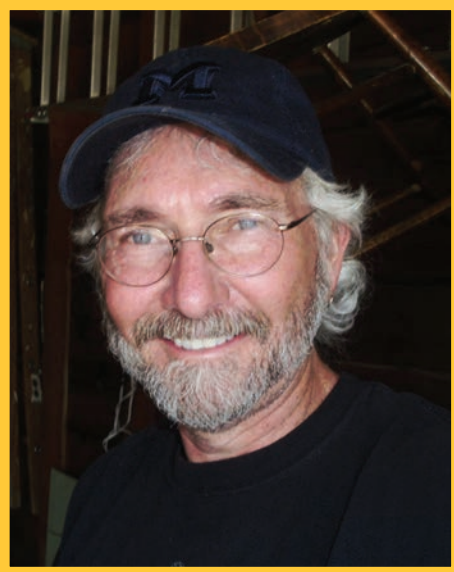


Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

MASTER'S CATEGORY



Ken Bova

Ken Bova, M.F.A., is an assistant professor in the ECU School of Art and Design and is co-coordinator in the graduate metal design area. After earning his B.F.A. at Sam Houston State University, Bova was a post-baccalaureate student at the University of Houston for one year and then earned his M.F.A. at Montana State University in 1980.

He has been the recipient of numerous awards for teaching excellence. Collections of his work have been acquired and displayed by many prestigious museums and galleries nationally, such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Smithsonian American Art Museum. Bova's work has been exhibited at more than 200 group exhibitions, including some international venues such as Birmingham, England, and Vienna, Austria. He is a sought-after artist-in-residence, having presented numerous workshops at locations all across the United States.

Bova was profoundly influenced by two faculty mentors at the University of Houston. He credits "two very special people" who encouraged and challenged him to strive for excellence in his craft and helped him gain the confidence to pursue and develop a career in the field he loves.

Letters of recommendation from colleagues note that Bova is generous with his time, serving on 26 thesis committees and chairing 15 since 2012, making frequent studio visits, and sharing informal conversations with students to help them develop their ideas. The following accolades are from former students:

- "Ken is encouraging, empathetic, nurturing, caring and compassionate. His teaching style is constructive, and he was always generous with his time."
- "Mentorship is a natural and rich gift that Ken offers to his students."

"I frequently share my personal career stories – both successes and failures. I let them know that, especially in the creative arts, there is no one right way to build a career but also that there have been some well-tested strategies that work. It's important to me to convey a sense of possibility and the need to take risks, in the same way my mentors did for me."

– Ken Bova, M.F.A.
School of Art and Design

