

Lou Susi, MFA

Learner Practitioner | Human-Centered Experience Design Leader | Educator | Design Leadership Coach
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Professional Summary

MFA-trained designer, educator, and creative leader with over 20 years of professional experience in human-centered design and 15+ years teaching art and design in higher education. Proven record of developing and delivering innovative curricula in interaction design, design leadership, and visual communication. Active professional design practitioner with recent exhibitions, speaking engagements, and published work. Dedicated to fostering inclusive, engaging, and practice-based learning environments that prepare students for professional and creative success.

Education

MFA in Design, Dynamic Media Institute, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, 2011

BA in Art, University of Massachusetts Lowell, magna cum laude, 1992

Teaching & Course Development Experience

Northeastern University, College of Arts, Media & Design — Boston, MA

Adjunct Instructor | Course Developer | Guest Lecturer

2023 to Present

- Teach *Interaction Design Principles* (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025), bridging professional UX practice with foundational design concepts.
- Developed and delivered inclusive, learner-centered curriculum integrating industry methodologies and accessible design pedagogy.

Southern New Hampshire University — Manchester, NH

Subject Matter Expert & Program Development Consultant

Spring 2019

- Collaborated with curriculum designers and faculty to update and redesign graphic design degree programs, aligning with AIGA and NASAD standards.

Brandeis University, Graduate Professional Studies — Waltham, MA

Program Development Chair, Course Developer & Instructor, MS in User-Centered Design

2015 to 2019

- Developed and taught the program's first User Experience Design 101 course and Design Operations and Leadership.
- Recruited and mentored faculty; reviewed course materials; promoted program through outreach and public speaking.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Continuing Education — Boston, MA

Adjunct Instructor

2010 to 2014

- Developed and taught Interaction Design for three consecutive years; led independent studies in Interaction Design and iOS App Development.

Additional Teaching Appointments

- *Adjunct Instructor, School of the Museum of Fine Arts* — Web Design Intensive (Summer 2011)
- *Adjunct Instructor, Endicott College* — Web Design & Advanced Computer Projects (Spring 2011)
- *Graphic Design Instructor, The Cloud Foundation* — ArtScience Prize (Spring 2011)
- *Instructor, TechBoston Academy* — Adobe Creative Suite Workshops (Summer 2010)
- *Adjunct Instructor, University of Massachusetts Lowell* — Art History & Web Design II (2004)

Professional Creative & Design Practice

Human-Centered UX Design Consultant — lou suSi DESIGN | Boxford, MA

2013 to Present

- Design, research, and leadership consulting for organizations in healthcare, technology, and education sectors.
- Mentor graduate design students and emerging professionals.
- Creator of 'Design for Dignity' elder care peer network support & systems / experience design project
- Steward for the 'NeuroInclusivity Leadership MasterMind' networking group.

UX Design Lead, Security Experience Innovation Labs — NETSCOUT | Westford, MA

2014–2022

- Led interaction and visual design for enterprise dashboard modernization, improving customization and user efficiency.
- Applied research insights to drive iterative design strategy in an Agile/Lean environment.

Earlier Professional Design Roles — Avid, Monster, Mobiquity, WebEx Communications, Dimdim, Valassis

Selected Exhibitions

- *'Looking Backward Looking Forward'* — 7th MassArt Alumni Biennial Exhibition, 2024
— Arrangement for The Future (seaSide Sonata in F# minor), Mixed Media Installation
- MassArt Alumni Show at Fountain Studios, 2012
— Archipelago, Mixed Media Installation
- *'The 2011 Mobius Wearable Art Runway Show,'* 2011
— webCam Bra for Living I/O (fashion + personal female surveillance system)
- *'forensicEvidence'* at the 2011 MFA Thesis Exhibition, 2011
— *excerpt from* the Laugh Observation Library (interactive installation)
— confounded data (installation)
— the artist is not present (readymade)
— disConnections (painting installation)
— no day at the beach (installation), forensicEvidence

Exhibition Curation & Event Organization

- *'mediaLuscious Art + Design Review'* — The Pozen Center at MassArt, 2011
— Co-curation with Tania Ostorga and Alexander Wang
- *'Provocative Objects: the extradition'* — The Patricia Doran Gallery at MassArt, 2010
— Co-curation with David Tamés
- *'American Cheese: an introspection'* at The Patricia Doran Gallery at MassArt, 2010

Selected Speaking Engagements

- *'Everybody is a Designer'*
Co-developed and co-presented with Colin Owens
UXPA Boston Conference, 2025
- *'Storytelling for Spaceship Earth' Workshop*
Prototype for the Planet Designathon, 2025
- *'On Servant Leadership for Enterprise UX'*
UXPA Boston Conference, 2022
- *'The Design of Design Education: A panel conversation'*
Co-developed, co-curated and co-moderated with CONTXT's Rich Le
The panel included:
 - ▶ Amy Heymans — Assistant Professor at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Co-Founder & Organizer at the Design for Dignity Conference, and Founder & Chief Strategy Officer at Beneficent
 - ▶ Eva Kaniasty — UCD MS Program Chair and Faculty at Brandeis University's Rabb School of Continuing Studies and Founder and User Experience Consultant at Slipper Studios
 - ▶ Chris Haas — Executive Director, Bentley University User Experience Center and Advisory Board Member at Brandeis GPS in User Centered Design
 - ▶ Jason Reynolds — Senior User Experience Consultant at Bentley University User Experience Center, Adjunct Lecturer at Bentley University, Founder and Principal Consultant at Push The Ocean Consulting
UXPA Boston Conference, 2022
- *'A StoryFirst Approach to Human-Centered Design,' Brandeis GPS Thought Leadership Series, 2015*

Awards & Grants

- The Proximity Lab Fund Award, 2011
- Golden Key National Honor Society, 1988
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Mathematics and Science Award, 1987

Service & Professional Affiliations

- Advisory Board, UXPA Boston, 2025 to Present
- Advisory Board, Brandeis University GPS, 2017 to Present