

# 版画島

Dean Rae Staseson  
Faculty of Media, Art, & Performance  
University of Regina

30 September 2019

Dean Staseson:

Please accept this letter of application for Promotion to Professor. All supplementary material will arrive by October 31, 2019, as per the Collective Agreement. The period under review for this decision is vast, as it encompasses my entire career, though for practical purposes this means, for me, starting around the last year of my undergraduate studies at Queen's University in 1999-2000. My contributions to research and teaching have been very fruitful, and my service to the University of Regina, and the extended communities to which I claim allegiance is far reaching. I believe my current case for promotion to Professor is compelling.

Before separating the following text into sections which will address an abbreviated account of my Creative Research, Teaching, and Service, I will begin by quoting from the Faculty of Media + Art + Performance Criteria Document:

### 3.2.3 Promotion to Professor

The rank of Professor should be given to those who have established recognition at either, or both national and international in one or more of research, scholarly and artistic endeavours. A long-standing record of very good teaching is also required, which could include a good record of successfully supervised graduate students, where such a program exists, and honours, directed studies, practicum and/or performance students. Evidence of strong contributions in the areas of administration and public service will be expected. Promotion to the rank of Professor is reserved for those, who in the opinion of colleagues within the University and beyond, are outstanding in their discipline and whose presence in the Faculty enhances the prestige of the University.

## CREATIVE RESEARCH

As a Visual Artist, my primary output in terms of creative research is the production and dissemination of new artworks. I work in Printmaking media, photo, sculptural, and installation practices. I show regionally, nationally, and internationally, in both public institutions such as Museums and Artist-run centres, as well as commercial Art galleries. The following list is a sample of my career Creative Research highlights.

- **144 exhibitions** in Canada, the U.S., China, Japan, Nicaragua, Germany, England, Spain, Bulgaria, and South Africa,
- 36 invited public lectures
- In 2019 I was included in the Biennale Internationale d'Estampe Contemporaine in Trois-Rivières, QC, having first been included in the 2009 iteration.
- In 2019 I established 版画島 - "Hangashima" (literally: "Printmaking Island") as the name of my collaborative, Print publishing endeavor. The initial Prints published under 版画島 were two etchings by Zachari Logan, along with an upcoming collaborative work with New York artist Ross Bleckner, for a project curated by Wayne Baerwaldt.
- In 2018 I was selected by artist and curator Mark Bovey to represent Canada at The International Academic Printmaking Alliance Exhibition at the Taoxichuan Art Museum, Jingdezhen, China, along with 4 other Canadian Printmakers.
- I was Visiting Professor at the Kyoto University of Art and Design, and Kyoto Seika University, from January to June 2018. I made significant connections with faculty and students at both of these institutions, lectured about my work and teaching (in Japanese!), and produced a substantial body of new prints.
- In November 2017 I was awarded the "Candidate for International Award of the Exhibition" at the NBC Meshtec Screenprint Biennial in Tokyo, Japan.
- In 2017 I co-organized a Printmaking symposium called **Flatgrafika**, along with partners Articulate Ink and the Art Gallery of Regina. Artists and colleagues from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia came to Regina for a suite of events, demonstrations, exhibitions, and Printmaking related festivities culminating in a panel presentation at the opening of *Kyoto Hanga 2016*.
- In 2012 I was a Finalist for the Canadian Printmaking awards, administered by Open Studio, Toronto.
- In 2009 I won the Grand Prize of the Okanagan Print Triennial, and was awarded a solo exhibition entitled "Penance" at the Vernon Public Art Gallery in 2012, to coincide with the subsequent iteration of the Triennial.
- In 2006 I had my first solo commercial exhibition at *Galerie St. Ambroise* in Montreal. I have been represented in Regina by Slate Fine Art since its inception in 2014.
- In 2003 I was a Finalist for the RBC New Painting Competition, and my chosen work was included in a catalogue, and later a retrospective of the competition, as well as shown in Halifax, Toronto, London (ON), and Winnipeg as part of a travelling exhibition.

## TEACHING

As an Instructor, I teach all levels of undergraduate and graduate Printmaking, as well as other courses related to interdisciplinary studio approaches, and professional practices from time to time. Within the realm of Printmaking, my teaching is tied very closely to my own creative research, and as such, the Printmaking studio and curriculum is in constant state of thoughtful evolution. I believe, perhaps above all, that I cannot be relevant as a Printmaking professor, if I am not engaged in Printmaking as an artist, myself. The following list is a sample of my career Teaching highlights.

### Graduate

- Supervision of 7 MFA Visual Arts & 1 MFA MAP Interdisc Studies students to completion: Jessica Richter 2017, Kallie Garcia 2017 (co with Professor Sean Whalley), Brian Hoad 2017, Jeremy Lague 2016 (co with Professor Gerald Saul), Lacia Vogel 2015, Rowan Pantel 2013, Amanda Damsma 2011 (co with Professor Leesa Streifler)
- Current supervision of 2 MFA Visual Arts students: Tye Dandridge-Evancio 2020, Madeleine Greenway 2021
- Successful SSHRC Bombardier Scholarship applications: Brian Hoad, Lacia Vogel, Rowan Pantel
- 12 Graduate TA mentorships at all levels of Printmaking
- Taught/supervised more than 75 credit hours of directed studio and thesis courses

### Undergraduate

- Mentored/supervised more than 25 Print Media majors through their BFA graduating year(s) and MacKenzie Art Gallery and Fifth Parallel Gallery exhibitions
- Supervised 2 Honours BA in Visual Art.
- (My) Total enrollment for every undergraduate Printmaking class at the University of Regina since Fall 2007 is approximately 425 students.
- I have undertaken a wholesale review and update of the Printmaking curriculum.
- In 2018 I initiated the “Forty Project”, which pairs a faculty member (Prof. Leesa Streifler) in Visual Arts with me, to create an edition of original prints and a calendar, to raise funds to offset the rising costs of being a student artist. *Forty calendars, forty dollars each, keeps student Print fees at \$40!* The project was so successful it is being continued this year with artist Zachari Logan.
- Since 2011 I have been organizing an annual trip to the Southern Graphics Council International Printmaking conference (and related events). To date, more than 25 students have had the opportunity to see Printmaking on a grand scale, in cities as diverse as St. Louis, San Francisco, and Knoxville, to name only a few.

### Printmaking Studio & Other items

- I have trained 11 students in the role of Print Media Studio Technician (TA II).
- Studio additions and enhancements include a fully-functional (and popular!) letterpress area including 3 presses and more than 100 drawers of lead type; UV silkscreen facilities

including darkroom equipment, printing stations, and a UV conveyor dryer; photo-digital plate lithography; photo-etching; as well as revised methods and materials for conventional copper etching and stone lithography.

- In 2019 I was awarded the Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan's Heritage Award in *Intangible Culture*, for my project "Letterpress Now" which has been concerned with rescuing and refurbishing old Printing presses and equipment, and teaching contemporary approaches to letterpress printing at the University of Regina for more than 5 years.
- I have reduced the daily use of Volatile Organic Solvents to zero, introduced water-based materials where ever possible, and developed low and non-toxic approaches to almost every other aspect of the studio
- In 2016 I was recognized with an Innovative Teaching Award from the University of Regina's Centre for Teaching and Learning, related to my "greener methods" in Printmaking education.

## SERVICE

As an Artist and Academic, my contributions to Service include university administration and related public service and outreach. In terms of the university, I see mine as a very privileged position, and with that, a sense of responsibility to both maintaining and advancing its position in society. As such, from a very early point in my career, I have engaged in activities that (I hope), have made it a better place. I take this same attitude when thinking about public service, whether through the lens of my "field" (Visual Art, Printmaking), or in terms of society more broadly. Service is very much a tertiary consideration when it comes to considering promotion to Professor, but that has never deterred me from acting according to my beliefs. The following list is a brief sample of my career Service highlights.

### University Administration

- **Department Head** for Visual Arts, 2013, 2017-present (6 month sabbatical in 2018)
- **Graduate Coordinator** for Visual Arts, 2013-2017
- Search Committee **Chair** for 2 Tenure Track positions in Visual Art & Art History
- Search Committee member for Term Positions in Visual Arts (2) and Music (2)
- **Chair** of the Council Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Studies (2010-2012)
- **Chair** Admissions, Studies, and Procedures – Faculty Fine Art/MAP September 2015 – 2017
- **Chair** Peer Review Committee – Faculty Fine Arts/MAP 2015 – 2016 academic year
- Search Committee member for University Registrar 2013

## Public Service & Outreach

- Inaugural Public Board Member – Articulate Ink Printmaking Centre 2019-
- Tenure & Promotion Dossier External Examiner for the University of Saskatchewan, 2019.
- Tenure & Promotion Dossier External Examiner for Nippissing University, 2013.
- Saskatchewan Arts Board Independent Artist Grant Jury 2015
- Framework Foundation Timeraiser Jury 2014, 2015
- Les Arts Vivants – co-founder and Visiting Artist for day-long workshops at École Connaught School 2016, 2018
- Southern Graphics Council International – Executive Board Member 2012-14
- City of Regina Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee 2012-14

To summarize, I am certain that I have a compelling case for Promotion to Professor, and that the sum of my career achievements over the past 20 years can be categorized as excellent. To refer once again to the Faculty of Media + Art + Performance Criteria Document, I have established recognition for my creative research at both national and international levels, in addition to a long-standing record of very good teaching, and strong contributions to administration and public service. I sincerely believe that my continued “presence in the Faculty enhances the prestige of the University of Regina”, and I look forward to building even further upon that notion in the years to come.

Cordially,

Robert Truszkowski  
Associate Professor  
Head of the Department of Visual Arts  
University of Regina