

Phil Renato | curriculum vitae

www.renato.design

@formfollowsphil

philrenato@gmail.com

616.308.7617

education

2002	MFA, metal design, University of Washington – Seattle WA
1999	BFA, fine art, Eastern Michigan University – Ypsilanti MI

academic appointments

2014-present	professor, product design, Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University
2008-2014	associate professor (tenured), Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University
2002-2008	assistant professor, Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University
2009	visiting associate professor, Winthrop University, Rock Hill SC
2000-2002	graduate TA, auxiliary faculty in foundations, University of Washington

academic leadership

02-19, 25, 26	program chair, KCAD
2019-2021	chair, All-College Senate, KCAD
2004-2023	founder, director, Dow Center for Art, Design and Technology FlexLab, KCAD
2010-2022	coordinator, committee member, Material Connexion resource collection, KCAD
2021-2024	faculty advisor, student council, KCAD
2010-2012	chair, strategic planning committee, KCAD

other institutional service

2021-2024	Kendall Faculty Association secretary
2007-2024	led study away trips to Dubai, UK, Greece
2023	faculty admissions ambassador
2019-2023	senate curriculum committee member
2002-2021	program senator, NASAD committee member
2022	university president search committee member
2021-2023	faculty evaluation, promotion and tenure committee member
2017	college dean of academic affairs search co-chair
2016	college president/university vice president committee member
2012	MArch degree program curriculum development committee member
2009-2011	faculty evaluation, promotion and tenure committee member
2008	facilitated exhibit of interdisciplinary student work in Baltimore

fundraising and engagement

2020	facilitated more than \$200k in innovation hub related grants through FlexLab, KCAD
2016	raised \$30k to endow a named scholarship, KCAD
2008	assisted in raising \$100k to endow a named scholarship, KCAD
2002	administered a \$250k named program development gift, KCAD
2001	helped department to get \$140k student technology funding as a grad student, UW

exhibitions (abridged)

2025 Refined 2025, Stephen F Austin University, Nacogdoches TX, juried by Susie Ganch

International Museum of Dinnerware Design, *Picnic* juried exhibition, Kingston NY

2024 Confluence Festival, AI design demonstrations and exhibition, Grand Rapids MI

Pandemania, solo exhibition, Grand Rapids Community College

2023 Refined 2023, Stephen F Austin University, Nacogdoches TX, curated by Frankie Flood

Plan B Art Project, Traveling exhibition including Ombre Gallery, Heidi Lowe Gallery, Little D Gallery, Gallery I/O, Salt Hill Gallery, curated by Shauna Burke

2021 Of Age, Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery, Hartsville South Carolina

2020 JV Collective, In School Suspension, Bok Building, Philadelphia PA

Faculty Pop-Up, KCAD Galleries, Grand Rapids MI

2019 Form.Print, Towson University, Towson MD, curated by Josh DeMonte

Adorned Spaces, Marriott Hotel, Chicago IL, curated by Ana Lopez

2018 Cast, Wayne Art Center, Wayne PA, curated by Renee Zettle Sterling and Jen Townsend

NY Jewelry Week, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn NYC, curated by Lizz Hill

Printed Jewelry, Reinstein | Ross Gallery NYC, curated by Bella Neyman and Doug Bucci

Faculty Exhibition, KCAD Federal Galleries, Grand Rapids, MI

2017 I.M.A.G.I.N.E. Peace Now, traveling exhibition including Wellington B. Gray Gallery, Greenville, Boston Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston MA, curated by Boris Bally

Midwest Metals Exhibition, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti MI

2016 Crafting Error, KCAD Federal Galleries, Grand Rapids MI, sabbatical exhibition

Digitized – Digital Fabrication, Lillstreet Arts Center, Chicago, curated by Agnes Ma

Advance Retreat, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Galleries

2015 Icebreaker/DisArt, KCAD Federal Galleries, Grand Rapids MI, curated by Tom Wagner

Evolution of the Artist, KCAD Federal Galleries, Grand Rapids MI

Four Hands are Better than Two, East Carolina University Gallery

2014 Materialize, Shemer Center for the Arts, Phoenix AZ, curated by Dan Collins

Be-Longing, Gallery Flux, San Francisco CA, collaboration with Nick Dong

The Digital Hand, Kent State University, curated by Kathleen Browne

2013 ArtPrize | Digital Relics, 54Jeff exhibition, curated by Paul Amenta

2012 Kendall Faculty exhibition, KCAD Federal Galleries, Grand Rapids MI

The ART of Seduction: Exquisitely Crafted Temptations, Horowitz Center of Visual and Performing Arts, Howard Community College, Columbia, MD, curated by Gail M. Brown

2011 Digital Mettle, Metals Museum, Memphis TN, curated by Matthew Hollern and Doug Bucci

Cooperation Tableware, Westin Hotel, Seattle, WA, juror Brigitte Martin

Jewelry+Objects, Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, juror Marilyn DaSilva

2010 Faculty Exhibition, Kendall College of Art and Design, Main Gallery, Grand Rapids MI

ACJ Exhibition, West Dean College, West Sussex England

Future Forward, BECA International Center for Art and Design – Albuquerque NM

Dimensions 2010, Fourth Street Gallery, Winston-Salem NC

Green: Art with the Earth in Mind, Annmarie Garden Sculpture Park – Solomons MD

Flow|State, KCAD main gallery, solo sabbatical exhibition, Grand Rapids MI

Faculty Exhibition, Ferris State University, Big Rapids MI

2008 Voluptuous, solo exhibition, McLanahan Gallery, Penn State Altoona

publications featuring my work

I.M.A.G.I.N.E. Peace Now: Designing with User Generated Content – book
Ian Alden Russell and Jillian Moore, Boris Bally Press, 2016

Participate: Designing with User Generated Content – book
Helen Armstrong, Princeton University Press, 2011

500 Knives - book
John Jensen, Lark Books, 2009

Jewelry Compendium - book

Darling Publications, 2008

500 Pendants and Lockets - book

Elizabeth Shypertt and Mike Holmes, edited by Marthe Le Van, Lark Books, 2008

500 Wedding Rings - book

Marthe Le Van, Lark Books, 2008

The Art of Plastic Jewelry - book

Debra Adelson, Lark Books, 2008

Metalsmith - magazine

featured in the 2002 Exhibition in Print, featured on the cover of the 2005 Exhibition in Print,
featured in the article "Influence of the Digital" by Doug Bucci and Matt Hollern in the Fall 2005

Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist - magazine

featured in Jan 2006, March of 2006, December of 2007

ArtJewelry - magazine

featured in the fall issue, 2006

500 Necklaces - book

juried by Marjorie Schick, edited by Marthe Le Van, Lark Books, 2006

Art Jewelry Today - book

by Dona Meilach, Schiffer Craft, 2002

other publications

Crain's Business, Charlie Tyke – article

quoted in an article about the contributions of the designer Charlie Tyke to the development of Little Tikes brand blow-molded toys, April 2025

Crafting Error, Thinking Through Things – book

a publication of essays on design from 2015 sabbatical, Feb 2017

Jun Suk Min – exhibition catalog

opening statement for the catalog of artist Jun Suk Min's 2011/2014 solo exhibitions

Virtual And Rapid Prototyping – Advanced Research – book

Whither One of a Kind? with Rebecca Strzelec

VRAP conference, Portugal, edited by Paulo Bartolo et al, Fall 2007

Metalsmith – magazine

published studio visit interview with Stanley Lechtzin and Daniella Kerner of Philadelphia, 2006;
review of David Huang's solo exhibition at Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, 2007; review of exhibition at Western Michigan University, 2010; curated Look article, 2013

lectures/presentations given

Oakland Schools Technical Center, 2022, 2023, 2024
KCAD Orientation, studio culture, 2020-2024
Lifetime Achievement Award presentation, Mary Lee Hu, 2024
Tyler School of Art, 2018
Arizona State University, 2014
SIGGRAPH Dailies, 2014
Michigan Silversmiths Guild, 2013
Cleveland Institute of Art, 2013
SIGGRAPH Dailies, Anaheim, 2013
SUNY New Paltz, 2011
Great Lakes Conference on Teaching and Learning, 2011
RAPID Conference Minneapolis, 2011
Cleveland Institute of Art, 2010
Shanghai University, 2010
China Academy of Art, 2010
West Dean College, England, 2010
Western Michigan University, 2009
East Carolina University, 2009
University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2009
Winthrop University, 2009
UNC Asheville, 2008
Winthrop University, 2008
Penn State Altoona, 2008
Savannah College of Art and Design, 2008
University of Kansas, Hallmark Public Lecture, 2008
VRAP Conference, Leiria Portugal, 2007
Zayed University, Dubai U.A.E. 2007
Grand Valley State University, 2007
SIGGRAPH Guerilla Studio, 2006
SOFA – Chicago, 2005
Michigan Silversmiths Guild, 2005
SIGGRAPH Guerrilla Studio, 2005
University of the Arts, 2004
Tyler School of Art, 2004
Bowling Green State University, 2003

workshops, demos, short classes given

Penland School of Crafts, 2018
Earlham College, 2015
TEDx Labs Grand Rapids, 2012
Wildacres, North Carolina - Modern Masters, 2011
Bowling Green State University, 2011
University of Wisconsin Whitewater, 2011
Penland School of Crafts, 2010
Mass College of Art, 2009
Grand Valley State University, 2009
Tyler School of Art, 2008
Buffalo State College, 2006

Winthrop University, 2006
Kent State University, 2006
Moore College of Art and Design, 2005
Cleveland Institute of Art, 2005

design community leadership/participation

University of Michigan Big Ideas Award Review Panelist - 2025
OSTC Northwest Graphic Arts Advisory Committee, 2024-present
SIGGRAPH Conference Advisory Group, 2018-2020
SIGGRAPH Guerilla Studio chair, 2008
SIGGRAPH Guerilla Studio artist in residency coordinator, 2007
SNAG student slide show coordinator, 2006, 2007
UICA visual arts committee, Grand Rapids, MI, 2004-2006

panels and curation

Shemer Center for the Arts - Phoenix, AZ, 2014
AimWest - Maker Movement panelist, Grand Rapids, 2014
MACAA Conference, Detroit, Wayne State University, 2013
StartGarden, Grand Rapids, 3D printing, 2013
Space is the Place, SIGGRAPH, moderator, 2012
Syd Mead Exhibition, KCAD Fed Galleries – facilitator, introductions, 2012
TEDx Labs Grand Rapids Cadlaboration Exhibition, curator, 2011
State of the Art, Grand Rapids Art Museum, 2010
Center for Craft, Creativity and Design Think Tank participant, Hendersonville NC, 2009
Educator's Dialogue, SNAG, 2003, 2006
Design and Computation, SIGGRAPH, moderated, 2008