

March 14-15, 2024

ITEM 211-2703-R0324

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Art History upon Dr. Patricia Vettel-Becker; Montana State University Billings

THAT

Upon the retirement of Dr. Patricia Vettel-Becker from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty of the Department of Art wishes to express its appreciation to Dr. Vettel-Becker for the many contributions she has made to our students, department, College, and University during her 26 years of service. We recommend that the rank of Professor Emerita be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Vettel-Becker earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History and Archeology from Washington University in St. Louis. She joined the Department of Art at MSU Billings in 1990 as an assistant professor, being promoted to associate professor in 2005.

During her tenure at MSU Billings, Dr. Vettel-Becker has taught fifteen unique courses in art history, theory, and criticism, ranging from Greek Archeology to Contemporary Art. She has also offered courses serving the Honors, Environmental Studies, and Women and Gender Studies programs, and led four study abroad trips for students to nine different countries. She has mentored students as supplemental instructors in her introductory art history course and through supervising internships. The university recognized her by awarding her the Winston and Helen Cox Fellowship for Faculty Excellence in Arts and Sciences and a Faculty Achievement Award. On a national level, she received the Illumina Teacher Award in the category of the Artist's Call for Justice.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Vettel-Becker served the Department of Art as its Chairperson from 2009 to 2021; through participation in three National Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation self-studies and reviews; as a member of the Department Rank and Tenure Committee, chairing it for six years; as a faculty advisor to the Northcutt Steele Gallery. A major accomplishment for the department was her successful effort to implement a new degree, the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art, in 2010.

As a scholar, Dr. Vettel-Becker is well-recognized for her expertise in American Art and Gender Studies. Her book titled *Shooting from the Hip: Photography, Masculinity, and Postwar America*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2005. Her articles on a variety of topics, including combat and fashion have been published in prestigious peer-reviewed journals. She has contributed to her field by authoring exhibition catalog essays and book reviews; participating in numerous professional conferences as a presenter and panelist; and as editorial referee for several scholarly journals and presses.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Vettel-Becker the rank of Professor Emerita of Art History, Montana State University Billings and wishes her well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None