

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

Roland Graf, assistant professor of art and design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

Dipl. Ing. 2002 Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria [degree equivalent to Master of Science in Architecture]

Professional Record:

2011 – present Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2007 – 2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Spatial and Sustainable Design, Institute for Architecture and Design, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
2004 – 2007 Senior Designer, BWM Architects, Vienna, Austria

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Graf is a well-informed, committed, and effective instructor to both undergraduate and graduate students. He has developed several innovative courses that engage students with underserved populations (e.g. MISSION & Camp Take Notice, Detroit Community High School, Flint Northwestern High School, Black Men for Social Change) that provide learning opportunities for the students and positive impact for the partner communities. His innovative teaching methodology engages students in exploring the intersection of art and architecture, engineering, and social impact through project-based learning and collaboration to enable the students to work on more ambitious real-world problems. Students acclaim Professor Graf as a teacher and mentor who is inspirational, challenging, and innovative, one who sets standards and engages students with high expectations and respect.

Creative Work / Research – Professor Graf is an established practitioner who invents and builds platforms, designs objects, intervenes in public spaces, and develops experimental human interfaces that provoke laughter, inspire wonder or imbue bodily sensations of instability in his audiences. His creative work has been exhibited internationally (Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Dubai, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Nepal, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Austria) and in the United States - in public places, galleries, and museums. He is the recipient of the 19th Japan Media Arts Festival Excellence Award (Entertainment Division) and was a nominee for the New Technological Art Award 2016. Additionally, Professor Graf's work has generated intellectual property in the form of a provisional patent application, a patent cooperation treaty application, and a utility patent application through the University of Michigan Office of Technology Transfer (all currently under review).

Significant Recent Works and Activities

2016 Group exhibition, "Update_6 / New Technological Art Award," Solar Pink Pong, Zebrastraat Ghent, Belgium.
2016 Group exhibition, "ISEA2016 Hong Kong Cultural Revolution — 22nd International Symposium on Electronic Art," Internet of Shoes, Hong Kong, China.

- 2016 Group exhibition, “19th Japan Media Arts Festival,” Solar Pink Pong, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan. Excellence Award in the Entertainment Division.
- 2016 Winner - Play Everywhere Challenge by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Target, Playworld, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts, “FitLIGHT” (collaboration with Nick Tobier and Michael Flynn).
- 2016 Provisional Patent Application, Title: Wireless Networking Platform. Inventor: Roland Graf et al. (Application No.: 62/335,757 — Filed: May 13, 2016). University of Michigan Office of Technology Transfer.
- 2016 PCT Patent Application, Title: Interactive Projection System, Inventor: Roland Graf et al. (International Appl. No.: PCT/US2016/19511 — International Filing Date: Feb 25, 2016). University of Michigan Office of Technology Transfer.
- 2016 US Utility Patent Application, Title: Interactive Projection System. Inventors: Roland Graf et al. (Serial No.: 15/052,950 — Filed: February 25, 2016). University of Michigan Office of Technology Transfer.
- 2015 Group Exhibition “Sommer Spiele,” Red Carpet and Dumpster Swimming Pool, GrazMuseum, Graz, Austria.
- 2015 Group exhibition, “FILE 2015: Electronic Language International Festival,” Solar Pink Pong, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 2015 Group exhibition, “Arts Track at TEI 2015 — the 9th International Conference on Tangible, Embedded and Embodied Interaction,” Solar Pink Pong, Stanford University, CA, USA.
- 2014 Group exhibition, “Cheriton Light Festival,” Sewer Foamies, Commissioned by Strange Cargo Arts Company Ltd., Cheriton, Folkestone, United Kingdom.
- 2014 Group exhibition, “ISEA 2014: LOCATION — The 20th International Symposium on Electronic Art”, Solar Pink Pong, Dubai, UAE.
- 2013 Group exhibition, “citydrift/Detroit,” Moon Ride, Kunsthalle Detroit, Michigan, USA.
- 2012 Group exhibition, “Earth, Body, Mind,” 2nd Kathmandu International Art Festival, Moon Ride, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 2011 Group exhibition “ArtPrize,” Pink Prints — Grand Rapids Streetwear, Site:Lab + UofM School of Art & Design, Fulton/Division, Grand Rapids, MI, USA.

Service – Professor Graf is an active citizen of the academy, one who has worked to promote cross-disciplinary collaborations within the university, leading community engagement projects, and by mentoring students. He has served as a member of several Stamps School faculty committees, including the Undergraduate Program Committee; Design Summit Planning Group; and the 3D Foundations Working Group. He has developed collaborations in partnership with various organization: MISSION; Camp Take Notice; The University of Art and Design Linz; Detroit Community High School; 18th Annual Exhibition of Prison Art; Flint Northwestern High School; Flint Local 432; Black Men for Social Change; ReMix; Flint Public Art Project; and Ann Arbor Public Art Commission. In 2013, he was the recipient of a community service award in recognition for the service to the homeless community of Washtenaw County.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I think that he has produced an impressive amount of high-quality work. His CV points to an extensive international presence. He has an impressive history of solo and international exhibitions ... Roland’s experience would be valued and highly utilized in our Department.”

Reviewer B: “I characterize Prof. Graf as well aligned with the mission of Michigan to provide, as James Burrill Angell described it, an uncommon education for the common man. His

transdisciplinary work, focus on teaching and development of student, and service to the local, broader, and global communities are substantial and impactful. I have not been asked to make a recommendation with respect to promotion to the rank of associate professor for Prof. Graf, but it is clear that his many contributions objectively support that promotion.”

Reviewer C: “Professor Graf was involved in the setting up of the Daylight Media Lab, which is important for bridging many different areas of expertise at the University of Michigan, including Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Optics, and Robotics. Daylight Media Lab resulted in several patent applications in which Professor Graf is cited as inventor. This is a testament to Professor Graf’s potential greater value to the University.”


Reviewer D: “His accomplishments in research, teaching, and service make him an exemplar of tenured faculty I would be glad to have a colleague of such dedication and distinction.”

Reviewer E: “What’s more, the process of acquiring and maintaining the substantial technical knowledge base needed to both envision and accomplish such projects requires a significantly greater ongoing commitment than is generally recognized, even in academia. The fact that Graf has such a high volume of work that is nuanced, thought provoking, and engaging is astounding.”

Reviewer F: “In my view Roland Graf is clearly an international leading researcher in the field, having had a vast amount of experience of producing work and making a significant contribution to the field through his innovative practice-based research artworks and projects. I would personally rank him alongside his international peers who hold similar professorial posts to associate professor with tenure.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Graf is a pioneering practitioner-researcher, a committed teacher, and a positive contributor within the school, university, profession, and community-at-large. I strongly recommend Roland Graf for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.



Gunalan Nadarajan
Dean and Professor
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and
Design

May 2017