

## **Recommendation of Sandra Villarreal**

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Ms. Sandra Villarreal in my capacity as Professor of Fine Arts, Sculpture and the President of the Academic Senate, Pratt Institute.

I have known Ms. Villarreal for over four years in several capacities, which, together and separately influence this endorsement.

We first met when Sandra was a student in the Pratt Institute Computer Graphics and Interactive Media MFA program. Although she was not in my class, her enthusiastic sense of discovery motivated her to seek out and participate in a field trip I organized to the MIT Media Lab. During the rest of her program I saw that the intelligence and industry I observed on the field trip continued and grew.

I experienced those qualities most closely in the thesis project she constructed for her Master of Fine Arts degree. The project was a generative, interactive media environment called "Synchronous Pronouncement." It featured video displays and audio presentations, which interacted with the viewer according to computer programs written by Ms. Villarreal. The project involved high levels of conception, physical fabrication and coding. Especially striking was how those tangible features translated into an ethereal and, not insignificantly, beautiful experience.

The facilities at Pratt would not accommodate a project of Ms. Villarreal's size. I invited her to set it up in my sculpture studio. I mention this because my experience in this regard speaks highly of Ms. Villarreal's integrity, work ethic and adaptability. We were largely on different schedules but I never worried about her in my space. She was responsible and thoughtful. Moreover, as we alternated time in the studio, I got to see the progress of her project as if in stop action. Her creativity and diligence in solving problems along the way was impressive.

Most recently, I have come to know Professor Villarreal as a faculty colleague at Pratt. The Pratt Academic Senate appointed her to participate in Faculty Focus groups designed to collect input from the faculty constituency on issues confronting the Institute, such as Pratt Institute's Strategic Plan, 2005-2010 and the re-structuring of the Institute's website. The qualities described above have carried through in this context, too. As in the case of her student work, she has carried out her faculty duties in a thoughtful, effective and creative way.

For these reasons, I recommend Sandra Villarreal without qualification. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

Jenny Lee  
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