

Erica Chapman

Materials Designer and Developer

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E D U C A T I O N

Master of Industrial Design · <i>Rhode Island School of Design</i>	2023 – 2025
M.A. Fashion Studies · <i>Parsons, The New School</i>	2015 – 2017
B.A. Fashion Merchandising · <i>CSU, Los Angeles</i>	2010 – 2015

S K I L L S

Design & CMF · Concept storytelling · Visual communication & inspiration mood boards · Seasonal color direction & material palettes · Colorway development · Material mapping & finish specification · Trend research · Styling

Materials & Fabrication · Advanced footwear & textile construction (knits & wovens) · Biomaterials & bio-fabrication · Sewing & fabric manipulation · Intermediate weaving (loom) & knitting · 3D printing onto fabric · Laser cutting · Tech pack development · Iterative prototyping

Digital & Generative Tools · Rhino & Grasshopper (with Raven AI for generative design) · Vizcom (AI rendering) · 3D software prototyping & CAD pipeline support · Keyshot · Adobe Creative Suite · CLO3D (beginner)

Research & Lab Practice · Experimental protocol development · Material performance testing & behavior analysis · Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) · Chemical handling & lab safety

D E S I G N I N D U S T R Y E X P E R I E N C E

Product Development Intern

Jun – Aug 2023

ASICS Corporation · Boston, MA

- *Concept & Presentation* Developed and presented 'Harmony,' a mPCM recovery garment concept, to ASICS employees as part of the intern showcase program.
- *Materials & Manufacturing* Worked directly with manufacturers and suppliers — evaluating fabric samples, analyzing dye and color application, and assessing material performance against product requirements.
- *Trend & Competitor Research* Conducted in-store competitor research across retail locations, documenting material choices, colorways, and design direction to inform team strategy.
- *Line Sheets & Sample Analysis* Co-authored commercial line sheets from designer input and evaluated incoming product samples for measurement precision, color accuracy, and material construction quality.

Production Coordinator (Contract)

Jan 2019 – Jan 2020

Nike – Global Brand Imaging · Los Angeles, CA

- Processed and cataloged high volumes of inbound footwear for Nike's Global Brand Imaging photo studio, verifying product information accuracy using asset management systems.
- Staged and prepared product batches for photography, ensuring merchandise was correctly organized and ready for the photo crew.
- Performed quality control checks on incoming product, confirming items met compliance standards before reaching set.

Production Coordinator

Aug 2017 – July 2018

Myer · Melbourne, Australia

- Coordinated photography production schedules for Myer's corporate e-commerce and website imagery, managing timelines and ensuring shoots were executed correctly and on time.
- Oversaw product preparation and cross-team communication to keep photography workflows on track across multiple concurrent projects.

Freelance Stylist *Jun 2013 – July 2015*

Independent · Los Angeles, CA

- Directed material, color, and garment selection for editorial fashion shoots, developing visual narratives and mood direction for each project.
- Built concept presentations and mood boards translating creative briefs into cohesive aesthetic directions.

Showroom Assistant

April 2012 – Jun 2014

Silver Jeans Co. · Los Angeles, CA

- Managed line sheets and presented seasonal product to buyers, communicating material features, construction details, and colorway direction.
- Merchandised the showroom and supported designers in preparing collections for market.

M A T E R I A L R E S E A R C H & I N N O V A T I O N E X P E R I E N C E

Independent Material Researcher (Grant-Funded)

Sep 2025 – Present

Self / RISD · Providence, RI

- *Research Focus* Investigating material manipulation in textile substrates — knitted, woven, and 3D-printed — as a foundation for mycelium growth and biological transformation.
- *Bio-Material Systems* Exploring how mycelium inoculation interacts with and potentially morphs different textile structures, with implications for circular and bio-based material design.
- *Documentation* Developing protocols, using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) to document structural changes at the fiber level as the research develops.

Graduate R&D Assistant — Bio-Design

Sep 2023 – May 2025

RISD / Yeadon Space Agency · Providence, RI

- Executed biomaterials R&D for bio-enabled living systems, analyzing material behavior and environmental responsiveness to inform design applications.
- Designed and iterated experimental protocols, troubleshooting material failures and optimizing outcomes across multiple fabrication methods.
- Managed SEM imaging and data collection to document findings and validate material performance.

Textile Conservation Graduate Assistant

Sep 2024 – May 2025

RISD Museum · Providence, RI

- Executed condition assessments, cleaning, and stabilization of textile artifacts — deepening material handling expertise across historic fiber structures and construction methods.

Designer & Visiting Scientist

Jun 2023 – Mar 2024

Silklab, Tufts University · Medford, MA

- Designed custom scaffolding to guide silkworm spinning behavior, achieving precise geometric textile forms through iterative prototyping.
- Analyzed the relationship between biological constraints and material output, refining substrate geometries for structural stability.
- Collaborated with biologists to translate organic material behavior into repeatable, scalable design protocols.

Teaching Assistant — E-Textiles

Jun 2024– Aug 2024

MIT Beaver Works Summer Institute · Cambridge, MA

- Co-taught wearable technology curriculum in partnership with AFFOA, guiding students through hands-on fabrication of functional textile-based projects.
- Mentored students through prototyping, providing direct instruction in material-based making and design.