DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
MARY PERRY TAYLOR

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution Mary Perry Taylor, associate professor, art and art history, has filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

John R. Durbin, Secretary
The General Faculty

IN MEMORIAM
MARY PERRY TAYLOR

Mary Perry Taylor, an associate professor in the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Austin until she retired in 1995, died December 21, 2000. Mary was born December 27, 1940. She attended Austin public schools and received two degrees from UT, a BFA in 1962 and an MFA in 1969.

Following Mary's graduation from the University in 1962, she became an art teacher at Allan Junior High in Austin. In addition to art, she taught Spanish and American history. In 1968, she started her career at UT as a teaching assistant in the Department of Art and Art History. She also taught at Laguna Gloria Art School in Austin.

Mary completed her MFA degree while teaching at the University. She became an assistant professor in 1973 and an associate professor in 1975. She taught art education classes for mostly elementary and art education majors. Mary enjoyed teaching students how to make found objects and papier-mache sculptures. Her quick wit, aesthetic philosophy, and teaching principles helped her prepare many students for art teaching careers in Texas.

While teaching, Taylor provided much needed service to the Department of Art and Art History from 1978 to 1983, as head of the scholarship committee and as graduate advisor. This was followed by two years as the graduate advisor in art education. Mary was the academic program director for art education from 1985 to 1989.

As a graduate advisor, Mary took a keen interest in all of the graduate students. She helped them through the maize of registration and financial aid paperwork. Mary helped institute a system for periodic evaluation so that graduate students would know where they stood in terms of their graduation requirements. She taught Art 398T for several semesters to help graduate students prepare for their assignments as teaching assistants and assistant instructors in the department.

Mary's professional interests and service included exhibition of her fabric creations in local and Texas exhibits. She took an interest in the development of art therapy at Shoal Creek Hospital. She was a consultant for the Institute for Environmental Studies in Austin. She presented lectures and workshops at conferences for the Texas Art Education Association and the National Art Education Association, and for local school district in-service workshops. For three years (1973-1975), Mary was the editor of Texas Trends in Art Education, a publication of the Texas Art Education Association.

In 1986, Mary was asked to write test questions for the Texas Education Agency’s ExCET exam for K-12 art teachers. Mary continued to serve the art education profession in the years leading to her retirement. She volunteered to teach a new interdisciplinary education class that was designed to prepare students for student teaching. Mary was a close friend of many faculty members in the department, and she supported them through several difficult situations.

Mary enjoyed her art and she loved to help colleagues and students alike. She will be remembered for her kindness, grace, and wit in the service of art education development.
This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Nancy Schuller (chair), and Professors Rebecca Brooks, Lee Chesney, and Jarvis Ulbricht.

Distributed to the Dean of the College of Fine Arts, the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the President on May 31, 2001. Copies are available on request from the Office of the General Faculty, FAC 22, F9500. This resolution is posted under “Memorials” at: http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/.