

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

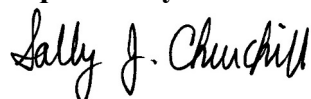
Darryl G. Baird, M.F.A., professor of art in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2019.

Professor Baird received his M.F.A. degree from the University of North Texas in 1998. He joined the faculty of the University of Michigan-Flint in 1998 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 2004, and professor in 2014.

Professor Baird was hired to start new areas in photography and graphic design. His previous professional and academic experiences were tapped to create a full spectrum of photographic instruction, including antiquarian 19th century printing and contemporary digital practice, all centered on the wet darkroom still dominant in 1998. Professor Baird designed computer and darkroom facilities in the planned WSW Building. He saw early fruit from his digital artwork, as multiple book publishers included his work as examples of the new medium, including a portfolio of work in a “Digital Masters” section on an Adobe Photoshop 5.0 software install disk. Professor Baird also began conducting study-abroad trips to England to connect students with the history and origins of photography. During preparations for the trip’s coursework, he became interested in the Picturesque period that preceded the invention of photography and its influence on subsequent landscape photography aesthetics. After receiving tenure Professor Baird, with funding from a Rackham Faculty Grant, pursued an extensive sabbatical project on the River Wye in Wales and England focused on the Picturesque. The outcome of his project was a published paper, and an invitation to speak at a prestigious conference designed to showcase work of photographic researchers in Re-Photography (a documentary practice using historic photographs), held at the University of Plymouth, England. Professor Baird then assumed the role of department chair for five years and oversaw the creation of a new degree program in visual communication, including a new curriculum designed to utilize the faculty expertise from the Department of Communication and Visual Arts. Professor Baird continued pursuing his work, using antiquarian printing styles, and later began reviewing photography books for Focal Press.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Darryl G. Baird, professor emeritus of art.**

Requested by:



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

October 2021