book project, Art and the Law, that is exploring legal issues that pertain to the creation, performance, use, and definition of artworks produced in the United

States between the 1960s and 1990s. Her scholarship is having an important impact on the field of art history, and her promise of future productivity is very strong.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Contemporary Korean Art: Tansaekhwa and the Urgency of Method, 2013, University of Minnesota Press.

“Contemporary art in early colonial Korea: The self portraits of Ko Hui-dong,” *Art History*, 36(2), 2013, pp. 392-417.

“The connoisseurial advantage: Putting art historical practices to work in cases of copyright law,” *Journal of Law, Culture, and the Humanities*, 8(2), 2012, pp. 364-380.

“The curious case of contemporary ink painting,” *Art Journal*, 69(2), 2010, pp. 88-113.

Service – Professor Kee has been an exemplary citizen and colleague, and has compiled an impressive record of service to the Department of the History of Art, the Nam Center for Korean Studies, and the profession as a whole. She has served on key departmental committees, including its Graduate and Executive committees, as well as on the LSA Senate Assembly. She has also given her time and energy to organize and participate in conferences, symposia, and academic publications, often on cross-cultural topics and on an international scale.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“What distinguishes Kee’s work intellectually and the reason I place it on my ‘best’ list is the scholarly method she has established for clarifying ‘national traditions’ in art which are contestatory and global.”

Reviewer (B)

“I consider Professor Kee to be one of the most significant emerging intellectuals and scholars working in the fields of modern Asian art history, postcolonial theory, and the relation between law and cultural property.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I judge that Kee is well on track to become a leading spokesperson in her generation for ‘world art history’ as she sees it as an intersection of the study of transcultural/ globalized practices in the arts and the study of post-formalist and postculturalist approaches to visual culture as such.”

Reviewer (D)

“...I should also point out that for at least a decade Joan...has had a more general reputation among scholars [of her generation] as a star, a dynamo, a phenomenon--someone with the most daunting combination of drive and intelligence, a scholar who is a true leader in her generation.”

Reviewer (E)

“Not only does Contemporary Korean Art recount a specific Korean history, but it aids one in understanding the structures, methods and debates that have led to the recent efflorescence of ‘Asian Contemporary Art’ in general. This book (and the many related or spin-off articles on

allied subjects) certainly qualifies Kee as a major figure in Asian contemporary art and probably the foremost expert in contemporary Korean art.”

Reviewer (F)

“I have long admired Dr[.] Kee's ability to intervene – and enlighten her audience – within areas of art history and cultural history that have continued to polarise scholars, researchers and academics across disciplines. She has intervened with great knowledge and intelligence in debates on ‘globalisation’ and contemporaneity within Korean art...(see Third Text, Sept, 2011). ... This is important work, of great value to the study of art history across the globe.”

Reviewer (G)

“By the broad range of the expertise that she demonstrates in her writing and scholarship, she stands far above her peers in her contributions to the field of contemporary art in Asia. ... I believe she will be the voice of Contemporary Asian Art.”

Reviewer (H)

“Kee works seamlessly between Korea and the United States, not to mention her widely ranging knowledge of Japan, Southeast Asia, and Europe. Her research is historically well grounded in extensive archival material and reflects extensive familiarity with scholarship that spans across the globe.”

Summary of Recommendation

Professor Kee is an innovative and internationally recognized scholar. She has played an important role in undergraduate and graduate programs, and served the department and the broader community well. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Joan M. Kee be promoted to the rank of associate professor of history of art, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Susan A. Gelman
Heinz Werner Distinguished University Professor,
Professor of Psychology and Interim Dean,
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2014