

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS GEORGE M. CRAMER

George M. Cramer, emeritus professor of art died on October 9, 2004 at the age of 66. George Cramer was a part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1968. He received the Master of Fine Arts degree from the Department of Art in 1970 and a BS degree in 1968 from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He first joined the faculty in the fall of 1970 as an instructor and taught a variety of courses until his appointment as assistant professor in 1981. In 1986 he was promoted to associate professor and made full professor in 1993.

Cramer's contributions to the department and the campus were significant. For the department, he has served on committees for technology, tenure review, searches, safety, a new building, salary and promotions, public relations, long range planning, curriculum, student grievances, TA policy and procedures, and as 3-D area chair. Beyond the department, he has served on committees for awards and honors, information technology, and academic staff review. He has been a member of the School of Education Programs Committee, the Commission on Faculty Compensation and Benefits, and the Graduate School Research Committee. He has worked with the CIC Minorities Program, the Advanced Opportunities Fellowship Program, and the Native American Outreach Committee.

Dedicated to education, Professor Cramer worked tirelessly with his students. His office/studio/classroom had open hours, and lunch hours with students were common. He understood that dialogue explored ideas and served as a catalyst for creativity.

As a studio artist, Cramer's early studio practice was focused in sculpture. However, as a true renaissance artist he became a watercolorist, painter, printmaker, and computer artist. Throughout his career, Cramer's work had been grounded by his personal conviction that art has a function in society, that collective dreams can be realized through art making. This faith permeates his own work as a creative artist and his teaching. While Cramer's large outdoor metal sculptures are earthbound explorations of forms, planes, and spaces, his prints investigate the unknown. Whereas the public works engage with community, the prints are a more private pursuit. Whether working realistically or abstractly, Cramer always looked at nature, changing the scale, the frame, or the focus, physically and temporally, in order to draw attention to the unseen. Key moments of public recognition for his work include his invitation to work in Spain in 1986, his participation in the first-ever international computer art show in 1988, and his feature cover story for *Computer Artist* magazine in 1996.

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