

Application for Promotion to Distinguished Professor

CHARLES BENEKE
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It has been my great honor to serve on the faculty of The University of Akron, Myers School of Art for 23 years. I began as an assistant professor teaching in Foundations in the Fall of 2001; was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2007; and was promoted to professor in 2013. I was Graduate School Associate Dean for Academics from January 2016 to August 2017 and continued my work there serving as the Coordinator of Policies & Procedures from August 2017 to May 2019. I am currently the assistant director of the Myers School of Art. I am an artist and educator who works as a generalist in printmaking with deep knowledge of all historic, contemporary, and emerging media while also a specialist in lithography, screenprinting, and letterpress. I extend the reach of these media by producing work in print-based installation, social practice, and book arts. I am enthusiastic, engaged, perceptive, thoughtful, compassionate, and generous in the classroom, as a colleague, in my art practice, and in my commitment to serving others. Over the course of my career I have distinguished myself as an outstanding educator, esteemed artist, and community-minded individual dedicated to service to the university, Northeast Ohio arts and non-profit organizations, and the national/international printmaking discipline.

Since my promotion to professor in 2013 I have continued to dedicate myself to excellence as a pedagogue and further my knowledge of and skills in printmaking by consistently attending disciplinary conferences. I recently completing the Tamarind Institute at The University of New Mexico's Summer Workshop to hone my skills in aluminum plate lithography. These activities have translated directly into my delivery of the Myers School of Art's printmaking curriculum and my studio practice where I now have the more refined skills that provide me the opportunity to print collaboratively for other artists.

I have continued to commit myself to a rigorous studio practice and furthered my exhibition record to include seven solo exhibitions and 37 juried and group exhibitions in addition to numerous public presentations and other related creative activities. My work was celebrated with the *Art in Print Award* for the Print Center's 93rd International Competition of which I was honored as a semi-finalist in this highly competitive competition. I was also honored in Akron with the 2016 Arts Alive! Outstanding Visual Artist Award.

Over the course of the last 11 years, I have dedicated significant time to service both within the university, in the region, and to the national and international printmaking communities. Locally I have donated time and materials to designing and printing for Planned Parenthood and Grace House, an Akron hospice for the homeless. Most significantly, I served as the 2018-20 president of the Southern Graphics Council International, the nations largest printmaking organization, for which I led numerous strategic initiatives including planning the organizations first conference in a different culture, Puerto Rico. I was recognized for my work with the Leadership in Printmaking Award at the 2022 Mid-America Print Council Biennial Conference, *Power in Print*.

Education

Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Summer Workshop in Fine Art Aluminum Plate
Lithography, June/July 2021.

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.
M.F.A. in Printmaking and Mixed Media, May 1996.

Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.
B.A. in Art and Psychology, May 1990.

Professional Experience

University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.
Assistant Director, August 2023 - present.
Professor of Art, June 2013 - present.
Graduate School Coordinator of Policies & Procedures,
August 2017 - 2019.
Associate Dean—Academics, Graduate School,
January 2016 - August 2017.

Honors and Awards

Leadership in Printmaking Award, *Power of Print*, 2022
Mid-America Print Council Biennial Conference, Kent
State University, Kent, Ohio.

The Print Center 93rd Annual International Competition (2018), **semifinalist**, The Print Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

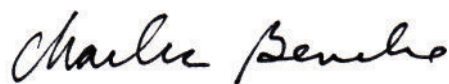
Art in Print Award, The Print Center's 93rd ANNUAL
International Competition.

Outstanding Visual Artist, 2016 Arts Alive!, Summit
ArtSpace, Akron, Ohio.

I have established myself as a positive, respectful, accessible, and reliable colleague who is eager to support and assist my peers by listening actively, responding thoughtfully, giving my time generously, and relating to others with empathy and compassion.

It is with deep respect for the University of Akron, the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, the Myers School of Art, and their faculty that I submit my dossier in application for promotion to Distinguished Professor. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to support our students in their educational goals; work with faculty and staff to design, implement, and provide unmatched curricula; participate in the evolving critical discourse of the printmaking; drive my studio practice forward; further my exhibition record; and engage with our community to promote The University of Akron, Myers School of Art, the visual arts, and the printmaking discipline.

Respectfully,



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<https://www.uakron.edu/art/>

<http://charlesbeneke.com>

Accompanying Materials

To view the following Distinguished Professor Application documents, please visit:

<https://www.charlesbeneke.com/distinguished-professor-application/>

Materials include:

- Teaching Narrative
- Scholarly Creative Research Narrative
- Service Narrative
- Curriculum Vitae
- Portfolio
- Student Artwork Samples
- Printmaking Demonstration Videos
- *thINKeditions* Prints
- Peer Letters of Support
- Past-Student Letters of Support
- Service Letters of Support