

SWATI PIPARSANIA
EDUCATOR AND DESIGNER
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WWW.SWATIPARSANIA.COM
+1.248.885.0489

EDUCATION

Cranbrook Academy of Art
Bloomfield Hills, MI
Master of Fine Arts, 3D Design
2016–2018

Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology
Bangalore, India
Diploma in Furniture and Spacial Design
2010 – 2014

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Industrial Design, July 2022–Present
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Serving as a tenure track faculty, I am teaching both graduate and undergraduate programs. Research includes bringing art and social practices into industrial design through performance and theatre.

Clinical Assistant Professor, July 2020– May 2022
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Teaching Industrial Design to undergraduate and graduate students at ASU. Some of my courses include Drawing for Industrial Design, Houseware Design, and Sophomore Design Studio.

Full-time Faculty, AICAD Teaching Fellow, June 2018– July 2020
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

The Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD) Fellowship program seeks to provide professional practice opportunities to high-achieving alumni, while also increasing the racial and ethnic diversity of faculty at these institutions. As a fellow, I teach three courses per semester. My focus includes teaching experimental and critical design to undergraduate and graduate students in Industrial Design. I also served as a committee member for selecting portfolios of incoming graduate students for Masters of Industrial Design.

F.I.E.L.D//Site in Process\\, Co-organiser, November 2019
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

FIELD is a project that researches collaborative teaching and 'Expanded Field' practices in an indoor/outdoor gallery space. Organising with Mrinalini Aggarwal, AICAD Fellow in Fine Arts, and Ane Gonzalez Lara, Assistant Professor in Architecture, we hosted a week of workshops and lectures from Nov 20-27 that brought in 12 faculty members along with students to create different classroom experiences, build shared spaces for experimentation and process-based inquiry. Addressing a variety of themes at the intersections of ecology, politics, technology, and the body.

SPACE SPACE SPACE, Co-Organiser, March 2018

Fields of Cranbrook Educational Community, Bloomfield Hills, MI

A three day community gathering of practicing artists, educators and theorists who work with alternative institutional pedagogy that subvert academic meaning and its sources. A temporary architecture- an inflatable bubble was built to support the participants-Detroit based collectives and students of Cranbrook Academy of Art. The discussions focused on education in prison systems, sources of funding non-profit projects and decolonial design practices.

Designer in Residence, June-August 2017

Horizons Upward Bound, Cranbrook Educational Community, Bloomfield Hills, MI

A federal funded TRIO Upward Bound program. Developed and taught a course called 'Designing Life' to the high school students from Detroit Public Schools. Some of the outcomes involved critical conversations around gender identity, and race; and also explored model making skills through simple structural forms.

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GRANTS

Strategic Funding Award, 2019

Pratt Institute, NY

Awarded USD 21,500 to set up 'Inclusive Ecologies Research Incubator' that hosts database and lecture series on theories around Gender and Environment. This project is in collaboration with five other members in Pratt Faculty Community (Dean Harriet Harriss, Ariane Harrison, Cathryn Dwyre, Nancy Smith, Meredith TenHoor).

Academic Initiatives Fund- Senate Grant, 2019

Pratt Institute, NY

Awarded USD 750 to support public art installation called 'Grasslands', designed for the lawn space outside DeKalb Gallery as a part of a collaborative workshop 'FIELD'.

Faculty SEED Grant, 2018

Pratt Institute, NY

Awarded USD 2,500 to support my personal research practice and object making on body politics. The initiative aids study of relationships between architecture, dance and theatre as a medium to destabilise institutional oppression.

Studio Council, 2018

Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Awarded USD 5,000 to fund artists and workshops that were hosted as a part of a three day symposium called 'SPACE SPACE SPACE'.

PUBLICATIONS

Pedagogy As Process, Paper Street Press 2021

In Collaboration with Lauren Williams

Pedagogy as Process is an assemblage of diagrams, commentary, and conversations between two friends and women of color who teach design at predominantly white institutions. In it, we work through and catalogue reflections on the act of teaching, challenges, our positions within institutions, and how that shapes our pedagogy and vice versa. This book was invited to be part of Printed Matter New York Art Book Fair 2021 with a limited edition of 50 copies, which were all sold out within months.

Teacher's Project, 2021

In Collaboration with Nida Abdullah

The Teachers Project was organized in Fall 2019. A selected group came together physically and virtually to investigate, interrogate and question design pedagogy and its practice. The book was a documentation of workshops and discussions exploring prompts on instructor authority, tools, environments and gestures as power structures, expectation of power vs desire of power. This book was a part of Printed Matter New York Art Book Fair 2021.

EXPERIENCE (Cont.)

Studio Manager, 2017-18

Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Working collaboratively with the Designer in Residence and students of 3D Design Department to organise activities and representation of the department at large.

Block Printing Workshop Facilitator, December 2017

Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Participated in MCACA Making the Makery: Teaching Artists to Teach, a workshop that trains new artists in adult teaching and giving them an opportunity to conduct a workshop in Detroit Metropolitan Area.

Product Manager, January-May 2016

Livspace, Bangalore, India

Developed and managed eight product ranges in the category of Modular Furniture. Trained over 70 interior designers across nation in product specifications and innovation in interior design.

Product Developer + Designer, March 2015- January 2016

Homelane, Bangalore, India

Designed fixed modular furniture while creating standards for easy site adaptation. Assisted freelance interior designers in understanding of product details to be further communicated to the clients.

Object Design Summer Intern, 2014

Tasveer Gallery: Museum of Photography, Bangalore, India

Worked with museum archives to build objects for the gallery store. Articulating colonial photography and religious architecture into contemporary forms.

Part-time Product + Urban Designer, 2013

SELCO Solar Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, India

Constructed houses and tents at multiple locations of slum dwelling. Worked with found material and sustainable energy systems to provide alternate solutions to rat infestation, lack of ventilation and poor indoor lighting.

Material Design Intern, 2013

Design Flyover, Mumbai, India

Created a range of lifestyle objects from concrete. Explored permutation combinations with other materials to understand the limits of one.

Art Teacher, 2012

Freelance, Bangalore, India

Aided middle school students in narrative drawing, painting and model-making skills.

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GUEST SPEAKER/ CONFERENCE

Attending (TO) Futures, November 2021
Cologne, Germany

Open Citizen, November 2021
Arcosanti, AZ

Civic Art Lab: Regenerative Futures, November 2021
Manhattan, NY

Design, Sustain and Culture, October 2021
Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio

Design for Elderly, April 2021
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Masters Research Thesis, December 2020
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

AICAD Conference Speaker, January 2020
School of Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois

Design Theory and Research, October 2019
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Fall Forum on Inclusive Pedagogy, October 2019
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

AICAD Conference Speaker, January 2019
School of Art Institute, Chicago, Illinois

Expanded Field, Fine Arts, February 2019
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Symposium Participant and Speaker, January 2019
Haus der Kulturen der Welt: (Un-)Learning Place,
Berlin, Germany

Symposium Participant, November 2018
PACT Zollverein: IMPACT18- Matter in Movement,
Essen, Germany

SERVICE/ COMMITTEE

Executive Committee, 2021-2023
Herberger Institute of Design and Arts, ASU

Search Committee, 2021
The Design School, ASU

Graduate Portfolio Review, 2018- 2019
School of Design, Pratt Institute

NON PROFIT/VOLUNTEER

Teachers Project Participant, September 2019- Present
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

A series of faculty gatherings over 2 semesters that questions 'Role of an Instructor in a studio classroom setting'. With a interventions in reflective practices, assessment & grading, canon produced through institutions and inclusivity in learning, we are trying to build a review and critique the education system currently at work.

Integrating Science and Design Pedagogy, December 2019
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Christopher Jensen, Department Chair of Maths and Science invited me for an interview that studies effective integration of art and design as practices at the margins of academia into the mainstream of STEM fields. The interview would be transcribed for a potential writing and will contribute towards a podcast series.

National Graduate Portfolio Day, October 2019
San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA

Guided students towards portfolio building that are interested in pursuing higher education.

Co-President of Studio Council, 2017-2018
Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Elected by the student body for voicing and representing their ideas to the broader educational community. Funded student proposals to bring interdisciplinary artists and host events for different student groups.

Members of Various Ethnicities (M.O.V.E.), 2017
Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Active member of student group that engaged in conversations around academic experience of people of colour.

Sustainability Committee, 2017
Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Brought funding for a new Federal Work Study opportunity to help students compost.

National Innovation Foundation, 2013
Bangalore, India

Designed a product for manual grain sorting (removal of stones and other impurities) after extensive market research.

Srishti Labs, 2013
Bangalore, India

Developed an app for food sharing to create less waste within the local community and to recommend recipes from the available ingredients.

Old-Age Home, 2012
Bangalore, India

Spent time listening to stories of their life experience and documenting them to further develop a book.

ASHA Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism, 2012
Bangalore, India

Teaching art to students with special needs and developing a range of activities for fun.