

March 13, 2025

ITEM 217-1006-R0325

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

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Cathryn Mallory from the faculty of The University of Montana in 2024, 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 Mallory received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture from the University of Oklahoma. In 1994, she became the gallery director of the Gallery of Fine Arts and professor of sculpture at the University of Montana.

As a teacher, Professor Mallory's performance was consistently meritorious. She was a very successful and popular teacher. During her tenure, she taught sculpture to undergraduate and graduate students, led professional practices and senior thesis courses for BFA students, and facilitated graduate critiques for MFA students. In her years as an educator, she introduced new coursework in fiber arts for intermediate sculpture students. More importantly, Professor Mallory worked individually with MFA and BFA candidates during the installations of their thesis exhibitions. She worked closely with these students to understand the process of exhibition as an opportunity to showcase culminating bodies of creative work. It is no exaggeration to state that a generation of artists graduating from the School of Visual and Media Arts has worked one-on-one with Professor Mallory as she mentored their final semesters as students. Not surprisingly, she served an astonishing number of B.F.A. and M.F.A. candidates as a member of their thesis committees.

Professor Mallory's research focused on fiber artworks that revealed her laborious, time-consuming handwork. Whether wall pieces of braided copper or rubber or elaborate large-scale installations of crocheted and knotted fabric and wool, her artworks have been avidly exhibited and collected. Since 1994, Professor Mallory has exhibited in more than 175 solo or group national exhibitions and her artworks have been purchased by six regional and national museums. This impressive record is acknowledged by her nomination for the prestigious Portland Art Museum Contemporary Northwest Art Award.

In addition to her contributions in teaching and research, Professor Mallory played an important service role on campus and in local and regional communities. She has been deeply engaged with state-wide arts boards: serving the Clay Studio in Missoula and MAGDA (Museum and Art Gallery Directors' Association) in Montana. She assisted with the creation of a graduate-student residency and internship at the Blackfoot Pathways Sculpture in the Park in Lincoln, Montana where four SMVA graduate students have permanent art installations.

Professor Mallory's indefatigable service in the School of Art (now the School of Visual and Media Arts), her consistent creative research, and her thorough and caring teaching support this nomination.

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

ATTACHMENTS

None