

Biography

Urban Jupena, M.F.A., Cranbrook Academy of Art (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.), Full Professor of Fibers. Professor Jupena teaches weaving and the printing and dyeing of fabric. His fiber works have been commissioned for numerous public buildings in the Metropolitan Detroit area, including the Chrysler World Headquarters, Renaissance Building, Riverview Hospital and National Bank of Detroit. His work has been exhibited at the Textile Museum (Washington, D.C.), the American Craft Museum (New York) National Museum of Textiles (Poland) Kentucky Museum of Art (Kentucky) The University of Tampa (Florida) and the Cranbrook Museum of Art (Bloomfield Hills, MI). His fiber installations are also found in many private collections.

He is president of the Michigan Surface Design Association and serves on the board of Pewabic Pottery, Detroit. In 1998 he was one of five artists from the state of Michigan invited to create a Christmas tree ornament for the official White House Christmas tree. One of six selected to represent the U.S.A at the International Triennial of Tapestry 2007 in Lodz Poland

Over the forty-five years of his career, he has created many public and private commissions. The private ones are his favorites because he gets direct feedback from his clients. He feels like he has affected their lives. In fact, he states: "I have become part of their lives by my work being in their homes. In many cases, I am still in contact with these clients."

Since he has retired from W.S.U., he lives six months in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and six months in Savannah, Georgia. He is currently doing tapestry and other fiber work in both places, including a large fiber collaborative installation with the Savannah Fiber Arts Guild of the Lowlands at the Oatland Island Wildlife Preserve. If you are interested in seeing more of his work, go to his webpage at www.urbanjupena.com .