ERICA CHAPMAN

Designer and Researcher

echapma92@gmail.com
Ericachapmandesign.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/ericachapman92/

THESIS: DEVOUR

A wearable ecosystem developed in collaboration with mycelium to address textile overproduction and waste. The project combined fashion design, biological systems, and sustainability frameworks to explore multispecies design. I designed experimental protocols to guide fungal colonization on synthetic fabrics and documented decomposition as both a biological process and a regenerative design strategy.

EDUCATION

Rhode Island School of Design
Providence, Rhode Island
Masters of Industrial Design
2023-2025

California College of the Arts
San Francisco, California
Studied in Masters of Industrial Design
2020-2021

Parsons, The New School
New York, New York
M.A. Fashion Studies
2015-2017

CSU, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
B.A. Fashion Merchandising
2010-2015

SKILLS

Materials & Fabrication
Biomaterials Research (Mycelium, Silk)
Sustainable Design & Circular Systems
3D Printing & Prototyping
Weaving, Knitting, Textile Construction
Material Experimentation & Testing
Technical Tools
Rhino, SolidWorks (CSWA Certified), Keyshot
Arduino, Physical Computing
CLO3D, Adobe Creative Suite
Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)
Research & Lab Practice
Experimental Protocol Development
Chemical Handling & Lab Safety
Observation, Documentation, and Analysis
Interdisciplinary Collaboration & Communication
Core Competencies
Systems Thinking
Creative Problem Solving
Project Management
E-textiles & Wearable Technologies

EXPERIENCE

Rhode Island School of Design Museum Textile Conservation Graduate Assistant
Providence, Rhode Island | September 2024-May 2025

- Assisting with the cleaning, repair, and stabilization of textile artifacts
- Assisting with condition assessments and creating reports
- Preparing textiles for exhibition, including assisting with installation and deinstallation

MIT Beaver Works Summer Institute
Teacher Assistant- E-Textiles
Cambridge, Massachusetts | June 2024-Aug 2024

- Assisted the lead instructor in delivering the E-Textiles and Wearable Technology course in partnership with the Advanced Functional Fabrics of America Institute (AFFOA).
- Supported hands-on demonstrations and guided students through the prototyping of textile-based wearable technology projects.
- Provided one-on-one mentorship to students in the design and creation of wearable technology, ensuring successful project outcomes.

Advanced Bio Design Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Peter Yeadon/ Yeadon Space Agency
Providence, Rhode Island | Sep 2023 - May 2025

- Contributing to advanced research in biomaterials and biosystems, focusing on bio-enabled and living systems.
- Assisting in designing and conducting experiments, applying problem-solving skills to address failures and improve outcomes.
- Documenting findings and images using Scanning Electron Microscopy.

Silklab, Tufts University
Designer and Visiting Scientist
Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts | Jun 2023 - March 2024

- Conducted independent research on living systems and material behavior, culminating in *Object of Care*, a project in which I partnered with silkworms to study their natural spinning processes and explore applications in biologically driven fabrication.
- Designed custom scaffolding and environments to guide silkworm weaving behavior; analyzed interactions between silk, structure, and spatial constraint.
- Supported lab-based experiments led by PhD researchers; gained practical experience in chemistry protocols, safe chemical handling, and documentation practices.

ASICS
Product Development Intern
Boston, Massachusetts | Jun 2023 - Aug 2023

- Developed 'Harmony', integrating heat technology into product design.
- Conducted market research, aligning product development with industry trends.
- Demonstrated skills in creative concept execution and prototyping.

Nike Inc.
Production Coordinator
Los Angeles, California | Jan 2019 - Jan 2020

- Managed production processes, ensuring adherence to timelines and quality standards.
- Resolved production issues, demonstrating strong problem-solving capabilities