

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Marianetta Porter, M.F.A.**, professor of art and design in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2021.

Professor Porter received her B.A. (1975) degree from Hampton University and her M.F.A. (1986) degree in textile design from the University of Michigan. Following a career in industry, Professor Porter joined the University of Michigan faculty as associate professor of art without tenure in 1995, received tenure at the rank of associate professor in 2001, and was promoted to professor of art and design with tenure in 2006.

Professor Porter is an award-winning interdisciplinary researcher and artist who blends scholarship and creative practice to advance the study of African American history, culture, and representation. Her work earned national and international recognition, with numerous exhibitions, awards, and fellowships, including: a one-year Smithsonian Senior Research Fellowship Award where she researched proverbial folklore, food customs, slave lullabies, and maroon cultures in the Americas within the context of the Smithsonian's collections at the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage; and the Philip Jones Fellowship for the Study of Ephemera, which supported research on the history and cultural significance of African American church fans.

As an educator and gifted mentor, Professor Porter shaped multiple generations of artists and designers. She brings to her teaching an extensive knowledge of a variety of media, strong interdisciplinary research skills that inspire students to make full use of campus resources, and a commitment to equity, justice, and community responsibility that grounds her teaching regardless of the course.

The Regents now salute this distinguished artist and educator for her dedicated service by naming **Marianetta Porter, professor emerita of art and design.**

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**July 2021**