

November 21-22, 2024

ITEM 215-1010-R1124

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of the School of Visual and Media Arts on Beth Lo; University of Montana Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Beth Lo from the faculty of The University of Montana in 2016, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 30+ years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor Lo received a Bachelor of General Studies from the University of Michigan in 1971, and then studied Ceramics with Rudy Autio at the University of Montana receiving her MFA in 1974. She assumed his job as Professor of Ceramics there when he retired in 1985 and served as a senior member of the ceramic area until her retirement in 2016.

As a teacher, Professor Lo's performance was consistently meritorious. She was a very successful and popular teacher. During her tenure, she taught ceramics, drawing, and 3-d foundations. In her years as an educator, she introduced new coursework in the intermediate ceramics level: including classes in Anagama, clay and drawing, clay and the figure, raku, mold-making, and clay and glazes. As part of her duties, Professor Lo supervised the ceramics area facility, leading efforts to construct the outdoor kiln yard which included the construction of the materials shed, several new kilns, soda, raku and car kilns, and the roof over the kilns. She oversaw the firings of the Anagama kiln at Lubrecht Forest and successfully wrote grants for the reconstruction and maintenance of the Anagama kiln at this location.

Professor Lo mentored both undergraduate and graduate students as they developed as artists and teachers. In addition to teaching and facility management, she established the student clay club (Starving Students/UMECA) and organized the popular holiday exhibitions and sales that raised money for students to attend national conferences in clay. Upon student request, Professor Lo served an astonishing number of B.F.A. and M.F.A. candidates. She was recognized as an outstanding teacher by her students and colleagues and was twice honored with the School of Fine Arts Distinguished Faculty award and twice honored with the University of Montana Provost's Distinguished Lecturer Award in 2006 and 2010.

Professor Lo's research was wide-ranging and focused on topics relating to her identity and personal experiences as a daughter, wife, mother, and artist. Her ceramics and mixed-media artworks are uniquely recognizable and internationally renowned. She has exhibited globally with participation in a long list of solo and group exhibitions. Her reputation is world-wide as attested to by her website: <https://www.bethlo.com/>

During her career, Professor Lo received top recognition as an artist. In 2013, she was invited to make a new work for the Main Exhibition of the 7th Gyeonggi International Ceramics Biennale in

Korea. She received the \$50,000 United States Artists Hoi Fellowship in 2009, a \$20,000 National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowship Grant in 1994, a Montana Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship in 1989 and an American Craft Museum Design Award in 1986.

Her figurative sculpture and pottery have been acquired by the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA, Microsoft Corporation, Cheney Cowles Museum of Art, the University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, WA, the Permanent Collection, Yellowstone Art Center, Billings, MT, and the Hallmark Card Corporation Ceramics Collection.

Professor Lo has illustrated two children's books: "Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic" and "Mahjong All Day Long." Her book about playing mahjong won the Marion Vannett Ridgeway Award and was a Montana Book Award Honor Book.

In addition to her contributions in teaching and research, Professor Lo played an important service role on campus and in local, national, and international communities. She was deeply engaged with the exhibition of student artworks and oversaw the remodeling and maintenance of the Off-Center Gallery in the Art Annex in ceramics. While in this position, she helped create the technician position that supported the supply and maintenance of the equipment. In this space and elsewhere, she invited artists to exhibit and meet with students to expand the learning experiences in the studios. She established the Archie Bray Day at the School of Art which brought artists-in-residence from the well-known Helena institution to the campus studios in Missoula. At the Archie Bray Foundation, she organized the Woodstack Conference which features an international list of guest artists who came to Montana. In 1995, she was a presenter at the NGO Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

Professor Lo's indefatigable service in the School of Art (now the School of Visual and Media Arts), her extraordinary creative research, and her thorough and caring teaching led to her recognition as an Odyssey of the Stars honoree in 2008.

The School of Art (now the School of Visual and Media Arts) is pleased to nominate Professor Lo for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments