

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Susan N. Erickson, Ph.D., professor of art history in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active faculty status on April 30, 2026.

Professor Erickson received her Ph.D. degree in art history from the University of Minnesota in 1989. She joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as an assistant professor in 1991, and was promoted to associate professor in 1997, and professor in 2008.

Professor Erickson taught courses about Asian art and a course fulfilling a foundations requirement. She taught capstone courses for art history and museum studies majors involving the creation of an exhibition at the Berkowitz Gallery and the Stamelos Gallery Collection in coordination with gallery staff. Professor Erickson is a scholar in the fields of early Chinese art and the history of collecting Chinese art in the United States. She has written foundational articles about types of objects placed in Han dynasty tombs. The objects include *boshanlu* incense burners, images of dancers captured in jade, face coverings made of jade, and bronze money trees (*yaoqianshu*), and she traced their origin, distribution, and meaning.

Professor Erickson also has written articles about the iconography of *que* towers and the structures of rock-cut cliff tombs in Sichuan. She contributed essays and object entries to exhibition catalogues or conference proceedings published by the Dayton Art Institute, Princeton University Art Museum, and The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Professor Erickson also contributed a chapter to the comprehensive study of the Han dynasty, *China's Early Empires: A Re-appraisal*, Cambridge University Press. Professor Erickson made important service contributions. She served as vice chair of the Faculty Senate (1999–2000), associate chair of the Department of the Humanities (2000–2001), and chair of the Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts (2008–2011).

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Susan N. Erickson, professor emerita of art history**.

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2026