

Joseph H. Seipel
Interim Director, Institute for Contemporary Art

Joseph Seipel began his career in higher education at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 1974. His experience has run the gamut from instructor to full professor, including 17 years as chair of the Department of Sculpture at VCUarts and eight years as senior associate dean and director of graduate studies. After a two-year hiatus as vice president at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Seipel returned to VCU as dean of the School of the Arts. In 2016 Seipel retired and now holds the title of Dean Emeritus for the VCU School of the Arts and Professor Emeritus of the VCU Department of Sculpture and Extended Media. In 2017 Seipel served as the Interim Dean of the School of Art and Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. He is currently serving as the Interim Director of the Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU.

During his tenure as chair of the Department of Sculpture, *US News and World Report* ranked the department's graduate program number one in the nation. VCUarts remains the highest ranked public arts program in the country. Seipel was pivotal in the design and construction of several notable VCUarts buildings, including the Fine Arts Building, the Depot Building, and the Institute for Contemporary Art.

In 1995 Seipel was appointed by Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder to the Task Force for Promotion of the Arts in Virginia and in 1997 was appointed by Virginia Governor George Allen to the five member Virginia Art and Architecture Review Board. At the request of Virginia Governor Mark Warner, he served as an advisor to the Capital Square Civil Rights Memorial Commission and in 2006 was appointed to the Capital Square Civil Rights Memorial Foundation. In 2008 Virginia Governor Tim Kaine requested his services as the arts consultant to the Public Service Memorial Committee.

Seipel has been the recipient of both the School of the Arts and the Virginia Commonwealth University Award for Distinguished Service, as well as the International Sculpture Center's prestigious Sculpture Educators Award. In May 2007 Seipel was honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

His studio production ranges from conceptually-based objects to multimedia pieces and robotics. He has exhibited in numerous national and international exhibition venues including in New York, Peru, Baltimore, and Richmond.

Seipel holds a BS in Art from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and an MFA from the Maryland Institute's Rinehart School of Sculpture. He is a long-term member of the Mid-America College Art Association board and served on the boards of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans, the National Council of Arts Administrators, the Southeastern College Art Association, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design. He was founder and president of 1708 Gallery in Richmond, VA.