

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**


**Thomas Willette, Ph.D.**, lecturer IV in history of art and lecturer IV in the Residential College in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, retired from active status on May 31, 2022.

Dr. Willette received his B.A degree from the University of Minnesota in 1980, and both his M.A. (1982) and Ph.D. (1988) degrees in the history of art from Johns Hopkins University. He was a curatorial assistant at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. from 1988-1989. He was a visiting assistant professor of the history of art at Pomona College (1989-1990), Cornell University (1990-1991), the University of Michigan, Department of the History of Art and Residential College (1992-1997), Northwestern University (Spring 1998), the University of Michigan, (Winter 1999), and Boston University (Spring 2000). Dr. Willette joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 2000 as a lecturer III, held an assistant professorship from 2004-2012, and was a lecturer IV from 2012-2022.

During his years at Michigan, Dr. Willette was a dedicated and energetic teacher, offering a wide range of stimulating courses on European visual art, philosophy and literature. His scholarship focuses on early modern Italian art, art theory and historiography. He taught the majority of writing-intensive classes offered by the Department of the History of Art. Additionally, he organized and hosted the long-running Premodern Colloquium, providing faculty, graduate students and invited guests with a venue for critical discussion of work-in-progress among colleagues in several disciplines. He has delivered papers at disciplinary and interdisciplinary conferences and symposia in the United States and Europe, served as a referee for journals and publishers, and provided translations for scholarly anthologies. Dr. Willette has co-authored a monograph on the painter *Massimo Stanzione* (1992) and co-edited two foundational collections of essays in the early modern subfield of art history, both published by Cambridge University Press: *Art History in the Age of Bellori: Scholarship and Cultural Politics in Seventeenth-Century Rome* (2002) and *Naples* (2017). His numerous articles focus on Neapolitan art and on the writings of Giorgio Vasari, Leonardo da Vinci, Giovanni Pietro Bellori, and Benedetto Croce. Dr. Willette has received fellowships and awards from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Newberry Library, the American Philosophical Society, Choice, and Michigan's Rackham Graduate School, among others.

The Regents now salute this noted educator and scholar by naming **Thomas Willette, lecturer IV emeritus in history of art and lecturer IV emeritus in the Residential College.**

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2022**