

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Not Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202430\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MIT

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By:  
Sampada Aranke

Recommenders Title: Associate Professor of Art  
History and Comparative  
Studies

Recommenders Institution: Ohio State University

Contact Name: Kolby Rowland

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to  
review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver  
Choice:

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date:  
10/19/2023 07:39 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant  
without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000110649973

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known  
applicant:

Applicant ability as  
self-directed learner:

Time since last contact with  
applicant:

Applicant as productive  
member of group:

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant  
strengths:

Ability to complete rigorous  
grad program:

Responsibility/reliability:

Communication Skills - Oral:

Communication skills -  
written:

Service  
Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:

Ability to work independently:

Ability to handle stress:

Ability to think critically:

Ability to analyze/problem  
solve:

Ability to think creatively:

Openness to feedback:

Potential for leadership:

Ability to work in a team:

Personal/professional  
reflection:

#### Description Information

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Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radius>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 09/26/2023 03:32 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 10/19/2023 07:39 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



October 1, 2023

Graduate Admissions  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for Kolby Rowland's application for the Master in Teaching at Evergreen State College. I first met Kolby in 2015 when he enrolled in my first class as Assistant Professor at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI). During my time at SFAI, I taught courses in the History and Theory of Contemporary Art that focused on critical theory with an emphasis on post-1945 aesthetics and politics, social movement histories, and theories of performance. Kolby immediately left an impression on me, and I can say with full confidence that his creative acumen and collegial comportment will compliment Evergreen's reputation as a space of egalitarian and collective teaching and learning.

As an artist, Kolby's work was undoubtedly reflective of his creative ingenuity. His work at that time was at the intersection of film, video art, and installation. Kolby was adept at turning complex social, political, and environmental issues into accessible forms of engagement. He turned to popular cultural references rooted in his own upbringing as a way to transform the visual as a site for connection and engagement. I am taken by how Kolby's artwork is illustrative of his personhood. He always presents his work as something he can do to *give back* – to his family, friends, communities, and the histories and peoples that came before him. This is exactly the kind of spirit that I believe would make him an extraordinary teacher and I believe he would make a tremendous impact on the next generation of artists.

Crucial to any academic and artistic ethos is a sense of a generous intellectual community. Kolby would undoubtedly help facilitate and participate in the spirit of generosity, collaboration, and rigor already embedded in the culture of your program. Upon several occasions, Kolby has extended his lucid insight and intellectual generosity to her colleagues, and broader university community. I have seen Kolby challenge his colleagues with kindness, inviting them to think critically about their subject positions while also offering vulnerable investigations of his own subjectivity. Kolby has an expansive and creative approach to transforming the learning environment into an open space of dialogue. He demonstrated this to me in a seminar with his peers—one of the most challenging audiences for such a task—and I can imagine that he would seamlessly provide spaces like this to his students.

With all this in mind, I highly recommend Kolby Rowland for your program. Please feel free to email me with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sampada Aranke  
Associate Professor  
History of Art and Comparative Studies  
Associate Director, Center for Ethnic Studies  
The Ohio State University  
aranke.2@osu.edu