

Josh Sowden

Product Designer & Interdisciplinary Artist

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About Me:

I'm a Product Designer with a BFA on Industrial Design from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). I specialize in the research, design, and development of more inclusive, gender-expansive products. I believe that the creation of a more inclusive and socially sustainable future presents an important opportunity for our industry.

Education:

Rhode Island School of Design | Providence, RI | 2020-2024

Bachelors of Fine Arts, Industrial Design, Full Honors

RISD Pre-College | Providence, RI | 2019

Furniture Design

Related Coursework:

Introduction to Soft-Goods Design | Industrial Design Department

Explored pattern-making and industrial sewing techniques. Designed and constructed various bags styles. Developed a final project concept for a cross body camera bag. Created mock ups, a series of final production prototypes, and a design presentation for group critique.

Design For Production | Furniture Design Department

Learned methods of industrial production. Learn to communicate with manufacturers and vendors. Developed a final lighting concept. Designed and constructed working lamp prototypes and a research presentation for group critique.

Design For Impact | Industrial Design Department

Developed industry research strategies. Developed networking techniques. Interviewed designers within the industry. Created a final project proposal for Coach. Designed, constructed, and tested a series of leather and non-leather handbag prototypes. Presented research and prototypes for group critique.

Skills:

Design: Rapid Prototyping, Production Ceramics, Handbag Design, Pattern-making, Homeware Design, Furniture Design, Lighting Design

Fabrication: Metal & Wood-working, Leather & Fabric Sewing, Slip Casting, 3D Printing

Digital: Rhino, Solidworks, Fusion 360, Autodesk Inventor, Illustrator, Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign

Related Work Experience:

Freelance Photographer | 2016-2025

Shot commercial and fine art commissions. Developed E6, C41, and B&W film. Film scanning and dust removal. Color correction and editing. Darkroom printing.

Photography Technician | RISD Photography Department | Providence, RI | 2022-2024

Assisted in the daily operations of major and non-major darkroom facilities. Managed student equipment checkouts and returns. Instructed students on film/digital photo practices. Camera repair. E6, C41, & B&W film processing and chemical management.

Museum Greeter | Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library | Wilmington, DE | 2022-2023

Assisted the Visitor Associate team with museum operations, and safety procedures. Researched museum history. Learned basic curation and conservation techniques. Regulated the "flow" of traffic within the museum. Crisis management. Public speaking.

Publications:

Sunshine Baby (Poem) Rhode Island School of Design | RISD V.1 | 2021

The Other Side Of The Fence (Book) Rhode Island School of Design | 2022

A Pattern As It Falls (Zine) Rhode Island School of Design | 2023