

Ben Frank Moss

A true artist does not follow conventional paths, instead elects to forge his or her own in order to develop a unique visual vocabulary through a lifelong pursuit of creative practice. For Ben Frank Moss, his love of art began as early as the fourth grade, progressing into his sophomore year in college. A letter of Ben's found in the Houghton archives reflects on this time, where he "listened and responded to an internal voice which prompted me to test myself in an area where I could form something with my hands." After his experience in the studio under the guidance of Aimee Ortlip, he was drawn into this lifelong pursuit through painting and drawing. The result was a desire for further education, taking Ben from Houghton to Whitworth College to Boston University, where he completed his Master of Fine Arts degree.

His career as an educator and administrator began at Fort Wright College as director of the Master of Fine Arts and Visiting Critics programs, followed by his founding of the Spokane Studio School. He moved to the University of Iowa, where he taught for 13 years, and his gifts for leadership and dedication to his craft led him to Dartmouth College, where he taught and then assumed the role of department chair in 1988. In his retirement, Ben was named as the George Fredrick Jewett Professor Emeritus of Studio Art at Dartmouth. Also contributing as an artist and educator to The National Academy of Design, The Chautauqua Institute, and the Vermont Studio Center, Moss's dedication to his studio practice produced works that are currently held in over 50 public collections and over 375 major private collections, including the National Academy of Art and Design, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Throughout his vibrant and distinguished career, Ben has participated in national and international exhibitions, and Houghton College is honored to be among the many institutions that have had the privilege of hosting an exhibition of Ben's work.

Ben has achieved a high level of accomplishment and excellence in his career, with work guided by high standards of faith and integrity. We are honored by his presence tonight, and on this evening, the 6th of October in the year 2016, Houghton College is proud to present Ben Frank Moss with the Houghton College Distinguished Achievement Award.