

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

Osman Khan, associate professor of art and design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, and associate professor in the Digital Studies Institute, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, and professor in the Digital Studies Institute, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A.	2004	University of California in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
B.Sc.	1995	Columbia University, New York, NY

Professional Record:

2021 – present	Associate Professor in the Digital Studies Institute, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
2015 – present	Associate Professor of Art and Design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2009 – 2015	Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2006 – 2009	Visiting Artist and Visiting Professor, School of Art, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
2004 – 2006	Director of Sense Lab and Adjunct Faculty, Department of Design Media Arts, University of California in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
1997 – 2002	Creative Director, Elliance, Pittsburgh, PA
1995 – 1997	Systems Analyst, Andersen Consulting, New York,

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Khan is a highly-effective and versatile instructor. A key characteristic of his teaching—interdisciplinarity—stems naturally from his creative research, which centers around a digital media expertise while addressing and incorporating topics, materials, and approaches from multiple domains of knowledge. Students and reviewers cite his commitment to fostering creative excellence through a combination of critical thinking and intellectual rigor and skill in facilitating challenging discussions in the classroom. He has successfully taught at the graduate and undergraduate levels, is a sought-after graduate advisor, and led the school’s MFA program during a challenging structural transition. In describing Professor Khan’s impact on their development as creators and scholars, students frequently note that his work is centered in diversity and inclusion, and that he uses his teaching and creative practice to lift up marginalized voices. He is a generous mentor who is genuinely interested in his students’ work, listens carefully, and meaningfully contributes to each student’s growth.

Creative Work/Research – Professor Khan uses an expanded studio practice to critically engage issues regarding immigrant and post-colonial narratives and aesthetics. His integrative approach to creative research includes a blend of studio production (sculpture, installation, new media),

scholarly research, performance, public interventions, and community engagement. He blurs the lines historically separating the roles of artist, educator, activist, and citizen by using his art to create interventions on common assumptions. This unique practice of using multiple strategies to address concerns pertaining to, and arising from, the confluence of Muslim, Pakistani, and South Asian identities has earned him significant recognition as one of the leading artists addressing these issues. The work aims to reposition and reimagine accepted truths, histories, and mythologies of Muslim culture/identities and opens a space for considering these anew both from the perspective of the immigrant and the homeland of which the immigrant is a new member. He is among a select few artists working at this high level of post-colonial critique as it relates to Muslim, South Asian, and Pakistani identities.

Professor Khan's work has been positively reviewed in the top art journals including *Art in America*, *Hyperallergic*, and the *Boston Globe*, and recognized through exhibitions, residencies, grants, and awards. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Knight Foundation Arts Challenge grant, and a Doris Duke Charitable Foundation grant. In 2023, MASS MoCA—one of the most prestigious contemporary art venues in the country—will host a solo exhibition of Professor Khan's work.

Significant Recent Works and Activities

2021	Group Exhibition, <i>Stalagnate</i> , STOA169, Polling, Germany
2020	Recipient, Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship
2019-2021	Halal Metropolis. Exhibition Series: Indus Detroit, Detroit (06/2019); Bank Suey, Hamtramck (09/2019); Cleary University, Howell (11/2019); Stamelos Gallery, University of Michigan Dearborn, Dearborn (01/2020); Stamps Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (05/2021), Scarab Club, Detroit (07/2021)
2019	Residency, Artist Studios at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA
2019	Artist Presentation, Habib University, Center for Media and Design, Karachi, Pakistan
2018	Building Bridges 2017-2018 Grants Program, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, New York, NY (\$240,000)
2018	Knight Foundation Arts Challenge, Miami Foundation, Miami, FL (\$195,000)
2018	Michigan Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (\$61,000)

Service – Professor Khan has been an active citizen of the academy and local, national and international communities. As the MFA program director in the Stamps School, Professor Khan worked to increase student diversity in recruitment; realign pedagogical objectives to more directly meet the school's mission and vision; adapt the curriculum to a shorter duration; and, revise admissions practices, student funding packages, and the graduate advising system. At the university level, he works to promote interdisciplinary research and the importance of arts and creative work within the research university. In addition to his appointments in the Stamps School and the Digital Studies Institute, he is an affiliate faculty member with the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS), Arab and Muslim American Studies (AMAS) in the Department of American Studies and serves on the advisory board of the Arab and Muslim American Studies Department. Professor Khan's long-term and ongoing commitment to the Metro Detroit Muslim communities is demonstrated through two major public arts initiatives he has spearheaded: *Halal Metropolis Exhibition Series* and *Indus Detroit Artist Residency + Culture Lab*. He also

contributes to the profession at large, serving as a frequent juror and guest speaker, and through his role as chair of the DICE Foundation's Creative Arts and Media (CAM) division, an organization that fosters innovation and cooperation in and between academic research and creative industries in Pakistan.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Compared to others in the field at similar career points, Professor Khan is operating at the level of excellence. The venues where his work has garnered support are absolutely at the highest level. The vast majority of his projects are exceptionally intertwined – with ideas, forms, concepts, content, social engagements, and objectives fluidly informing one another in an organic, generative, and wonderfully contemporary braid."

Reviewer B: "Professor Khan's practice is impressive in the range of media deployed, in his awareness of the various publics activated by his work, by the urgent relevance of the themes his work addresses, and by his awareness of both US concerns and global valances. The range of diverse projects Professor Khan has successfully accomplished in numerous venues is striking indeed."

Reviewer C: "...this work will reposition these diasporic new narratives that are strongly tied to an ancient past with a new present and potential future, shifting away from stereotypical ideas of US Muslims as 'terrorist, barbaric, un-American, etc.' This work is critical for our times."

Reviewer D: "Khan has had exhibitions of his artwork at some of the most prestigious art institutions and festivals... This range of venues and countries, and the importance of these particular institutions warrant note. Khan has been an active cultural producer, and his scholarship and works have circulated far and garnered institutional respect. He has also been awarded grants and fellowships from notable institutions...This is a distinguished record of consistent outside funding support which is increasingly difficult to garner in the USA in recent years."

Reviewer E: "As seems the case with all of Professor Khan's works, the social geography of differentiated bodies moving from one place to another is an important figure and this figure inhabits multiple identities from exiles to immigrants to refugees. I find his works to be thought-provoking without being harsh in terms of the transmission of meanings. The art of Professor Khan reveals the mind of a highly intelligent, sensitive, and sophisticated thinking artist."

Reviewer F: "It is my opinion that Khan's art practice, which is outstanding, are [sic] in the highest top percentile of his immediate peer group (artists with academic affiliations working with newer technologies, community engagement, reclamation of identity and space, and historical/aesthetic/social/conceptual criticality)."

Reviewer G: "Professor Khan is addressing important and timely themes that are part of a broader international conversation both inside and outside of the art world; hyphenated identity in a globalized world, the complicated interaction of Eastern and Western perspectives, the immigrant experience, and environmental dangers are all themes that he consistently address through his work. Professor Khan uses several modes for engaging his audience and making an

impact; Writing, performance, exhibitions in art spaces, and collaboration. For each of these modes he is making a significant impact in different and unique ways.”

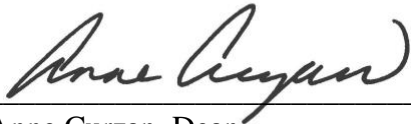
Reviewer H: “Professor Khan’s artwork shows that he is a deeply thoughtful, critical and inventive artist who has been creating important work in a variety of media for many years. Professor Khan has impressed me, in both his practice as an artist and educator, as someone with the natural ability to combine a hands-on tinkerer’s methodology with a rigorous socially conscious intellect. . .Professor Khan has a way of creating what appear to be simple projects and premises that unfold under examination into layered cultural, economic and political critiques.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Khan is a highly-respected interdisciplinary artist, an effective and rigorous teacher, and a committed citizen of the academy, community and the profession. We strongly recommend Osman Khan for promotion to professor of art and design, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, and professor in the Digital Studies Institute, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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



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

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