

© April 21, 1975

Galley Open letter to FEPC:

We, the undersigned photography students, are disturbed by the recent FEPC recommendation that the photography program be included in the Art Division.

The following facts seem to have escaped your attention: Out of approximately twelve interdivisional photography majors in the past few years, only two have been Art-Photography majors. Out of approximately twenty students in the Basic Photography class this term, only two are at this time considering a major in art.

The overwhelming majority of the twenty-five students at last term's meeting on photography with Don Brown and Steven Harris stated their opposition to making photography a part of the Art Division. The Art Division itself, as far as we can tell, is only a reluctant proponent of this merger. Ro Rappaport is opposed to the move.

We are concerned that making photography a part of any division invites unnecessary limitations on its students. Whatever the position of the Art Division right now, there is a strong possibility that future photography teachers will be "art" photographers in the decidedly abstract and non-functional vein of the Division, to the exclusion of all else, or that students who are not primarily concerned with photography as art will be judged by the Division as artists. The terms of this merger, the details of future budgets, reviews, requirements and faculty, are clearly the most crucial aspect of the recommendation, yet FEPC has not even considered them! At the very least you have put the cart before the horse in acting before these important details are worked out.

We are concerned at your disregard for the nature of the present photography program, for the real issues involved in this decision, and for student and faculty opinion. We urge that photography be allowed to retain its interdivisional status.

David Moule
Pioter Platter
Michael J. Falk
Susar S. Thorne
Karen Solstad
Laura Kiley
Cary Grener
Jonathan Garhart
Steven J. Brettlar

Michelle Saralyn
David Lowbold
Joy Davis
Lindy Smith
David Vaughn
Stuart Aldman
Star Berman
Lisa Berlin
Lisa Freed
Lancy Halverson