

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

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

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	History of Art, Courtauld Institute of Arts, University of London
M.A.	1992	Medieval Studies, King's College, University of London
B.A.	1991	History of Art, Courtauld Institute of Arts, University of London

Professional Record:

2010–present	University of Michigan, Department of History of Art, Associate Professor
2006–present	University of Michigan, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Adjunct Assistant and Associate Professor
2004–2010	University of Michigan, Department of History of Art, Assistant Professor
2003–2004	European College of Liberal Arts, Berlin, Member of Faculty
2002–2003	University of California at Berkeley, Lecturer
2001	Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Visiting Lecturer
1997	Morley College, London, Visiting Lecturer
1996	Birkbeck College, University of London, Visiting Lecturer

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Timmermann brings two great strengths to the Department of the History of Art: specialist knowledge of western and central European medieval art and trained expertise in architectural history. Through his teaching, he contributes significantly to the department's standing in both areas. A consummate lecturer, he presents the richness of surviving images and objects and the complexities of the medieval built environment to his students in a range of lecture courses and seminars that incorporate the fruits of his wide-ranging research. He has chaired or co-chaired three dissertations and sat on a dozen dissertation committees. He is currently supervising the interdisciplinary doctoral colloquium sponsored by MEMS (Medieval and Early Modern Studies), which involves collective discussion of written work by graduate students.

Research: Since his last promotion, Professor Timmermann has consolidated his position as a leading figure in the field of Gothic art, architecture, and urbanism. Admired for his range—both chronological (13th–16th centuries) and geographical (Germanic-, Romance-, and Slavic-speaking regions)—his depth of knowledge (truly interdisciplinary), and his originality (identifying new, unexpected, and fruitful topics), he is among those scholars now lifting the study of medieval architecture, sculpture, and painting out of its familiar trajectories. Significant is his

foundational work in the now burgeoning field of “microarchitecture” (small-scale constructions including church furnishings and free-standing monuments in the medieval landscape). He is working in the newly emergent field of historical ecology and the relation of humans to the land. Professor Timmermann is the author of two major monographs as well as more than fifty articles, review articles, and catalog entries—over half of them produced since he gained tenure. He has embarked on an exciting new project, showing how German medieval cities could be transformed into simulacra of the holy city of Jerusalem, creating an imagined topography allowing the reenactment of sacred history.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Real Presence: Sacrament Houses and the Body of Christ, c. 1270-1600. *Architectura Medii Aevi*, 4. Turnhout: Brepols, 2009.

Memory and Redemption: Public Monuments and the Making of Late Medieval Landscape. *Architectura Medii Aevi*, 8. Turnhout: Brepols, 2017.

“Castles and Cathedrals of the Sea: Ships, Allegory and Technological Change in Pre-Reformation Northern Europe.” *Baltic Journal of Art History*, 18 (2019): 7-74.

“The Microarchitectural Stage-Management of Baptism from Lateran IV to the Counter-Reformation.” *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, 71 (2020): 527-56

Service: Professor Timmermann has served the department, the university, and the field in a series of increasingly demanding capacities. In the department, he has been the director of graduate studies and has sat on the department’s Executive, Graduate, Curriculum, and Undergraduate Committees. He has chaired and been a member of promotion committees and chaired two search committees (Ancient and Early Modern). Increasingly active in LSA-wide activities, he is currently directing the program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. On a national and international level, he has served as a reviewer for multiple journals, presses, and foundations, and has consulted with galleries and on European conservation and restoration projects. In 2015, he was elected to the Board of the International Center for Medieval Art, based in New York.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Timmermann’s work combines exceptional experience and skills in the analysis of architectural form, with a broad understanding of, and engagement with devotional, political and cultural perspectives on late medieval art and architecture.”

Reviewer (B): “This book [Memory and Redemption] takes the ordinary and makes it sublime—a truly astonishing accomplishment underpinned by a range of reading and interest uncommon today. As a scholar he ranks easily alongside the best medievalists of his generation and in breadth easily exceeds them.”

Reviewer (C): “Where *Real Presence* enhanced my understanding of monuments I had known before, *Memory and Redemption* opened up whole new vistas that I had not even recognized previously. His new book project on Jerusalem and the civic imagination in late medieval

Germany promises to combine his interests in architecture, urbanism, landscape, and lived experience in exciting ways.”

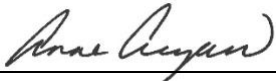
Reviewer (D): “No one, to my knowledge, is working in quite the same way or with quite such an expansive palette of objects and ideas.”

Reviewer (E): “Achim is highly respected and well known among European scholars and he is one of the few Anglo-American experts who is capable of taking up the extensive German discourse on artefacts, memory, liturgy, use, etc.”

Reviewer (F): “Prof. Timmermann has published widely, not only dozens of articles but also two innovative book-length studies on previously neglected aspects of late medieval architecture, each of which has ramifications that extend beyond the study of architecture per se.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Timmermann is a serious and committed teacher and mentor, and a colleague who has made substantive contributions to the department, the university, and the field. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Achim Timmermann be promoted to the rank of professor of history of art, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of architecture, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,
and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



Jonathan Massey
Dean and Professor
A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban Planning

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