

RACHEL ZHENG

Curator · Designer · Researcher · Lecturer

PROFILE

Interdisciplinary curator, designer, researcher, and educator working across exhibition-making, spatial narratives, critical museum studies, visual culture, and art and design histories. Experienced in translating research and theory into exhibitions, public-facing interpretation, visual systems, teaching materials, and cross-cultural collaborative projects.

EDUCATION

M.A., Global Arts and Cultures (GAC) | Liberal Arts Division, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) | Providence, RI

Sep 2024 - Dec 2025

B.A., Art and Technology | Innovative Design Division, China Academy of Art (CAA) | Hangzhou, China

Sep 2020 - Jun 2024

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Curatorial theory and practice · Exhibition design and spatial narratives · Critical museum studies · Archival and object-based research · Visual culture · Interdisciplinary pedagogy · Art and design histories

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer | Rhode Island School of Design | Providence, RI

Sep 2026 – Present

- Teach Theory and History of Art and Design I, addressing global traditions across art, architecture, and design history with attention to race, gender, labor, technology, and colonialism.
- Contribute to curriculum development, faculty research discussions, and pedagogical exchange.

Marketing Designer Intern | DiDi | Shanghai, China

Feb 2026 – May 2026

- Designed campaign and brand assets including banners, H5 landing pages, social media graphics, and digital/print collateral in collaboration with city operations teams.
- Translated platform trends into visual content using Adobe design software and AIGC-assisted workflows.

Curator / Exhibition Designer | Gelman Gallery, RISD | Providence, RI

Sep 2025 – Jan 2026

- Developed the curatorial narrative, content strategy, spatial layout, visual system, and academic programming for Planetarity: Friction, Fossils, and the Future.
- Produced project statements and communications and coordinated public programming and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Assistant Curator | Hua International | Beijing & Berlin

May 2025 – Aug 2025

- Supported curatorial planning, exhibition logistics, publication/design production, art fair preparation, and institutional communications across international sites.
- Facilitated English–Chinese communication among artists, curators, collectors, and partners.

Research Assistant | China Academy of Art | Hangzhou, China

Mar 2022 – May 2024

- Conducted literature reviews, archival research, and data synthesis supporting faculty research and publications.
- Developed curatorial writing, exhibition concepts, visual materials, and research content integrated into teaching and student curricula.

Exhibition Assistant | Zhejiang Art Museum | Hangzhou, China

Oct 2021 – Feb 2022

- Supported curatorial research, exhibition writing, installation, budget tracking, archival management, and exhibition publications.
- Developed didactic and teaching materials for classroom and public interpretation.

SELECTED CURATORIAL & EXHIBITION PROJECTS

Self-Haunted

Curator | Machine with Magnets, Providence, RI | Nov 2026

DiDi Qingju Bike: Wuxi Cherry Blossom Season Campaign

Visual Designer | DiDi, Wuxi, China | Mar 2026

DiDi Shanghai–Suzhou Region: International Women’s Day Campaign

Visual Designer | DiDi, Shanghai–Suzhou Region, China | Mar 2026

Almost Invisible

Independent Curator | China Academy of Fine Art Museum, Beijing, China | Jan–May 2026

Eric-Paul Riege: ojo l-i óló

Exhibition Assistant | Bell Gallery, Brown University, Providence, RI | Sep–Dec 2026

Planetarity: Friction, Fossils, and the Future

Independent Curator | Gelman Gallery, RISD, Providence, RI | Nov 2025–Jan 2026

E-nnui — CFGNY & Tao Hui

Assistant Curator | Hua International, Beijing, China | Jul–Aug 2025

After the Waves and the Dusk — Tong Kunniao

Assistant Curator | Hua International, Berlin, Germany | Jul–Aug 2025

Shades of Blue — Nicholas Grafia

Assistant Curator | Hua International, Beijing, China | May–Jun 2025

Mutual Learning of Civilizations

Exhibition Coordinator | China Academy of Art Museum, Hangzhou, China | Feb 2023–Jun 2024

Oriental Pearl TV Tower Virtual Exhibition

Editor-in-Chief | Oriental Pearl Radio & Television Tower, Shanghai, China | Jan–Mar 2023

The 1st Zhejiang Young Scientists Festival

Exhibition Designer | Westlake University, Hangzhou, China | Jan–May 2022

Being Theoria: The 4th Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art

Exhibition Coordinator | Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou, China | Oct 2021–Feb 2022

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Grand Prize, China Academy of Fine Art, Curating Virtual Exhibitions 2025: The 4th Global College Student Competition (2026)
- National Art Students Fellowship (China), Ministry of Education of China (2024–2026)
- RISD Fellowships, Rhode Island School of Design (2024–2025)
- Provincial Government Scholarship, China Academy of Art (2020–2024)
- CAA Research & Teaching Fellowship, China Academy of Art (2020–2024)
- First Prize, DGL International Art & Creative Design Competition (2022)
- New Star Award, C-IDEA Design Award (2022)
- Gold Prize, ICAD International Contemporary Youth Art & Design Competition (2021)