

# Adithya Ravi

## Artefact Designer

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### Summary

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Artist and designer who creates artefacts that are informed by social theory and philosophical thought. Designs objects that use technology and human interaction to engage people in social critique and reflection. Currently pursuing a Master of Design at the IIT Institute of Design, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

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### Work Experience

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#### IIT Institute of Design / Teaching Assistant

March 2020 - May 2020, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Laura Forlano in a class called Designing Futures. Having taken this class the previous semester (Fall 2019), I was to lend my exposure to alternate design approaches, experimental design methods, critical theory and speculative futuring in order to guide, assist and critique student work.

#### IIT Institute of Design / Teaching Assistant

October 2019 - December 2019, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Teaching Assistant for Prof. John Cain and Prof. Todd Cherkasky in a class called "Introduction to Design Practice" that aims to help graduate-level students in the Foundation program develop a contextual understanding of the design practice through the lens of design history and STS studies. My role included assisting the students in writing their final papers, having conversations with them, individually, to help them engage with theoretical content and conduct organised reading discussions within the class.

#### IIT Institute of Design / Research Assistant

October 2019 - December 2019, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Research Assistant on the "Flag Calumet" project under Prof. Carlos Teixeira. The project builds on the systemic theory and field work done by previous cohorts. The goal for this semester was to develop a constructivist artefact that helped to monitor and develop with brownfield areas and engage communities in the Calumet region. My role was to advise the team on and execute the technological function of the artefact and subsequently present the artefacts to communities within different contexts and document their responses, socially and individually, to the artefact.

#### Fulcrum Global Technologies Inc. / Summer Associate for User Experience Design

May 2019 - August 2019, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Fulcrum Global Technologies Inc. is a firm that develops digital solutions for large law firms. Their Summer Associate Program is geared towards organising young students at Undergraduate and Graduate levels of study into interdisciplinary teams to create new product solutions for the professional services industry. I worked with a team of very talented engineers and a business management student to create an individualised relationship assistant for lawyers. The assistant was focused on helping lawyers maintain a more robust and active relationship with their clients.

### **Illinois Institute of Technology / Teaching Assistant, InterProfessional Program (IPRO)**

September 2018 - December 2018, Chicago, Illinois, USA

The IPRO Program at the Illinois Institute of Technology is meant to disseminate design methodologies to undergraduate and graduate students from various departments like Biomedical Engineering, Psychology and Information Technology. My work as a teaching assistant was to guide the students towards using the design methods, such as research analysis, synthesis of research to insights and prototyping methods.

### **Skola Toys Pvt. Ltd / Product and Educational Artefact Designer**

May 2015 - June 2018, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Skola Toys Pvt. Ltd. is a toy design firm in Bengaluru, India that uses the Montessori Philosophy to develop commercial toys for the purpose of education. As I pursued my Undergraduate degree in design for creative education at Srishti Institute of Art Design and Technology (University of Mysore Affiliated), I worked with Skola Toys to help them develop a number of educational artefacts. My own goal with the design of these artefacts was to develop them to nurture "tangible ways of knowing" within the knowledge ecology of the home environment.

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## **Education**

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### **IIT Institute of Design / Master of Design (M.Des)**

August 2018 - May 2020, Chicago, Illinois, USA

GPA: 3.57/4.0

My graduate degree in design at the IIT Institute of Design is focused on the use of social theory to create artefacts that engage audiences in social critique and reflection.

### **Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology (University of Mysore) / Bachelor of Design, Creative Education**

July 2014 - July 2018, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

GPA: 6.78/10.0

My undergraduate degree in design began with a focus on Industrial Design and then pivoted to the design of educational artefacts for children in the age of three years to 13 years. My work involved understanding pedagogical theory and knowledge ecologies to develop robust, engaging and tangible learning experiences.

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## Papers and Projects

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### **Emendated Social Narratives / October 2019**

Chicago, Illinois, USA

This essay was written in support of a number of projects that I am working on that deal with the relationship between the “human” and “non-human”. The scope of this paper deals with the examinations of alternate characterisations of technology in social narratives.

### **Towards a poetic approach to design / Published on the IIT Institute of Design Publication via Medium**

Chicago, Illinois, USA

This ongoing paper is a project that defines the scope of a new philosophy of design that is inspired by the practice of poetic reflection. Design has classically been a medium of intervention into societal situations of conflict in an attempt to resolve the situation. What would the essence of a design practice, defined by the innocence and coercion to reflect that is characterised in poetry, be?

Read the paper at the following [link](#).

### **Notes on the nature of objects and their creation / Ongoing**

Chicago, Illinois, USA

This series of reflections is based on observations and a priori ruminations on theory that decode the relationship between humans and the creation of objects in their environments.

### **Identitas / January 2019 - May 2019**

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Identitas is a project that I completed under the guidance of my graduate advisor, Zachary Pino. It uses technological objects that were fabricated and modelled to reflect human identities as metamorphosing traits that evolve and emerge as a result of contexts and interactions that we have with other people. The objects themselves were simple modules of electronic circuits that were programmed to have certain “character traits” (introversion, responsiveness, openness and so on) but could also adopt or change their traits depending on the frequency of contact they may have with a specific agent within the environment.

### **Centering our Values / August 2019 - December 2019**

Chicago, Illinois, USA

The *Centering Our Values: A guide to making dementia care decisions together* project is part of a 16-week Communication Design Workshop at the Institute of Design/ Illinois Institute of Technology during the Fall 2019 semester. The project resulted in the creation of a toolkit of exercises and resources that would support the decision making process of caregivers of dementia patients, specifically pertaining to the African-American

cultural context. My own role was specifically pertaining to the creation of research guides, documenting interviews with various experts and caregivers of people experiencing dementia, coding research data and curating and managing content for the final toolkit, specifically pertaining to requisite grade levels for readability. This work was supported in part by the University of Chicago Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence and the SHARE Network. This project was accepted for presentation at the American Geriatrics Conference 2020 and will be published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. It was also accepted for presentation at the Graphic Medicine Conference 2020. Both these conferences were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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## Skills

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- Observational Research Methods
  - Critical Thinking and Reasoning
  - Academic Writing
  - Creative Writing
  - Creative Direction
  - Conceptual Direction
  - Prototyping
  - Multimedia Fabrication
  - Manufacturing Processes
  - Storytelling
  - Visual Modelling
  - Three-Dimensional Modelling
  - Ethnographic and Alternate Research Methods

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## Extracurricular Work and Achievements

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### Theatre

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Studied theatrical performance, the craft of delivering text and drama under the tutelage of English theatre veteran Phyllis Bose at "The Studio". Completed three grades of the Trinity Guildhall Foundation Level Examinations in "Speech and Drama" and "Performing Text" at the Trinity College, London with Distinction. Certificates and grade sheets for these examinations are available on request.

### Writing

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Have been accepted and subsequently participated in two creative writing workshops conducted by renowned Indian authors Anita Nair (Anita's Attic) and Anjum Hassan. A short fiction piece written by me was subsequently published by Anita Nair in her publishing house, Attic Books, debut venture. Certificates of participation are available on request.

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## References

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Available on request.