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- education* 2016
Master of Fine Arts, MFA: Visual Communication
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
College of Visual & Performing Arts, School of Art & Design
Thesis Title: Assemblage of Meaning
Thesis Chair: Dr. Aleksandra Giza
- 2009
Study Abroad: Design & Architecture: Italy, Switzerland & Spain
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
College of Visual & Performing Arts, School of Art & Design
- 2006
Bachelor of Arts, BA: History / Minor: Studio Art, Visual Communication
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences / College of Visual & Performing Arts, School of Art & Design
- research interests* Assemblage as pedagogical framework, theoretical construct and formal technique.
Semiotics, visual narrative, semantics, conceptual frameworks and meaning construction.
Social design, digital humanities and human-centered research.
Critical making, formal principles, visual literacy and foundational proficiency.
- appointments* *August 2012–Present*
Instructor of Visual Communication
Visual Communication Department
Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design
DeKalb, IL
- January 2017–May 2017*
Instructor of Graphic Design
Graphic Design Department
College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn, IL
- Jan 2011–May 2011*
Instructor of Visual Communication
Visual Communication Department
Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design
DeKalb, IL
- Jan 2010–May 2010*
Instructor of Visual Communication
Visual Communication Department
Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design
DeKalb, IL

*teaching: courses**Northern Illinois University***Independent Research (Fall '17, Spring '16)**

ART 490—Advanced students explore independently defined topics and create self-initiated solutions related to an individually structured design process.

Advanced Visual Communication II (Spring '16, Spring '15, Spring '14)

ARTD 412—Students explore the design of content-rich and interactive publishing systems through the development of an editorial perspective and interdisciplinary campaigns.

Advanced Visual Communication I (Fall '18, Fall '14)

ARTD 411—Students explore visual identity and branding issues with a focus on organizational goals, strategic positioning and multi-platform implementation.

Professional Practices in Design (Fall '15)

ARTD 405—Students gain insight into being a working practitioner: client relationships, financial/legal issues, professional responsibilities and other associated industry matters.

Interaction Design II (Spring '18, Spring '17, Spring '16)

ARTD 319—Students expand experience with interaction, functionality and usability principles by designing solutions for content management systems and mobile platforms.

Interaction Design I (Fall '15)

ARTD 318—Students gain experience with interaction, functionality and usability principles by exploring how communication is created and presented in a Web-based environment.

Intermediate Visual Communication I (Fall '17, Fall '16, Fall '12)

ARTD 311—Students explore typography, imagery and design process through an introduction to visual/corporate identity, branding and related communication design issues.

Fundamentals of Graphic Design (Fall '16, Fall '10)

ARTS 215—Students explore typographic terminology, formal relationships and design process with a focus on concept, craft and presentation.

Type & Image (Spring '18, Spring '17, Spring '15, Spring '14, Spring '13, Spring '11)

ARTD 212—Students study type and image relationships with an emphasis on conceptual presentation as symbolic or representational narrative through singular or sequential formats.

Typography (Spring '16)

ARTD 211—Students explore the use of type within composition to further knowledge of terminology, typesetting standards, legibility and formal structure.

Introduction to Visual Communication (Fall '18, Fall '17, Fall '16, Fall '15, Fall '14, Fall '13, Fall '12)

ARTD 201—Students are introduced to graphic design in historical/contemporary contexts. Students explore design process with a focus on typographic and compositional structures.

2-D Foundation Design (Fall '17)

ART 102—Students explore design elements and formal principles through the study of space, composition and application within digital and analog media.

*College of DuPage***Web/Interactive Design 2 (Spring '17)**

GRDSN 2206—Students plan and develop interactive design concepts for use on the Web and mobile interface platforms using industry-standard tools and techniques.

- teaching: workshops* *July 2018*
Exploring STEM through Digital Arts
 Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design, DeKalb, IL
- June 2017*
American Art & Design Education Program with Xi'an University of Technology, Xi'an, China
 Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design, DeKalb, IL
- presentations:
peer reviewed* *May 2018*
Poster As Social Discourse
 UCDA Design Education Summit: Good Design Works, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH
- May 2017*
**Creating a Rigorous Graphic Design Foundation Course:
Preparing Diverse First Year Visual Communication Students for Success**
 UCDA Design Education Summit: Hand and Machine, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA
- presentations:
invited & other* *January 2018*
Making Thoughts
 Design Inspiration Weekend: NEXT, Society of Typographic Arts, Chicago, IL
- March 2012*
Branding and Entrepreneurship Panel Discussion with Firebelly University
 Debbie Millman's Masters in Branding Class, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- panel discussions:
invited & other* *May 2018*
**Invited Panelist, Design Edu Today Podcast; "Adding Social Context to Interactive Design Courses."
with Anne Berry, Cleveland State University & Johnathon Strube, Northern Illinois University**
 Invited by Gary Ronzanc to discuss teaching interactive design projects with socially-focused content.
 With further discussion about the role of interactive mediums in our current social context.
 UCDA Design Education Summit: Good Design Works, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH
- articles & press* 2017
Design for Good
 Frank Magazine, Vol. 6., Columbia College, Chicago, IL, (March 2017): p. 8:11-13.
- awards & honors* 2012
**Invited Designer, Stories of Change Impact Lab, Tomorrow Labs;
Tomorrow Partners, Sundance Institute, Skoll Foundation, Berkeley, CA**
 Filmmakers and social entrepreneurs worked with designers to accelerate storytelling
 and technology solutions. This week-long, immersive design charrette culminated with
 presentations aimed at seed funding to extend the stories in innovative and meaningful ways.
- 2011
Fellowship, Firebelly University; Firebelly Design, Chicago, IL
 A real world alternative to an MBA, this nine-month intensive entrepreneurial incubator
 brought together five designers, with a social awareness, from across the country to start
 and run a design studio; support a not-for-profit; and develop social enterprise opportunities.

2010

Camper, Camp Firebelly; Firebelly Design, Chicago, IL

An intensive apprenticeship program bringing together 10 designers from around the country to learn and create work for two Chicago not-for-profit organizations within 10 days. Collaborated on research, concept, design and production. Completed work included print materials and hand-crafted products.

2009

Assistant & Collaborator, Moving Design; Thirst, Chicago, IL

Served Thirst Design for their initial expression of Moving Design, a collaborative project working leading initiatives that inspire change through the power of design. Coordinated communication and remote lectures for student projects and feedback.

exhibitions

2017

NIU Biennial School of Art Faculty Exhibition

NIU Art Museum, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

2016

Get Out the Vote Poster Initiative

AIGA Online Archive & Traveling Exhibition (www.aiga.org/vote)

Assemblage of Meaning: MFA Thesis Exhibition

Gallery 215, Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design, DeKalb, IL

2009

Prelude: Northern Illinois University MFA Group Exhibition

Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design, DeKalb, IL

2008

International Festival of Design

Lodz, Poland

exhibitions: curatorial

2016

Latino Oral History Project Poster Exhibition

Gallery 214, Northern Illinois University, School of Art & Design, DeKalb, IL

*service: academic**AY Fall 2018–Spring 2019***Northern Illinois University**

Visual Communication Area Faculty Portfolio Review and Academic Selection Committee

*AY Fall 2017–Spring 2018***Northern Illinois University**

Visual Communication Area Senior Project Panel and Review Committee

Visual Communication Area Faculty Portfolio Review and Academic Selection Committee

*AY Fall 2016–Spring 2017***Northern Illinois University**

Visual Communication Area Senior Project Panel and Review Committee

Visual Communication Area Faculty Portfolio Review and Academic Selection Committee

AY Fall 2015–Spring 2016

Northern Illinois University

Visual Communication Area Senior Project Panel and Review Committee

Visual Communication Area Faculty Portfolio Review and Academic Selection Committee

AY Fall 2014–Spring 2015

Northern Illinois University

Visual Communication Area Senior Project Panel and Review Committee

AY Fall 2013–Spring 2014

Northern Illinois University

Visual Communication Area Senior Project Panel and Review Committee

AY Fall 2012–Spring 2013

Northern Illinois University

Visual Communication Area Senior Project Panel and Review Committee

service: professional

January 2017–Present

Board Officer, Treasurer

STA, Society of Typographic Arts, Chicago, IL

August 2018

Chicago Design Week: Design In Motion Proposal Review Committee

AIGA, The Professional Association for Design, Chicago Chapter, Chicago, IL

January 2017

Invited Design Judge

IPRA/IAPD Conference, Agency Showcase, Chicago, IL

January 2016

Invited Design Judge

IPRA/IAPD Conference, Agency Showcase, Chicago, IL

March–May 2012

Mentor Group Leader

AIGA, The Professional Association for Design, Chicago Chapter, Chicago, IL

professional development

2018

UCDA National Design Education Summit: Good Design Works

Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH

Design Inspiration Weekend: NEXT

STA, Society of Typographic Arts, Chicago, IL

2017

UCDA National Design Education Summit: Hand and Machine

Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA

Design Inspiration Weekend: Planned Unpredictability

STA, Society of Typographic Arts, Chicago, IL

2016

SEEK Design Conference

Morningstar, Chicago, IL

The Art of Teaching: Using Performance Techniques for Improving Teaching

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Fundamental Principles of Effective Instruction

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

2014–2006

SEEK Design Conference

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

2008

HOW Design Conference

Boston, MA

UCDA National Design Conference

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

professional affiliations

2013–Present

AFT, IFT, UPI, University Professionals of Illinois

2008–Present

AIGA, The Professional Association for Design

2018–Present

CAA, College Art Association of America

2014–Present

ChiDM, Chicago Design Museum

2015–Present

STA, Society of Typographic Arts

2016–Present

UCDA, University & College Designers Association

professional experience

June 2012–Present

Principal & Creative Director

Heart Giants, Batavia, IL

Founder and owner of multi-disciplinary design studio working with small business and not-for-profit clients. As principal designer, lead all aspects of project development: client intake, research, strategy, design, art-direction, production, project management and execution.

September 2011–May 2012

Designer & Front-End Developer

Tilt Shift, Chicago, IL

Founder and partner of a multi-disciplinary design studio working with socially-conscious clients. As one of four in a small collaborative studio, duties included: client intake, strategy, design, production, project management and execution. Worked across all web and UI projects as sole Front-End Developer.

August 2007–June 2011

Designer

Illinois Association of School Business Officials, DeKalb, IL

In-house designer concerned with creation and coordination of all collateral materials, web material and online content. Responsible for creation of various motion/video projects for online and environmental presentation. Art Director of association magazine along with multiple print responsibilities.

May 2005–August 2007

Associate Design Editor

Sun-Times News Group, Beacon News, Aurora, IL

Design-Editor/Art-Director of daily sports section, supplemental content presentations and weekly multi-regional advertorial sections across six publications.