

Troy Richards

Accomplished and forward-thinking educator and academic leader with 20 years of experience dedicated to fostering a collaborative, inclusive, and student-centered learning environment. Known for embracing and supporting the diversity of the student body, I am committed to preparing students to address real-world challenges with creativity and resilience. A strategic administrator with a proven record in cross-campus collaboration, industry partnerships, project and fiscal management, and college-wide strategic planning, I have successfully driven enrollment growth and innovation at a globally recognized institution for fashion, design, and creative arts in New York City.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Painting, Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1997

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, University of the Arts, 1995

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Dean, School of Art and Design

Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York, NY | 2017 – Present

- Provide strategic leadership for 17 academic programs, overseeing 90+ full time faculty and 3,800 students.
- Led the restructuring of 15 departments into four interdisciplinary units to enhance collaboration and innovation.
- Spearheaded targeted enrollment strategies, increasing student enrollment by 250 over five years.
- Developed and implemented new academic initiatives, including a minor in Universal and Adaptive Design, fostering cross-disciplinary engagement.
- Strengthened external partnerships with industry leaders such as Disney and Gucci, leading to increased scholarship opportunities, equipment donations, and student mentorship programs.
- Managed an annual budget, ensuring efficient allocation of resources for faculty development, curriculum enhancement, and facility improvements.
- Expanded international collaborations and established new faculty research funding initiatives.

Interim Associate Dean of the Arts

College of Arts and Science, University of Delaware | 2016 – 2017

- Oversaw academic programs across multiple departments, aligning initiatives with university priorities.
- Established strategic partnerships, including a permanent exhibition collaboration with the Delaware Contemporary art museum.
- Assisted in securing funding for the creation of a School of Music within the college.
- Supported faculty research initiatives and increased grant application success rates.

Chair, Department of Art and Design**University of Delaware | 2015 – 2016**

- Led department operations, overseeing faculty recruitment, budgeting, and curriculum development.
- Created and launched a Master's program in Interaction Design, enhancing the department's research profile.
- Managed the successful completion of an Academic Program Review and department website redesign.
- Strengthened alumni relations, leading to increased funding for student scholarships and departmental resources.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor of Art and Design, University of Delaware (2008 – 2017)
- Assistant Professor of Drawing, Cleveland Institute of Art (2005 – 2008)
- Head of Drawing, Cleveland Institute of Art (2005 – 2008)

SELECTED INITIATIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Enrollment & Strategic Growth: Implemented initiatives that resulted in a 7% increase in full-time student enrollment at FIT.
- Industry & Community Partnerships: Developed collaborations with the Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment to create a non-credit 3D modeling program for at-risk youth.
- Diversity & Inclusion: Led DEI initiatives at FIT, including a collaboration with the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) for cross-disciplinary student projects.
- Curricular Innovation: Co-founded the Interdisciplinary Game Studies Minor at the University of Delaware, integrating Art, Computer Science, and Communications.
- Public Engagement: Organized interdisciplinary symposia and exhibitions, connecting academic research with public discourse.

EXHIBITIONS AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

- Solo Exhibitions: Delaware Art Museum, Eastern State Penitentiary, Thomas Robertello Gallery (Chicago), Whittier College (Greenleaf Gallery), and others.
- Group Exhibitions: Eastern State Penitentiary, Sarah Meltzer Gallery (NYC), Southern Graphics Council International, Bowling Green University, Queens Museum of Arts, White Columns (NYC), and more.
- Creative Research: Projects exploring identity, culture, and social impact through interdisciplinary artistic practice.
- Public Art & Installations: Work featured in national and international exhibitions focusing on contemporary visual culture.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- Executive Committee Member, National Association of Schools of Art and Design
- Member, College Art Association (CAA) Professional Committee, 2018-2022
- NYCxDesign Steering Committee Representative, 2017–present
- National Council of Arts Administrators Fellow, 2016
- External Evaluator, Accreditation Review Committees for peer institutions

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) (2021/2024) – Panel Moderator on strategic planning.
- Handmade by Machines Symposium, Birmingham City University, UK (2019) – Keynote Speaker on digital craftsmanship.
- College Art Association Annual Conference (2015) – Panelist on arts education and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Southern Graphics Council International (2014) – Presenter on interdisciplinary printmaking and digital media.
- Design & Adaptive Innovation Symposium (2022) – Speaker on inclusive design methodologies.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowship – Established Professional Award, 2017
- Emerging Arts Administrators Fellowship, National Council of Arts Administrators (NCAA), 2016
- Creative Capital Grant Finalist, 2008
- Ohio Arts Council Grant for Individual Excellence, 2007
- Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts Residency, 2010
- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) Swingspace Residency, 2007
- National Endowment for the Arts Project Grant Recipient, 2021