

# Jen Magathan

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jenmagathan.com

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*I am a Graphic Designer and Educator who believes that in order for students to grow as designers, they need to have a strong foundation. Nurturing and educating students in the foundations of design leads to the development of their own process and method. I believe this is the most important asset a designer can possess.*

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## EDUCATION

**Rhode Island School of Design**  
PROVIDENCE, RI  
Master of Fine Arts *with honors*  
May 2009

**Virginia Tech**  
School of Architecture + Design  
BLACKSBURG, VA  
Bachelor of Architecture  
*cum laude*  
May 2004

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Michigan State University, EAST LANSING, MI**  
*Assistant Professor, Book Design, 2010:* Instructor of an upper level course in the BA and BFA Studio Art curriculum, which allows students to explore the vast discipline of book design. Special emphasis on the book arts, layout, digital and analog fabrication, and advance typography prepare students to develop projects from concept to construction.

*Assistant Professor, History of Graphic Design, 2010:* Instructor of an undergraduate survey of graphic design through slide lectures. The course is based on the model created by Doug Scott at the Rhode Island School of Design and involves study in how graphic design affected international, social, political, and technological developments since 1450. Emphasis on printed work from 1880 to 1970 and the relationship of that work to other visual arts and design disciplines is a major component of the course study.

*Assistant Professor, Graphic Design I - Graphic Form, 2009–2010:* Instructor of an introductory course in the BA and BFA Studio Art curriculum, which initiates form analysis and manipulation, through theory, concept and visual tools, to develop clear formal languages. An emphasis on traditional and digital craft helps students to enhance visual and verbal articulation. (Sections taught during the Fall and Spring Semesters.)

*Assistant Professor, Typography I - Form & Meaning, 2009:* Instructor of a course in the BA and BFA Studio Art curriculum, which introduces the formal and communicative properties of typography: letterform, font specification, style, meaning, texture, and space.

**Rhode Island School of Design 2007–2009**  
*Instructor for Introduction to Graphic Design, 2009:* Instructor of an undergraduate course which introduced the fundamental practices and processes of graphic design. The intent of the course was to have students gain an understanding of what graphic design is, and its purpose. Through a series of exercises based on printed matter such as postcards, signs, posters, and books, students were not only introduced to a basic level of typography, color, and grids, but also diverse graphic forms and methods of storytelling.

This course was structured around slide lectures which gave a condensed overview of the history of graphic design and various contemporary examples of design to be used during in-class short assignments, projects, and critiques. Short format projects were used as a means to explore basic graphic design vocabulary to familiarize the student with the different stages of process, and give a broad technical foundation. Co-taught with Mary Banas.

*Graduate Section Leader for History of Graphic Design, 2009:* Graduate Section Leader for Doug Scott's History of Graphic Design, an undergraduate chronological survey of graphic design through slide lectures. The course involved study in how graphic design responded to (and affected) international, social, political, and technological developments since 1450. Emphasis on printed work from 1880 to 1970 and the relationship of that work to other visual arts and design disciplines was a major component of the course study. In addition to the lectures, the course had a scheduled studio section in which design projects were integrated with research.

*Teaching Assistant for Exhibit Design, 2008:* Graduate Teaching Assistant to Doug Scott for Exhibit Design, which is a study in the presentation of information in a designed environment: the exhibit, the theme, context, and conditions of the exhibit were assigned. Study emphasis was on integrative communication activity of all elements involved, e.g., time, space, movement, color, graphics, 3-D forms, objects, instructions, text, and constructions.

*Teaching Assistant for History of Graphic Design, 2008, Summer:* Graduate Teaching Assistant to Doug Scott for History of Graphic Design, an undergraduate chronological survey of graphic design through slide lectures (see above for course description).

*Teaching Assistant for Typography 3, 2008:* Graduate Teaching Assistant to Kris Lenk for Typography 3, which is a course where students explore advanced problems in typography, such as: various contrasts, structural and proportional systems, hierarchy and sequencing of text as an image, legibility, critical theory, and some elements of the history of typography in relation to technology and contemporary trends in design. All students coming to this class were to be familiar with the typographical aspects of the letter, word and line of text, know about the visual arrangement of a printed page, in both single and sequential orders, and have a practical knowledge of computer typesetting.

*Teaching Assistant for Color, 2007:* Graduate Teaching Assistant to Aki Nurosi for Color, an undergraduate course developed as a series of experiences devoted to the development of the perception of color and its use as a tool for the graphic designer. The exercises test the appearance of color relationships in complex structures, dealing with meaning and examining the appropriate use of color in the context of design problems.

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## LECTURES & JOURNALS

**Guest Critic, *Web Design*, 2011**  
Guest Critic in the Web Design Course at the Rhode Island School of Design. PROVIDENCE, RI.

**“Portfolio” - *Design and Strategies*, 2010:** Lecture given at a meeting of the Michigan State University, Interior Design Student Group about portfolio design and strategies for portfolio refinement. Lecture points included print portfolio design, web portfolio design and résumé design strategies. EAST LANSING, MI.

**Feed, Forward, Feedback: *RISD Graduate Process*, 2009:** Design contributor to a RISD publication about process and development of thesis projects among graduate students. Published by the Rhode Island School of Design, 2009.

**Selected\* Collections - *Graduate Studio Class Journal*, 2007:** Director of Photography and design contributor to a graduate class journal. Journal sold in limited edition on Lulu.com.

**This is Not a Manifesto - *Graduate Seminar Journal*, 2006:** Design contributor to a graduate class design journal. Journal sold in limited edition on Lulu.com.

## EXHIBITIONS

**“For Cheap’s Sake: Photocopied” Exhibit, 2010:** Featured artist in an exhibition displaying innovative uses of Xerography and art work created on a budget. The piece selected for this show was “Victory/Defeat”, an original zine designed in 2009. (SCENE) Metrospace, EAST LANSING, MI.

**RISD Annual Graduate Thesis Exhibition, 2009:** Participant and co-coordinator of graphic design section of the show. Coordinated the design of the physical exhibition space and designed exhibition print collateral. Rhode Island Convention Center, PROVIDENCE, RI.

**Dialogue /Bauhaus, 2009:** Participant in exhibition Curated by Judy Sue and Nick Heywood. Jacques and Natasha Gelman Gallery, Chace Center, RISD Museum PROVIDENCE, RI.

**Graduate Graphic Design Show, 2008:** Participant in exhibition, Curated by Hoon Kim. Sol Koffler Gallery, PROVIDENCE, RI.

**Virginia Tech European Travel Program Exhibition, 2003:** Three Day exhibit of sketches and photography collected during 2002 Fall Semester European Travel. Cowgill Hall, Virginia Tech, BLACKSBURG, VA.

## AWARDS

**UrbanCanvas Competition - Winner, 2010:** The UrbanCanvas Design Competition was a national contest to develop creative artwork for construction fences, sidewalk sheds, supported scaffolds and cocoon systems in New York City. “My Urban Sky” was one of four winners.

**Treehugger.com Design Competition - Winner, 2006:** T-Shirt Design Contest (National) in which the winning design would be printed and sold nationally.

**Virginia Tech School of Architecture + Design Faculty Choice Thesis Design Award, 2004:** Awarded to the top 30 thesis projects for Bachelor of Architecture Candidates (of 100 candidates) at Virginia Tech.

**Virginia Tech Visiting Lecture Series Poster Design Competition, 2003:** Winner of Poster Design Competition for Virginia Tech School of Architecture + Design Visiting Lecture Series entitled “In Site.”

## ORGANIZATIONS

**AIGA Member and Faculty Advisor:** Member of national organization for graphic designers and artists. Faculty Advisor of the Michigan State University AIGA Student Group.

**Virginia Tech Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, 2003–2004:** Served as acting Secretary from 2003–2004 as well as the Chief Graphic Designer of the Chapter.

**Phi Beta Delta Honor Fraternity, 2003–2004:** Selected member of International Honor Fraternity of students who have maintained an excellent academic record, while participating in a study abroad program.

**American Institute of Architecture Students Virginia Tech Chapter, 2003–2004:** Graphic Designer of posters displayed throughout the Virginia Tech Campus.

**School of Architecture + Design European Travel Program Participant, 2002:** One of 37 students chosen for 2002 Fall Semester Architectural Study Program. Traveled to more than 60 cities in Europe and 7 countries.

**National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 1999–2004:** Selected member of National Honor Society.

**Virginia Tech Dean’s List, 1999–2004:** Maintained an average of 3.5 or higher each semester attended, qualifying for the University Dean’s List 10 semesters.