

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

Joseph E. Trumpey, associate professor of art, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, associate professor of natural resources, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability, and associate professor of environment, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of art, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, professor of natural resources, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability, and professor of environment, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

M.F.A.	1992	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
A.B.	1988	Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana

Professional Record:

2017- present	Associate Professor of Sustainability without tenure, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2016- present	Director of Sustainable Living Experience (SLE), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2015 - present	Associate Professor of Environment, without tenure, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2014 - present	Faculty Affiliate; Sustainable Food Systems Initiative, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2014 - 2017	Distinguished Faculty Fellow in Sustainability, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2011 – present	Faculty Associate; Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Nichols Arboretum, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2010 - present	Faculty Associate; African Studies Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2008- 2017	Associate Professor of Natural Resources, without tenure, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2007	Teaching Fellow; Global Intercultural Education for Undergraduates, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2006 -2013	Director of International Engagement; School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2004 - present	Associate Professor of Art and Design, with tenure, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Trumpey has been a steadfast curricular force at the Stamps School throughout his tenure as an associate professor, teaching courses in medical and biological illustration, studio practices, international engagement, community, engagement and sustainability. His courses bring together students from both Stamps and the Program in the Environment (PitE), resulting in an interdisciplinary educational experience that bridges art, design, and the environment. Through his teaching, he leads students in immersive design-build experiences, often engaged with community stakeholders. These course experiences, students create artifacts that range from campus buildings to

cookstoves in Tanzania to water filters in Nepal to environmental murals in Detroit; this teaching reinforces the value of community engagement, a core commitment of the Stamps curriculum. Working across schools at the university and working across disciplinary boundaries, Professor Trumpey has a deeply established legacy as a pathbreaker in service to society.

Creative Work/Research: Professor Trumpey is an artist and designer whose practice truly defies signification. It is because of this that his practice aligns with the intellectual, creative, and pedagogical imperative of Stamps. Professor Trumpey's formation was at the intersection of art and biology and his pre-tenure career was marked by deep engagement with scientific illustration, an area of creative foci Stamps previously sustained for several decades. During and upon his promotion in 2004, Professor Trumpey manifested a transformative model of the faculty life cycle by shifting his scientific illustration practice to one that manifested artistic and design-oriented imperatives to address the climate crisis. As such and during the past two decades, Professor Trumpey's work has manifested a profound ongoing exploration of climate-positive living via Bale Craft, a design-build technique at the center of his major work, the *Trumpey Strawbale Homestead*. The *Homestead* has served as a proof of concept for off-grid sustainability, a 100% solar powered site that now serves as the largest and most complex straw bale building in the state of Michigan. Professor Trumpey has taken the research and applied concepts learned in building, the *Homestead*, to collaboratively building the University of Michigan's first two fully solar powered buildings that also deploy Bale Craft; the UM BioState Strawbale Building, located on the south shore of Douglas Lake and Campus Farm Strawbale Building, located adjacent to the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and UM Campus Farm.

Significant Recent Works and Activities:

- 2023 Trumpey, J.E. - Tomato Shipping Crate System, Gateway Garden Design, We the People's Opportunity Farm, Ypsilanti
- 2023 Trumpey, J.E., Parks, K., Dowgwillo, N. - Sustainable Materials and Natural Dye Garden, Stamps School of Art & Design, Ann Arbor
- 2022 Trumpey, J.E. - Community Pizza Oven Design Build, Michigan State University, Detroit Partnership for Learning and Innovation, Detroit
- 2021 Trumpey, J.E. - Environmental action-themed mural installations; two murals, Toxic Tours 48217, Sierra Club, Detroit
- 2021 Trumpey, J.E. - Campus Farm Outdoor / Indigenous Food Kitchen, designed outdoor kitchen space in partnership with Campus Farm, M-Dining, and several Michigan Tribal Communities

Service: Professor Trumpey's service is far reaching and wide-ranging far beyond the expectations. Professor Trumpey's service record include his service on the President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality and as an elected representative to both the Stamps and PitE Executive Committees. He served as the director of international engagement at Stamps for seven years and proposed the Sustainable Living Experience (SLE), a residential living-learning sustainability community that UM had been lacking, serving as its founding director since 2016. Professor Trumpey is also an extension of his teaching, which is also an extension of his research and applied practice. Professor Trumpey has developed a career at the University of Michigan that truly embodies peak excellence, whereby institutional boundaries are mobilized in the service of society, bending them to the most pressing concern(s) of our time; climate change. Professor Trumpey has not allowed institutional boundaries to delimit the possibilities of how an artist and designer can mobilize their teaching, research, and service in the service of society.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Professor Trumpey presents an impressive dossier, with clear evidence of creative ambition and energy showcased in a multitude of realized projects. It is particularly noteworthy that he has accomplished much of his record following a career pivot when the curricular structure at Stamps was changed. Professor Trumpey’s remarkable span of work in his ‘by the numbers’ summaries indicate a few redundancies and items that would benefit from greater clarity in his exact role (for example, collaborations on buildings), yet this in no way compromises his clearly grounded beliefs and passion for work in sustainable living.”

Reviewer B: “Joe is known in natural building and sustainable design communities for his consistent support. He brings a collaborative spirit and shares extensive knowledge with colleagues and peers.”

Reviewer C: “Professor Trumpey’s dossier may pose a challenge for the conventional P&T review process because of his reinvention of his job, but because of the gaps his work addresses and the urgent timeliness of his focus, I have no doubt that any institution would promote him and do anything necessary to retain him....[Speaking from] the dozens of external reviews for promotion to full professor I’ve conducted in the last twenty years, Professor Trumpey’s work is in the top 1%.”


Reviewer D: “Taking on the 16-volume ‘Grzimek’s Animal life Encyclopedia,’ creating and art directing 5,500 color illustrations; while performing his duties as an academic associate to multiple committees, affiliates, directors, and professors, and as an instructor in multiple disciplines, having taught 3,600 students and 283 courses in 29 years; while serving on numerous academic committees, faculty reviewer, student advisor, thesis advisor, and Fulbright Reviewer; while staying current with and consulting with public and private corporations on trends in sustainability and social impact; while serving as an Eco-Explorer developer with 100’s of students; while also maintaining professional ties as Founder, Co-Founder, partner, principle, journal editor, designer, builder, public lecturer, professional conference presenter, manuscript author and biological and scientific illustrator, grant funding pursuer, farmer, AND building his strawbale homestead; seems like an impossible and herculean task.”

Reviewer E: “Mr. Trumpey’s work is very interdisciplinary in nature, meaning that establishing a ‘peer group’ for comparison is challenging. In my field (agricultural education) we have a handful of faculty who lead integrated agricultural development projects domestically and abroad. Mr. Trumpey’s work is most like theirs. Using that group for comparison, I would say Mr. Trumpey is performing at a very high level.”

Reviewer F: “Professor Trumpey’s professional endeavors have breadth, depth, and reach. By most criteria (solo/group, educational/informative, reviews/catalogs) his scholarly and creative activities leave little weakness, and these efforts include a full range of exploration and open discourse. His primary activity at the confluence of an interdisciplinary and collaborative investigation combining art, science, ecology, and social projects (‘Eco-Explorers’) - lead from the front of contemporary art/science practice. Professor Trumpey’s efforts have earned respect in the field as evidenced by the exhibitions and publications he has garnered. And yeah, let’s be honest, respect can be an over-used and often spurious term, but in Professor Trumpey’s case it has true substance, well beyond the jargon or posturing.”

Summary of Recommendation:

We highly recommend Joseph E. Trumpey for promotion to professor of art, with tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, professor of natural resources, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability, and professor of environment, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Carlos Francisco Jackson
Dean and Professor
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design



Jonathan T. Overpeck
Samuel A. Graham Dean



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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