

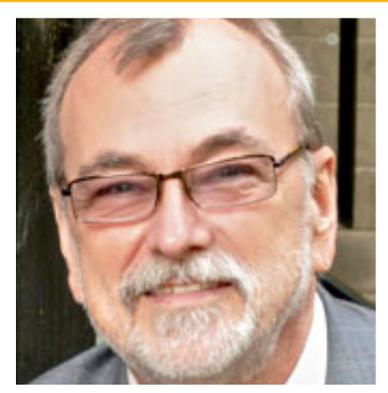


## VCU Brandcenter Friday Forum

Apr. 4 / 11am-12:30pm / VCU Commons Theater / 907 Floyd Avenue

# Joseph Seipel

Dean / VCU School of the Arts



Joseph Seipel began his career in higher education at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1974. He served for 17 years as chair of the Department of Sculpture, 8 ½ years as a senior associate dean and director of graduate studies. In 2009 Seipel was recruited to be the Vice President for Academic Services at the Savannah College of Art and Design. In spring of 2011 he returned to VCUarts as dean of the School of the Arts. As dean of VCUarts, Seipel has oversight of both the Richmond campus and the VCU Qatar campus in Doha, Qatar.

Under Seipel's leadership, the Sculpture graduate program was ranked #1 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and during his tenure as Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate Studies program, VCUarts became the highest ranked public arts program in the nation—and still is today. As Dean, Seipel has overseen the creation of a new Institute for Contemporary Art designed by

architect Steven Holl that is currently anticipated to open in 2016. The ICA will be part exhibition and performance space, part lab and incubator, the ICA will feature a series of flexible programming spaces for the presentation of visual art, performance, film and scholarly presentations.

Dean Seipel received his B.S. in Art from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1970, and his M.F.A. from the Maryland Institute's Rinehart School of Sculpture in 1973. He sits on the board of the Mid-America College Art Association, International Council of Fine Arts Deans and in the past served three terms on the board of the National Council of Arts Administrators including two terms as the organization's president. Seipel also served as the Virginia representative on the Board of Directors for the Southeastern College Art Association and was honored as the recipient of the International Sculpture Center's prestigious Sculpture Educators Award for his lifetime achievements in sculpture education.

Seipel has been active in the cultural affairs of the City of Richmond as a founding Board Member and first president of the 1708 Gallery. In 1995 he was appointed by Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder to the Task Force for Promotion of the Arts in the state, and in 1997 he was appointed by Governor George Allen to the Virginia Art and Architecture Review Board. 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 Kane requested his services as the arts consultant to the Public Service Memorial Committee. He also served two terms on the City of Richmond Urban Design Committee. In 1999 Seipel was the recipient of both the VCU and VCU School of the Arts Award for Distinguished Service.

Seipel's own studio production is monumental in scale and ranges from conceptually based objects to multimedia pieces and robotics. His work has been exhibited at numerous national and international venues in New York, Baltimore, Richmond, Milan and Peru.