

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

Approved by the Regents

December 15, 2006

## ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**R. Ward Bissell, Ph.D.**, professor of history of art in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will retire from active faculty status on December 31, 2006.

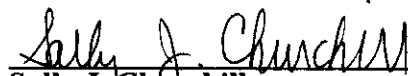
Professor Bissell received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 1959, 1961, and 1966, respectively. Prior to joining the University, he was a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1971 as associate professor and was promoted to professor in 1983.

Professor Bissell's research focused on Renaissance and Baroque art, with particular expertise in Italian and Spanish Baroque painting. His abiding commitment to informed connoisseurship is evident in his richly documented studies of the important seventeenth century Italian artists Orazio and Artemisia Gentileschi, and in several important catalogues raisonnés, including his joint authorship of the recently published catalogue of Baroque art in the Detroit Institute of Arts. He is particularly noted for his work on Artemisia Gentileschi, one of the most important European women artists of the early modern period.

A dedicated and enthusiastic teacher of Renaissance and Baroque art, his courses are warmly remembered by generations of students, including many who have gone on to pursue careers in art history. He has been a role model for the study of the history of art, a mentor for post-doctoral students, and a champion for the development of individuals interested in understanding the deep influence of art upon world history and culture. A firm believer in the pedagogical value of direct experience of works of art, he has taught often in the department's program in Florence and has served as its director. He was active in faculty governance and also served regularly on the graduate and undergraduate committees, as undergraduate concentration advisor, as faculty mentor to the graduate student instructors, and as a mentor to students at all levels. In these roles and as department chair, director of graduate studies, and as a frequent member of the executive committee, he has served the department with generosity and unfailing esprit de corps.

The Regents salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **R. Ward Bissell professor emeritus of history of art**.

**Requested by:**



Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

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