

May 21, 2025

ITEM 218-2003-R0525

**Request Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Art upon Professor Sara Mast;
Montana State University**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Sara Mast from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System, and the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Professor Mast will retire from MSU in August 2025. Professor Mast began her tenure track career at MSU in 2003 as Foundations Coordinator, serving for 22 years. As her colleague in the School and the Montana arts community have known her professionally for over 20 years. During my time at MSU I have been able to work with her in different capacities currently as her School's Director responsible for her annual reviews. She has been a vital member of our School of Art faculty, and I fully support her request.

Professor Mast's demanding teaching style is rooted in her discipline as a professional artist. She is driven and fully committed to her studio practice and has developed a strong reputation as a nationally recognized contemporary artist in the area of encaustic painting. Sara has also been a leading voice for the collaboration of art and science and has embraced cross disciplinary opportunities with her projects such as the *Black (w)Hole*, and the *Cave*. She is currently involved with projects directed at using waste material in innovative ways to address pressing environmental issues. She recognizes the value of developing relationships with experts in different fields to build the capacity for understanding extremely complex ideas, and that these relationships may hold the greatest hope for our future.

As a faculty member, Professor Mast distinguished herself as an exceptional grant writer and collaborative faculty member, working with faculty from STEM fields and across the College of Arts & Architecture on impactful art projects exploring the intersection of art and science, including the Cave project, exploring neuroscience and art. She also was a collaborative leader on the Black (W)hole project, an immersive art and sound project visualizing a black hole.

She established herself as an encaustic painter, combining wax and pigment to make her art. Her work can be found in numerous public collections including the Yellowstone Art Museum, the Missoula Art Museum, the Daum Museum of Art, and Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

While at MSU, Professor Mast was dedicated to students and their understanding of art. She could be counted on as a colleague to always lend her knowledge and expertise where needed.

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

ATTACHMENTS

None