



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

July 14, 2017

Dear Search Committee Members:

It is my distinct privilege to serve as a reference for LG Williams. In my ten years of teaching university in the United States, Europe and Japan, I have been fortunate to encounter quite a few colleagues who are both accomplished scholars and great teachers, but LG Williams stands out above the rest.

I have known Williams since we first met at a CAA conference in Atlanta back in 2004. Since then, we have worked closely together to this very day – a practice which is highly unusual in today's highly segregated academic communities. But, then again, this artist is not your typical artist-teacher. Besides having a keen, comprehensive and far-reaching artistic practice, Williams also maintains an active, expansive and engaged art historical mandate. For example, Williams and I worked closely together for two years on one of LG's most far-reaching art historical accomplishments. We published a companion workbook, *Drawing Upon Art* (ISBN: 0495572365), for Cengage Learning with Gardner's seminal text *Art Through the Ages*. I edited this landmark publication, and I can confidently attest to Williams's inspired knowledge of world art history, constant professionalism and untiring diligence.

In 2012 we taught together at Arizona State University where I had a 3-year position to teach Modern art history. At the time, Williams was invited to teach a section of Art History (Renaissance To Contemporary). I attended several of his lectures. By my estimation he is a teacher of immense energy and interests; and perhaps the most talented artist-teachers I have encountered. His classes were very large and dedicated – at times overflowing. Apparently, the students flock to him because of his creativity, good will, generosity, originality, cutting-edge technology and powers of intellect and organization. The growth, education and individuation of students are prime concerns of his teaching. In addition, if student interaction with an instructor as he walks across campus is any indication of teaching success, Williams is an outstanding success.

Most recently, I edited two volumes with renowned art critic Dave Hickey which Williams published, *Wasted Words* (ISBN: 1517287103) and *Dust Bunnies* (ISBN: 152327266X). These last books were reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement* (May 25, 2016) and featured in live symposia at the Hammer Museum (UCLA), Site Santa Fe, The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Contemporary Art Center (CAC) in Las Vegas.

If my experience and career highlights are any indication, you would be very fortunate to have Williams on your faculty. He is a generous and stimulating colleague who will add immensely to the well-being of your department, its renown and professionalism.

Clearly, I recommend LG Williams to you with highest enthusiasm. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia P. Friedman".

Julia Friedman
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