

Phil Renato | curriculum vitae

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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, 24, 25 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

design community leadership/participation

West Michigan Design Challenge Juror - 2026

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

fundraising and engagement

2020 facilitated innovation hub related grants through FlexLab, KCAD

2008 fundraising for endowed scholarships, KCAD

2002 administered named program development gift, KCAD

2001 assisted with student technology funding, 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

Pandemia, 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 Locketts - 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

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