

## Joan Sterrenburg

Professor Joan Sterrenburg was born in Chicago, Illinois. She began her distinguished career at the University of Wisconsin where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Multitalented, Joan earned degrees first in humanities before embarking on a career in the visual arts. She received her graduate degrees from Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley. Once she made the transition into art, she quickly became one of the most prominent textile artists in the country.

Joan joined the faculty at Indiana University in 1970 and became a full professor in 1983. There are many accomplishments to cite in Joan's illustrious career as a nationally recognized artist. Important highlights include the prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Craftsman's Fellowship, an Indiana Arts Commission grant, and a Ford Foundation travel grant. Sterrenburg's exhibition record is striking. Her creative work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in more than 175 invitational exhibitions and 70 juried exhibitions. Her textiles and paper works are represented in more than 40 public and private collections. Sterrenburg's work is in the leading national museum, the American Craft Museum in New York City, which houses the premier work in the traditional craft fields such as textiles, ceramics, and metalsmithing. Her creative work was included in several select exhibitions that traveled to a number of prestigious European museums in France, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, England, Portugal, Germany, Turkey, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Sweden, and more. Her work has been shown in Australia and Canada as well as numerous venues across the United States. Sterrenburg was invited to present more than 40 lectures and workshops at national and international conferences, art schools, and universities.

Professor Sterrenburg's expertise as a textile artist and arts educator expanded into the field of papermaking. In 1979 Joan founded the Indiana University Handmade Paper Facility, the first and largest papermaking facility at an academic institution in the country. She directed this unique studio until 1989. Sterrenburg's technical range continued to evolve over the years as she easily navigated stone carving and a variety of materials and sculptural processes, in addition to her wealth of knowledge of textiles and papermaking. Extraordinary craftsmanship and refined visual sensibility continue to be emblematic of her hand and eye. Sterrenburg's art reflected her ingenuity in working with material, choosing color, building pattern, and emphasizing texture. Her aesthetic sensibility fluidly navigated environments with countless hues, tones, tints, and shades, or it could condense the irregularity of rocks into essential, primal forms. Studio, classroom, kitchen, object, or action, Joan Sterrenburg believes beauty was and is still an important goal.

Since 1997 Professor Sterrenburg served as the director of graduate studies, preparing 25 to 30 graduate students each year for professional careers, and teaching courses in nine different disciplines in Fine Arts-Studio. Sterrenburg developed an outstanding curriculum for the associate instructors in studio. Faculty members recognize Sterrenburg's thorough preparation of graduate students and her strong advocacy and mentorship of the 70-plus students enrolled in the M.F.A. program. Many of these former students maintain professional contact with her. At the student awards ceremony in December 2004, Joan Sterrenburg was celebrated with, first, a heartfelt tribute from a colleague and friend for her many years of service in the School of Fine Arts, and then a long, loud ovation from the audience of students, parents, and colleagues. Clearly she will have a lasting impact.

In more than 30 years of committed teaching, Joan Sterrenburg taught freshmen through graduate students. She offered courses in textiles, papermaking, design, professional practice, and teacher education. Outside of the School of Fine Arts, she distinguished herself as an educator in the university's Honors Division, teaching interdisciplinary seminars as an Honors Division core faculty member from 1992 to 1996. Sterrenburg also contributed to the university's unique Individualized Major Program, serving as a key faculty member for many years. Sterrenburg's extensive travel in order to research cultures around the globe enriched her teaching and her creative work. Her ongoing education gleaned from these first-hand experiences in countries large and small was generously shared with her students and colleagues. Every trip, she brought back exquisite textiles and objects to add to her exceptional art collection.

All of us who have had the pleasure of working with Joan Sterrenburg appreciate the high standards she sets for herself and for her students. She models her commitment to these high standards, and works for the good of the entire School of Fine Arts. We appreciate her wisdom, common sense, wonderful sense of humor, and, of great importance, her ability to remain calm in the middle of a storm. These attributes made our work easier and more rewarding.

Faculty members in the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts thank Joan Sterrenburg for her 34 years of distinguished service. She enriched our lives as an artist, educator, colleague, and friend. It has

been an honor to enjoy her work for so many years and we look forward to seeing more in future faculty exhibitions.

Randy Long  
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