

Zeke Leonard

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EDUCATION:

Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, RI
Master of Fine Arts (with Honors) - Furniture Design, May 2008

University of North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA), Winston-Salem, NC
Bachelor of Fine Arts - Set Design 1997

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Syracuse University Syracuse NY 2009 - Present
School of Design, College of Visual and Performing Arts
Assistant Professor, Tenure Track Year 3
Program Co-Ordinator, School of Design First Year Experience

- As First Year Experience Program Coordinator, was the lead in implementing the Design First Year Experience, a comprehensive introduction to the Design fields for first year students in the SU School of Design. Responsibilities include conceptual ideation as well as administrative duties.
- Collaborated to develop Thesis Process for undergraduate Environmental Design Seniors
- Collaborated to re-write curriculum for sophomore Environmental Design Studio classes
- Collaborated with Environmental Design Faculty to create First Year Studio
- Developed a Study Abroad class in Japan for Summer 2013 and Summer of 2015 in collaboration with SU Architecture Professor Anne Munly
- Developed and implemented cross-disciplinary charrettes with clients, including Spring 2015 (Wayfinding Charrette) and Fall 2015 (BuStop Intervention).
- Recruiting Liason for Syracuse University School of Design
- Taught Courses in First Year Experience, Environmental Design, and Industrial and Interaction Design programs
 - DES 101 Design Concepts
 - DES 102 Design Applications
 - EDI 104 Fundamentals of Environmental Design
 - EDI 143 First Year Interior Design Drawing class
 - EDI 145 First Year Interior Design Studio
 - EDI 253 Sophomore Interior Design Studio
 - EDI 254 Sophomore Interior Design Studio
 - EDI 341 Fabrication Skills and Methods (Undergraduate and Graduate)
 - EDI 452 Senior Thesis
 - EDI 453 Senior Thesis Preparation
 - DES 561 Sustainable Furniture and Lighting Studio (Undergraduate and Graduate)
 - IND 272 Principles of Industrial Design II
 - IND 573 Industrial Design Thesis Research
 - Multiple Independent Study Projects with community and University entities

Rhode Island School of Design Providence, RI 2007 - 2008
Instructor

- Introductory class “Table Design,” a class open to the community at large that included both design and fabrication exercises.
- “Introduction to Furniture Design,” a hands-on course that encourages students to explore the design process and various fabrication techniques.

New York University New York, NY 2001 - 2006

Adjunct Faculty, Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions

- Taught two courses per year for five years:
 - “Design for the Stage,” a hands-on course introducing students to theatrical set design.
 - “Stage Crafts,” a mixture of lab and lecture that introduced undergraduate students to the processes and systems of theatrical production.

INVITED WORKSHOPS:

- 2017 **Brooklyn Folk Festival** Brooklyn, NY
Invited to lead workshop on improvised instrument building
- 2017 **Haystack Mountain School of Craft** Deer Isle, Maine
Invited to lead two-week workshop on instrument building
- 2017 **Miami University of Ohio** Oxford, Ohio
Invited to lead two short workshops on improvised instrument building
- 2016 **Brooklyn Folk Festival** Brooklyn, NY
Invited to lead workshop on improvised instrument building
- 2016 **Worker’s Arts and Heritage Center** Hamilton, Ontario
Invited to lead three day workshop on improvised instrument building
- 2016 **Arrowmont School of Art and Craft** Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Invited to lead one-week workshop on improvised instrument building
- 2016 **Haystack Mountain School of Craft** Deer Isle, Maine
Invited to return to lead three day “Open Door” workshop on improvised instrument building
- 2015 **Haystack Mountain School of Craft** Deer Isle, Maine
Invited to lead three day “Open Door” workshop on improvised instrument building
- 2015 **Talent Agency** Syracuse NY
Invited to work with Talent Agency, a portfolio-development course for at-risk teens. Dismantled two pianos and made electric guitars.
- 2015 **Ithaca Sound Maze** Ithaca, NY
Led a workshop on improvised instrument building
- 2014 **Haystack Mountain School of Craft** Deer Isle, Maine
Invited to lead three day “Studio-Based Learning” workshop on improvised instrument building

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE PROJECTS:

Zeke Leonard Design 2008-Present

Owner of custom furniture company. Engaged by several local clients.

- 2016 Designed, fabricated and installed table tops for *With Love* restaurant, Syracuse
- 2014 Designed, fabricated, and installed (with garden volunteers) benches for local community garden.
- 2013 Designed and installed furniture for local coffee shop *Recess Coffee*
- 2009 Designed and fabricated conference table for Haystack Mountain School of Craft winter office.
- Several projects annually for private clients

Schuylkill LandLab Residency *Current and ongoing*

Invited to work with Washington DC-based company Dance Exchange to collaborate on a creative project that examines human impact on the landscape with a particular focus on water, watershed issues, and water conservation.

SALT Works 2012 - 2014

Working with Near West Side Initiative, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity, local business Cabinet Fabrication Group Inc, and Syracuse business Gaylord Brothers Furniture to create a job-skills training program for underemployed Syracuse residents.

- Engaged design students to create furniture designs which were fabricated and sold by Salt Works as a path to economic sustainability.
- Help ideate and implement wood shop equipment and protocols.
- Provided training in furniture making to employees.
- Designed trade show booth for GreenBuild 2014

Salt City Found Object Instrument Works 2011-Present

Created and led instrument making workshops for a variety of age groups in many locations:

- Arrowmont School of Art and Craft "Make the Things that Make the Music"
- Haystack Mountain School of Craft "Open Door" 2015, 2016
- SU Art Kids Saturday workshop (in conjunction with the Faculty Show at S U) 2014
- Haystack Mountain School of Craft "Studio Based Learning" 2014
- Imagining America Conference "M³: Make the things that Make the Music that Make the Change" 2013
- Bernice Wright Early Childhood Education Center 2012

Intonarumori 2014

Worked with Kronos Quartet to reproduce and present Futurist noise machines.

- Worked with students in College of Visual and Performing Arts Department of Foundations as well as Setnor School of Music and Newhouse students in the Program of Arts Journalism
- Researched and built instruments.
- Worked with Music students to compose pieces on the instruments.
- Presented instruments at an evening with Kronos Quartet in Spring 2013

How to Lose a Mountain Dance Exchange (www.DanceExchange.org) 2012/2013

Composed and performed accompaniment with resident artists from Dance Exchange for a community-centered dance piece presented at the Community Folk Art Center in Syracuse.

- Workshopped at The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in April 2012
- Collaborated to create community-centered piece "How to Lose a Mountain" Presented at Dance Space in Washington D.C. and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 2013

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE PROJECTS (CONTINUED):

Rust O Phone 2012

Installed a large, timber-framed structure that is a building-sized instrument in Lipe Art Park (<https://www.facebook.com/Lipe-Art-Park-117877281580126/>) as a part of the group sculptural installation show “Rust Belt / New Pants”

- Worked with local vendors as well as the Stewards of Lipe Art park to design, create, and install the sculpture using locally-sourced reclaimed timbers.
- Worked with Music students to compose and present a music piece on the instrument as part of an evening of music in Lipe Art Park

SyraUke (www.syrauke.org) 2011-Present

An exercise in community building through music making that takes the form of a “Bi-weekly Anti-Virtuosic Come-One-Come-All Mostly Ukulele Jam Session”

- Co-Founder and regular member.
- Multi-generational and multi-ethnic musical community with frequent appearances in local events and local and national media
- Ongoing field research exercise in group dynamic, inclusion, and recruitment/retention

Inaugural Artist in Residence at 601 Tully Community Center 2011

Designed, fabricated, and installed a musical installation on site.

- Worked with SU students to design and make found-object instruments as a method for exploring resource usage
- Gallery opening included a performance and community music night.
- Residency work became a permanent installation in the 601 Tully gallery

DES 561: Sustainable Furniture and Lighting

Engaged a different local or regional company every year to provide students with access to real-world and sustainable design and fabrication practices

- 2014 collaborated with SALT Works to prototype lamp and chair designs to be put in to production at SALT Works
- 2013 collaborated with Gaylord Brothers furniture company and SALT Works to design and prototype furniture objects to be fabricated and sold in support of Salt Works
- 2012 collaborated with Gaylord Brothers furniture company to repurpose unsold product or design new product that can be locally and sustainably produced.
- 2011 collaborated with e2e Materials to use their material to create a range of furniture and lighting objects.

Syracuse Little Free Libraries 2011

Worked with students and faculty from the School for Information Studies and CVPA as well as the Near West Side Initiative and Little Free Libraries to create and install the first free library in Syracuse on the Near West Side

- Interfaced with iSchool liaison Jaime Snyder, iSchool Director of Library Studies Jill Hurst-Wahl, and NWSI Director Maarten Jacobs to create a community-centered free library installation
- Led (with Dr. Snyder, Professor Hurst-Wahl, and Mr. Jacobs) ideation workshop with CVPA students, iSchool students, and community members.
- Led CVPA Interior Design students in design, fabrication, and install of finished prototype.
- Recognised in local and national press.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 2014 **Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship** *Syracuse University*
- 2012 **Continuum + Pulos Award for Innovation in Interdisciplinary Design Education** *Syracuse University*
- 2012 **Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship** *Syracuse University*
- 2008 **Tag Frid Award for Excellence in Teaching** *RISD*
- 2008 **Graduate Award of Excellence: Design Division** - *Julie Lasky, Juror*

RESEARCH SUMMARY AND INTERESTS:

Research Overview:

Our interaction with materials and the spaces and objects that they are used to make is rooted in our cultural history. By examining that cultural history and the histories of the ways that we make the objects and spaces in our lives, we gain insight into why the decision-makers are who they are and what we can do if we want to change that. We also become aware of who has access to our physical, intellectual, emotional, and political landscape and how we as designer are able, through our work, to allow access to resources to the greatest possible number of people. I engage this with a practice of “materials-driven design,” which assesses available resources as instigators for design projects.

Research Interests:

Traditional making methodologies, making methodologies in Japanese craft traditions, cultural anthropology, community building techniques, pedagogy, improvised musical instruments, bench-built musical instruments, music history, social justice,

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

- 2017 “The Museum as a Making Tool in the Classroom”
Studies in Material Thinking Vol 17: Multisensory Materialities in the Art School
- 2016 “Materials 101” with Gregory Marinic
International Journal of Interior Architecture and Spatial Design Vol IV
- 2016 “Displayed, Not Played: Musical Objects in Shifting Contexts,”
With Emily Stokes-Rees Anthropology News February
- 2015 “Rust to Re-Use”
Int|AR: Interventions and Adaptive Re-Use Journal
- 2010 “Questioning=Thinking: Critical Curiosity as the Focus of an Interior Design Curriculum Redesign” Design Principles and Practices: An International Journal

INVITED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- 2018 **National Conference on the Beginning Design Student** (forthcoming)
Invited to present *IN:vasive*, an interactive temporary built environment
- 2016 **Interior Architecture Theory Reader**, G. Marinic, Editor
“*The Human as Yardstick and User: Japan-ness, Materiality, and the Hand*”
- 2014 **Re:Sounding History Lecture Series**, D. Justice, Series Co-Ordinator
Presenter at Syracuse University and Hamilton College
- 2014 **Setnor School of Music Colloquium**
Presentation “Make Your Own Things That Make Music”
- 2008 **Furniture Matters**, the newsletter of the Furniture Society “Manifesto (sort of)”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- 2017 **Interior Provocations Symposium**
Poster Accepted: "Access: Materiality as Welcome"
- 2017 **Environmental Design Research Association**
The Sound of Reuse
- 2017 **National Conference on the Beginning Design Student**
Don't Just Sit There: Furniture Design, Social Justice, and "Thinking"
- 2016 **Mid-Atlantic College Art Association**
"Drawing on the Past: Exploring The Role of Mark-Making in 21st c. Design Education"
- 2016 **National Conference on the Beginning Design Student**
Designing Change: Teaching Social Responsibility Through Design. Dr. L. K. Havenhand, Co-Author
- 2016 **Central New York Society of Arts and Crafts**
The Collection as a Making Tool in the Classroom
- 2015 **Material Culture Conference**
The Collection as a Making Tool in the Classroom.
- 2015 **LearnxDesign**
Paper accepted for presentation: Designing Change: Teaching Social Responsibility Through Design. Dr. L. K. Havenhand, Co-Author
- 2013 **Imagining America Conference**
Presented "Make the Things That Make the Music That Make the Change" Workshop
- 2012 **New York Folklore Society Music of the Erie Canal symposium**
"Found-Object Instruments as Expressive Objects: Making the Things to Make the Music"

INSTALLATIONS:

- 2017 **(rust) Echoes**, *Dowd Gallery, State University of New York, Cortland*
Remount of the (rust) Echoes installation in a two story space. In this setting the installation engaged faculty, students, staff, and community members in a series of talks and performances.
- 2017 **(rust) Echoes**, *914Works, Syracuse*
Gallery installation of furniture-scale improvised musical instruments. This installation engaged the Department of Drama as well as the Department of History.
- 2014 **“A Place to Sit.”**, *Westcott Community Garden, Syracuse NY*
Invited to design, fabricate, and install municipal seating
- 2013 **RustOPhone**, *Lipe Art Park, Syracuse NY*
Timber-framed structure installed as part of the show “Rust Belt: New Pants.”
- 2012 **Staircase in the Key of D**, *601 Tully Gallery, Syracuse NY*
Found-object instrument installation in a transitional space in a local art gallery
- 2011 **Jubilee Gardens**, *Syracuse, New York*
Seating and tables for urban farm
- 2011 **AIGA Design Ranch**, *Hunt Texas*
Designed and constructed a small structure using locally found materials.
- 2011 **Lincoln Building**, *Syracuse New York*
Designed, fabricated and installed benches outside the building using material salvaged from the building.
- 2011 **Syracuse University Rain Garden**, *Syracuse, New York*
Designed, and installed hollow form made of willow to dedicate a rain garden on campus.

EXHIBITIONS:

- 2016 **[re]Make [re]Activate [re]Imagine**
Genet Gallery, School of Design, Syracuse University. Co-Curated with Dr. Emily Stokes-Rees
- 2015 **Origins**
Tyler Art Gallery, Oswego. Curator Michael Flanagan
- 2015 **reverb + Talent Agency**
SALT Quarters Gallery, Syracuse, NY. Curator: Zeke Leonard
- 2014 **Conceal:Reveal**
Schaeffer Art Gallery, Syracuse NY. Curator: Andrew Saluti
- 2012 **New Work Bank Show**
Bank Gallery, Salina Street, Syracuse NY
- 2010 **VPA Faculty Show**
XL Projects, Syracuse NY
- 2009 **Ressurect: The Art of Recycling**
Mesa Arts Center, Mesa Arizona
- 2008 **RISD Summer Faculty Exhibition**
Woods-Gerry Gallery, Providence, RI. Curator: Marc Moscone
- 2008 **“Welcome to the Conversation: Graduate Thesis Exhibition”**
Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI. Curator: Marc Moscone

- 2008 **“Slow. Down. Set Design in the Domestic Theater”**
RISD Bank Building Rm 202x, Providence, RI. Self Curated
- 2008 **“Adirondack Chair III: Transformation-Reinvention”**
Sutton Museum, Indiana PA. Curators: Chris Weiland, Steve Loar
- 2008 **“Sit Down: The Process of Furniture Design”**
Gallery Z, Providence, RI. Curator: Kallie Weinkle
- 2008 **“ON:TIME”**
Salone di Mobile, Zona Tortona, Milan, Italy. Curator: Lothar Windels

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE:

Service to University:

Campus Arts In Public Spaces Committee (2015 - Present)

Appointed Chair of this Committee in Fall 2015. The Campus Arts in Public Spaces Committee reviews proposals for donations or installations of temporary or permanent art works on University property. All public art projects, whether donated or created, must be reviewed by the Committee prior to installation.

- Committee Reviews roughly 6 proposals per calendar year.
- As Chair was responsible for creating the application process and interfacing with the Provost’s office to publish the form on the University Web site.
- Convened Committee as needed, deliberated over proceedings, and composed recommendation letters for the Chancellor

Orange Preview Panelist (2015 - Present)

Asked to be a panelist for the University Recruiting event held in Goldstein Auditorium for an event with over a thousand prospective students and their families.

Academic Integrity Officer (2012 - Present)

Review cases of suspected Integrity violations.

Service to the College of Visual and Performing Arts:

Member of Faculty Council (2016 - Present)

Elected position. Faculty Council meets 4 times per semester.

Athletic Academic Advising Committee (2015 - Present)

Invited by Tommy Powell to be part of a group that includes academic advisors from across campus as well as the Academic Support team in Athletics

Recruiting Liason (2010 - Present, Ongoing)

Work with CVPA Recruiting Office as the Representative from the School of Design

- Work with Director of Recruiting and Director of the School of Design to strategize recruiting strategies
- Ideate and implement recruitment and yield events in Fall and Spring
- Travel 3-5 weekends per year to recruiting events
- Give building tours to prospective students or admitted students during Yield Season
- Conduct portfolio reviews locally, online, and in person in the field

Search Committees

- Student Affairs Staff member (2016)
- CVPA IT Computer Technician Search Committee Chair (2015)

Service to the School of Design:

Program CoOrdinator, School of Design First Year Experience (2015 - Present)

Responsible for strategic direction and implementation of the School of Design First Year Experience

- Work with faculty to develop, assess, and revise curriculum on an annual basis
- Created DES 101, DES 102, and DES 103 with faculty team.
- Coordinate and oversee delivery of curriculum via 8 faculty, who include Part-Time Instructors, Teaching Professors, and Tenured Faculty.
- Oversight of 112 students (2015/2016) 104 students (2016/2017) and 86 students (2017/2018)
- Identify and prepare class room spaces for delivery of curriculum

Service to the profession:

Peer review for Conferences/Journals

- 2017: National Conference on the Beginning Design Student, *Int/AR* Journal
- 2016: National Conference on the Beginning Design Student, Environmental Design Research Association Conference
- 2015: National Conference on the Beginning Design Student,

Common Ground Research Network (2017)

Peer reviewer for a proposed book about wood and craft

Juror for “D3: Unbuilt Visions” student design competition (2014)

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS, ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS:

2017 **Arts and Crafts Society of Central New York** Asked to join Board of Directors for three year term.

2014 **Stewards of Lipe Art Park** Advisory board for sculpture park

2014 **Salt Works** Executive Board for Kresge-funded job skills training program

2012 **Near West Side Initiative Board of Directors** Appointed 2012, Vice Chair of Board 2014-2017