

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS RONALD W. NEPERUD

Professor Emeritus Ron Neperud died on Monday, November 19, 2008 after a long battle with cancer. He received his PhD in art education from the University of Oregon in 1964. Ron received his master's degree from Willamette University in Oregon in 1954. He started his teaching career in Salem, Oregon and then taught and served as chair of the art department at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington from 1963 to 1967. He returned to Wisconsin in 1967 for a long career at UW-Madison.

Dr. Neperud was a faculty member and chair of art education in the UW Department of Art from 1967 until he retired in 1995. During that time he directed the research of some 80 master's degree students and 18 doctoral students. He developed the foundations of the undergraduate program as it exists today, along with graduate offerings in environmental design, contemporary criticism, and the psychological bases of art and art education. Dr. Neperud was instrumental in developing overseas teaching placements for undergraduates, initiating programs in Wales, England, and Scotland starting in 1976. He was passionate about his art and his work as an art educator. As a teacher and advisor, Dr. Neperud was respected by his students, several of whom have become national and international leaders in art education. As professors of art education around the world, they have touched many lives.

A productive scholar, he made many contributions to the field of art education. Professor Neperud's scholarly work focused on aesthetic perception and cultural studies. His work was published in all the major art education journals including *Studies In Art Education*, *Visual Arts Research*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural and Multicultural Research in Art Education*, and *Art Education* along with major journals in general education, aesthetics, social theory, and environmental education. His work on environmental issues was foundational, helping to initiate a new line of theoretical work in art education, which involves the investigation of the educational benefits of connections between art and ecology. In addition, he was a consistent and active participant in state, national and international conferences held in venues that included Budapest, Prague, England, Australia and Yugoslavia. Dr. Neperud co-edited a 1988 volume, *Foundations of Aesthetics, Art and Art Education*, and culminated his career with his 1995 edited work, *Context, Content, and Community in Art Education*. The latter has been widely cited and is in use yet today.

Professor Neperud served on the editorial boards of several major journals, including *Leonardo*, *Arts and Learning Research*, *Teachers College Press*, *Studies in Art Education*, and *Visual Arts Research*. He coordinated the writing of the *Wisconsin State Art Guide* in 1970 and was also a long-time member of the national Council for Policy Studies on Art Education.

He received several major awards in his career as an educator, most notably the 1992 Distinguished Fellow of the National Art Education Association. In addition, the Wisconsin Art Education Association honored Dr. Neperud in 2002 with the Retired Art Educator of the Year award.

His art form was watercolor painting, and these were exhibited in Oregon, Washington, California and Wisconsin. He participated in every Art Department Faculty Art Exhibition held during his tenure at UW. We are surrounded by these beautiful works today.

(continued)

One of his most recent “hobbies” was raising a herd of registered polled Hereford cattle on his family’s farm, Sugar River Pastures, in Belleville. It is a beautiful property with the Sugar River running through it. Ronald will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Kerry Freedman

Theresa Marche

Thomas Popkewitz, chair

Patricia Stuhr