

## **Matthew Bird**

### **Professional Experience**

**2014:** Guest Curator, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach Florida.

Researched, assembled, and installed Wheels and Heels: The Big Noise Around Little Toys (June 19 - October 29, 2014). Produced show text and labeling, designed and implemented display system presenting over 1,000 objects, oversaw design and installation of show, offered a series of public lectures supporting the exhibit.

**2005 – 2014:** Owner of The Curatorium, a design and gift store in Providence RI.

Collected an ever-changing assortment of gift items to satisfy a wide range of shopping interests while maintaining a compelling and consistent level of design integrity. Established a clear identity communicated through store design, display, packaging, advertising, and web presence. Designed and maintained an e-commerce website, managed full and part time sales staff. Developed and produced a range of custom items.

**2004 – Present:** Associate Professor, Industrial Design, Rhode Island School of Design

Taught both studio and lecture classes, requiring curriculum development, development and administration of team teaching techniques, participation in departmental faculty initiatives. Developed linked curricula to get studio classes working in support of professional practices and linked to each other to more effectively teach students skills and design process. Developed History of Industrial Design curriculum that includes 12 3-hour lectures which use over 4,000 images to communicate the history of design in a compelling and accessible way.

**2000 – 2004:** Director, risd|works, an award winning hybrid gift store and fine-art gallery at Rhode Island School of Design showcasing the work of alumni and faculty of the school.

Developed a comprehensive ten-year business plan for this new venture. Designed and manufactured all aspects of the store interior and display fixtures. Selected and implemented computer systems (including financial reporting, sales and inventory systems), and maintained related data. Identified, assembled, and sustained a curated collection of items. Prepared and supervised production of print brochures, catalogs, postcards, and web-presence. Performed all buying and merchandising of product. Developed a line of custom indicia items. Managed full and part time staff. Developed and maintained relationships with large and small vendors, manufacturers, designers, and artists. Curated, coordinated, and installed monthly fine-art exhibitions.

**1990 – Present:** Freelance design services specializing in transferring graphic identity to product design. Worked with retail businesses, schools, and

museums across the US to use static logos and graphic identity in innovative ways that create exciting products to sell.

**1989 – 2001:** Owner of M. Bird, a product design and manufacturing company. Designed and produced a wide range of metal, paper, and plastic giftware, including napkin rings, candle holders, picture frames, key rings, lamps, cooking utensils, and jewelry, as well as packaging for these items. Worked with various manufacturers and suppliers, and sold to stores across the US and Canada, as well as overseas distributors. Maintained a computerized database with up to 800 active accounts. Developed private-label products for mail order catalogs, museums, schools, and department stores. Designed and produced annual wholesale and retail catalogs. Exhibited at up to eight national wholesale gift and craft trade shows annually, as well as frequent retail shows. Accumulated recurrent press notices in local and national publications. Managed staff of full, part-time, and contract employees.

### **Other Experience**

2014: "Design History Research in the Digital Age" published in *Design and Culture*, Volume 6, Issue 2, Bloomsbury Publishing

2005 – Present: Guest lecturer on diverse topics related to the history of design at schools, libraries, retirement homes, museums, clubs, anywhere that asks.

2007: Consultant hired to evaluate and redesign the sophomore program in Industrial Design at Rhode Island School of Design.

2000 – 2006: Board Member, Fox Point Citizens' Association

2001 – 2005: Advisory Board member of the Providence Craft Show

2000: Founding participant and organizer of the Providence Craft Show

1995 – 1999: Organizer of, and bookkeeper for, the Foundry Artists' Holiday Sale

1990 – Present: Guest critic at various local schools, guest juror for various art and craft shows including the ACC Craft Show

1989 – 1994: Founding participant and organizer of the annual RISD Alumni Sales