



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

MFA in Furniture Design

Natalya Merrison
Samantha Goyette
Molly Gajdosik
Pamela Livernois
Erika Jacques
Maude Brossard

DART 498 Post-Grad Strategies



A BACKGROUND ON RISD

The Rhode Island School of Design offers both undergraduate and graduate programs with specializations such as furniture design, graphic design, sculpture, architecture, photography, drawing/painting and print-making.

Located adjacent to Brown University in Providence Rhode Island, an academic partnership between the 2 institutions has been established. For no additional cost, students can take courses at either school, allowing them to expand their academic background.



WHAT IS THE MFA IN FURNITURE DESIGN?

2 and 3 year program options

3 year program gives a transition year that offers both undergraduate and graduate program classes.

The MFA in furniture design gives individuals the opportunity to

Tools available to MFA Furniture Design students:

- Full woodworking and metal shop
- Upholstery lab
- Plastics/alternative materials lab
- Finish/spray booth
- Veneer/rare woods collection
- Laser cutter, Rapid Prototype Machine (RPM) and CNC
- Computer labs running SolidWorks, Rhino, Adobe Suite, etc.

FACULTY

Patricia Johnson - Johnson has developed multi-year, government-funded programs in several countries. She also designs product lines for Keilhauer, Nienkamper, David Design and Mabeo.

Megan Callahan - Featured in The New York Times, Forbes 30 Under 30, Wall Street Journal and Elle Decor, amongst other publications. Her work focuses on textiles, working with bold, geometric graphics.

John Dunnigan - Appeared in The New York Times, in addition to Newsweek and The Boston Globe. He is also a partner with DEZCO Furniture Design LLC. DEZCO distinguishes itself from other companies in the industry by employing sustainable practices for mass production.



APPLYING TO RISD

Application: \$60

Statement of Purpose:

Applicants must submit a written statement (500-750 words) outlining their interest and goals in pursuing graduate study.

Other required submission materials:

- CV
- Video Essay - Include a self-made video no more than 20 seconds duration of you making something
- Portfolio: Showing 10-20 pieces
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Language Test: All applicants who speak English as a second language, including US citizens, must submit results from either TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System). Since proficiency in English is a prerequisite for acceptance, applicants must attain an acceptable score on either test; RISD requires a minimum result of 93 on the TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS.



OUTCOMES

“Grad students welcome opportunities to participate in sponsored research studios and departmental exhibitions at venues such as Salone Internazionale del Mobile in Milan and the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York.” This opportunity provides students with the chance to network as well as develop their skillset.

Program outcomes:

- Combine 2D and 3D concept development tools to produce real-size prototypes.
- Critique/develop content using visuals, written material and other appropriate mediums.
- Produce designs that can be manufactured by others (e.g. technical drawings, instruction guides etc.).
- Contribute to the field of furniture design through individuality, conceptual work and ability.

IMAGES

1. https://digitalcommons.risd.edu/questioningaesthetics_images/25/
2. <https://riblogger.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Visiting-Providence-Rhode-Island.jpg>
3. https://zimage.global.ssl.fastly.net/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdisegnodaily.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fsystem%2Fdragonfly%2Fproducton%2F2015%2F02%2F23%2F15%2F07%2F45%2F1%2FRISD_riverfront.jpg&w=4000&quality=50
4. <http://campusmasterplan.risd.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/56A8568-L-580x258.jpg>
5. <https://craftcouncil.org/sites/default/files/inline-images/Synthesis-of-Light-installation-RISD.jpg>
6. https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/4lkYe3aCxfO3DeYWRhSniJp3sA5s_rExgBfZstwFDJAG-pmHD5AsQCscI0vGITPyABI78iwibZs5QNBHd9d5M-6RcWNY=s840
7. <http://www.risd.edu/academics/furniture-design/>
8. <http://designapplause.com/wp-content/xG58h-lz9/2016/04/mdw16-risd-Dunbar-Mujica5.jpg>
9. <http://designapplause.com/wp-content/xG58h-lz9/2016/04/mdw16-risd-Dunbar-Mujica5.jpg>