

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

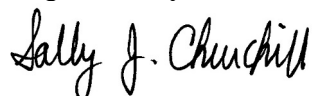
**Raymond A. Silverman, Ph.D.**, professor of history of art and professor of Afroamerican and African studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor Silverman received his B.A. (1975) degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and his M.A. (1977) and Ph.D. (1983) degrees from the University of Washington. After teaching at Michigan State University (1988-2002), Professor Silverman joined the University of Michigan faculty as professor in 2002 and was the founding director of the Museum Studies Program (2002-12). He was interim co-director of the University of Michigan Museum of Art (2009-10), and also an adjunct curator of African art there (2010-18). As director of GalleryDAAS (2013-16), he brought international recognition to one of the few university galleries in the U.S. dedicated to the arts of Africa and its diasporas.

Throughout a prolific career, Professor Silverman's research addressed transcultural exchange; the histories of metal technologies and commodification of culture in Ghana and Ethiopia; the contemporary visual cultures of religion in Ethiopia; and the history of museum representations of Africa and Africans. His publication highlights include *Painting Ethiopia: The Life and Work of Qes Adamu Tesfaw* (2005) and *Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity* (1999). Professor Silverman's two co-authored books are forthcoming: *Ethiopian Church Art: Painters, Patrons and Purveyors* and *National Museums in Africa: Reflections on Memory, Identity and the Politics of Heritage*. Professor Silverman also curated more than fourteen exhibitions and has been a valued consultant for exhibitions across the globe. He served on editorial boards and advisory councils for many African arts institutions, and was the founding president of the Ghana Studies Association (1988-92). Among his achievements at the University of Michigan, Professor Silverman co-curated *African Art and the Shape of Time* (2012), and he received a project grant from the University of Michigan Humanities Collaboratory (2018) as co-principal investigator for *African Art After Independence, 1957-1977*. His proudest achievement is Nkwantananso, the first cultural center in Techiman State, Ghana (2005-present). Informed by current social theory concerning culture, heritage, and civil society, and bringing together faculty and students from universities in the U.S. and Ghana with members of local communities, Nkwantananso highlights museum practice as a collaborative social process.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Raymond A. Silverman, professor emeritus of history of art and professor emeritus of Afroamerican and African studies**.

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2020**