

Jason Sobottka

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I'm an internationally-exhibiting artist living in Tacoma, WA. My artwork is featured in public and private collections across the United States, England, and Australia. Additionally, I'm a tenured college professor. I have experience designing and maintaining educational programs and degrees. The majority of my educational work has focused on preparing creative students for the workforce in animation, design, illustration, user experience design, and multimedia gaming.

Current Employment

MARCH 2023-PRESENT | FACULTY DIRECTOR APPLIED ART-ILLUSTRATION BAS | LAKE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY | KIRKLAND, WA

I designed LWTECH's 12th Bachelor of Applied Science degree, the Applied Art-Illustration BAS. Students began Fall 2023.

Responsibilities

- Teach Applied Art BAS courses in traditional studio classes, hybrid, and fully-online formats
- Advise current Applied Art-Illustration BAS and AAS-T students
- Promote and market degree and network with area colleges and high schools
- Supervise 1 permanent employee and six on-call employees

Deliverables

- Workforce-centered art degree designed and approved by the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges
- Degree accredited by the Northwest Commission On Colleges and Universities (NCCU)
- Designed curriculum, course catalog, and projects
- Biennial Program Review using Tableau data dashboards
- Designed three new studios and two exhibition spaces for the college's new Center for Design building, breaking ground March 2024.

SEPT 2017-MARCH 2023 | VISUAL ART DEPARTMENT CHAIR | LAKE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY | KIRKLAND, WA

In addition to working as a tenured college professor, I served as the Visual Art Department chairperson.

Responsibilities

- Taught Art and Illustration Associate Degree courses via traditional studio classes, hybrid, and fully-online formats
- Advised AAS-T students and personalize degree plans
- Promoted degree and solicit new students
- Scheduled and mentor Art faculty, and supervise staff, and on-call employees
- Served on the LWTECH Design Advisory Council with active leaders in industry

Deliverables

- Designed and launched the Illustration AAS-T degree with courses in digital design, gaming, and visual art
- Designed curriculum and projects
- Biennial Program Review. 2021 Program Review demonstrated the Visual Arts Department had no achievement gaps between students of color and white students

- Launched the Instructional Arts Committee, which is chartered to approve all on campus art exhibits and installations and promote educational opportunities in the arts for the college community
- Hired four adjunct faculty and one tenure-track associate professor

SEPT 2013-JUNE 2017 | HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT CHAIR | LAKE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY | KIRKLAND, WA

In addition to working as a tenured college professor, I served as the Humanities and Visual Art chairperson.

Responsibilities

- Taught Art and Design Associate Degree courses via traditional studio classes, hybrid, and fully-online formats
- Taught Design BAS courses
- Advised AAS-T Design students and create degree plans
- Scheduled and mentor Humanities faculty, and supervise staff, and on-call employees
- Served on the LWTECH Design Advisory Council with active leaders in industry
- Co-chaired the Instructional Council with the Vice President of Instruction

Deliverables

- Partnered with the Dean of General Education and the Vice President for Instruction to scope, develop, and implement the Humanities credit requirement
- Established the charter and program outcomes for the Humanities department
- Expanded course offerings and sections

SEPT 2008-JUNE 2013 | PROFESSOR HUMANITIES AND VISUAL ART | LAKE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY | KIRKLAND, WA

I was hired by LWTECH to build the visual art department from scratch, as well as teach for the college's first BAS degree. I was tenured in 2011 and won the Faculty Excellence Award in 2012.

Responsibilities

- Taught Art and Illustration Associate Degree courses traditional studio classes, hybrid, and fully-online formats
- Taught for the Design BAS
- Advised AAS-T Design students and create degree plans
- Served on the search and hiring committee for the lead faculty for the Design BAS

Deliverables

- Established a formal department of Visual Art, under the college's General Education area
- Designed courses in 2D Design, Drawing, Life Drawing, Printmaking, Painting, Art Appreciation, and Film Appreciation.
- Designed Mass Communication, Design Theory, Managing Creativity, and co-designed Psychology of Creativity for the Design BAS program
- Provided foundational courses for Design and Multimedia Gaming degree programs
- Secured the Dynamic and Static art studio classrooms and designed their interior spaces and furnishings

Experience

AUG 2008-SEPT 2020 | FREELANCE DESIGNER | OLD TOWN BICYCLE CYCLOCROSS TEAM | TACOMA, WA

The manager of the largest Specialized and Cannondale bicycle dealership teamed up with established local cyclocross and mountain bike racers to create a non-profit off-road bike racing team. The team grew to the largest and most diverse

off-road cycling team in Washington with 80 racers. I was contracted to design the team's biennial sponsorship materials and the team uniforms, as well as compete for the team.

Responsibilities

- Designed print and digital sponsorship solicitation materials
- Designed team branding and uniforms
- Supervised brand consistency with sponsor artwork
- Worked with team captains and company managers on quality control of vendor samples

Deliverables

- Designed jerseys, jackets, shorts, socks, water bottles, and hats in Adobe Illustrator, for manufacturing by Voler Apparel
- Coordinated brand alignment with presentation sponsors: State Farm, Green Earth Construction and Ritzman Construction

JUNE 2006-2008 | LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST | STATE FARM MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY | DUPONT, WA

I worked as a program manager, learning and development specialist, and development advisor.

Responsibilities

- Project manager for multiple L&D initiatives for operations leaders in the Pacific Northwest Zone including Performance Management, Associate Leadership and Development Program (ALDP), and State Farm Process Improvement (SFPI)
- Development Advisor for pre-executive leaders

Deliverables

- 2 graduating ALDP cohorts, focused on high-performing employees learning from Executive and Pre-executive leadership in roundtable formats and applied training
- Designed and taught classes and facilitate developmental opportunities
- Partnered with Human Resources to design and teach Performance Management™ trainings
- Taught business writing courses for underwriting and claims employees
- Facilitated Strengthsfinder™ workshops and strengths-based strategy meetings
- Trained in Kepner-Tregoe Problem Solving and Decision Management
- Certified Corporate Coach
- Expert-Certification Harrison Behavioral Assessment

SEPT 2001-JUNE 2004 | STUDIO ART COORDINATOR | TACOMA ART MUSEUM | TACOMA, WA

I worked with the museum's Education Department, and was the coordinator for hands-on art education for the museum.

Responsibilities

- Facilitated art opportunities for college students, and adult/senior continuing education
- Partnered with curatorial to feature art techniques on display in the museum in the Open Art Studio
- Served as a community partner for educators, arts organizations, and libraries
- Reported to the Curator of Education for all hands-on art making educational opportunities
- Supervised volunteer docent and college work study student employees
- Exhibited themed exhibitions of high school art students in the Artworks Gallery

Deliverables

- Designed, programmed, maintained and stocked art materials for the Open Art Studio, a hands-on community artmaking gallery
- Designed, programmed, maintained and stocked art materials for the Art Classroom
- Taught art lessons to K-12 students during museum tours

JUNE-AUGUST 2001 | ART DIRECTOR | PACIFIC SPORTWEAR | LAKEWOOD, WA

I worked as the lead artist for a large wholesale screen printing company.

Responsibilities

- Created unique artwork for commercial screen printing on garments and signs
- Prepared customer artwork for commercial printing
- Supervised workflow from the art department to the production floor
- Approved all artwork for printing

Deliverables

- Unique designs for small and mid-sized local business and community groups
- Processed customer-supplied artwork for wholesale garment printing for national retailers including Mecca, International News, Calloway, and Nordstrom

JUNE 1994-JUNE 1996 | ART DIRECTOR | M&M GRAPHIC DESIGN | ABERDEEN, WA

I worked as the lead artist for a small screen print and design studio.

Responsibilities

- Used Macromedia Freehand, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to create customer artwork
- Processed customer-supplied artwork for printing
- Supervised quality control with the on-site printer and contract printers

Deliverables

- Generated designs for garments, cups, hats, and exterior signage
- Produced company branding packages, logo design, and promotional materials
- Provided wholesale printing to retailers
- Printed and hand-painted exterior signs

Education

2001 | MASTERS OF FINE ARTS | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | TWIN CITIES, MN

1998 | BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS | UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA | MISSOULA, MT