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# Robin Cass

College of Art and Design  
Rochester Institute of Technology

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## Education

- 1998                      **MFA - Master of Fine Arts - Sculpture**  
New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University
- 1993                      **BFA - Bachelor of Fine Arts - Sculpture/Glass**  
Rhode Island School of Design

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## Leadership & Academic Experience

1998 - Present              **Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)**  
College of Art and Design  
Faculty

AUG 2021 - JUNE 2022    **American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow**  
Hosted by Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)

Areas of focus:

- change leadership and management
- access and equity in campus-based learning
- high-impact community partnerships
- cultivation and assessment of social and emotional competencies

The ACE Fellows Program is a “*customized learning experience that enables participants to immerse themselves in the study and practice of leadership. Participants experience the culture, policies, and decision-making processes of another institution...This unique program condenses years of on-the-job experience and skills development into a single year. As a result, the ACE Fellows Program is the most effective, comprehensive leadership development program in American higher education today.*”

<https://www.acenet.edu/Programs-Services/Pages/Professional-Learning/ACE-Fellows-Program.aspx>

JUL 2020 - AUG 2021    **Provost’s Associate for the Integration of Technology, the Arts, & Design**

Led institutional strategy development around programming at the intersection of three disciplinary realms, Technology, the Arts, and Design (T/A/D), in order to strengthen student success and drive institutional distinction.

This initiative is a central tenet of RIT’s strategic plan as well as a signature priority of the president. Our work involved collaboration with campus leaders across all nine RIT colleges and the leadership of a cross-institutional faculty team to conduct extensive deliberation and stakeholder outreach. The project included the engagement of experts from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) as well as the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) to advise and share best practices with the campus community. The final report constituted a high-level plan for institutional transformation involving structural, policy, and cultural changes.

APR 2017 - JUN 2019

## **Interim Dean**

**College of Art and Design** (previously “College of Imaging Arts and Sciences”)

Served as chief academic, fiscal, and administrative officer for a college comprising approximately 160 full-time faculty, 75 staff members, and combined undergraduate and graduate enrollments of over 2,000 students. Responsibilities included management of a 25 million dollar budget and oversight of the college’s 14 degree programs.

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### **SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Cultural Improvement**

Achieved significant cultural improvement in faculty and staff engagement and satisfaction. This involved transitioning the college from a flat organizational structure to a multi-layered one that empowered unit heads to access budgetary information and be directly involved in merit compensation processes. Other key actions include increasing transparency of college leadership decision-making through extensive stakeholder engagement.

#### **Enrollment & Marketing Communications**

Enriched traditional enrollment management processes with targeted, college-level outreach through social media engagement. Implemented this strategy by establishing a new college-based marketing and communications team. Achieved success with an outcome of a 12% increase in undergraduate deposits and a 42% increase in transfer student deposits in the second year.

#### **Fundraising & Industry Partnerships**

Oversaw attainment of over 5 million dollars in support of the college. Developed innovative donor engagement strategies that provided patrons with unique experiences and opportunities to connect with students. Built critical industry partnerships with companies including Autodesk and Wacom. Recovered neglected relationships with valuable prospects and transformed them into fruitful partnerships.

#### **Strategic and Operational Alignment**

Aligned college priorities with the overall institutional mission and operations through the development of comprehensive strategic academic and space plans. Brought about financial clarity and compliance by partnering with the university’s central financial leadership to create a new financial management position for the college.

#### **Community Engagement**

Established a new urban gallery and event venue, RIT City Art Space, in the heart of downtown Rochester to connect the college with the community through creativity. Leveraged this high-profile showpiece to increase visibility for the suburban university and provide experiential learning opportunities for students. Helped drive the city’s burgeoning economic and cultural revival by establishing an anchor tenant at the edge of an area ripe for urban renewal.

#### **Internationalization**

Continued to cultivate meaningful international partnerships in Asia and Europe for faculty and student exchange, recruitment, and other collaborative enterprises. Initiated and formalized an institutional alliance with the International Foundation Course of the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), China’s premier art school, making RIT only the fifth American partner.

AUG 2016 - MAR 2017

## **Senior Associate Dean**

### **PRIMARY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- Undergraduate curriculum development and implementation
  - Learning outcomes assessment progress reporting

- Self-study process for university academic program review
- Co-direction of decennial National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation process for BFA and MFA programs
- Study abroad programs and international academic relationships including MOUs, affiliation, and partnership agreements
- Representation of the college on the Provost's Council for the Representation and Engagement of Women Faculty
- Supervision of First-year Core/Foundations Coordinator and Scheduling Officer

FEB 2014 - JUL 2016      **Associate Dean**

SEP 2012 - JAN 2014      **Administrative Chair, School for American Crafts**

- Coordinated four specialized areas, each with BFA and MFA programs
- Initiated extensive alumni relations and development efforts
- Directed self-study and strategic planning process
- Developed partnerships and student exchanges with schools in China, Japan and Europe

2010 - Present              **Full Professor**

2008-2010                  **Associate Professor**

2003-2008                  **Assistant Professor**

2000-2003                  **Visiting Assistant Professor**

1998-2000                  **Adjunct Faculty**

## Professional Associations

2021 - Present              **Association for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru)**

Editorial Board - Groundworks

"Groundworks promotes research-based, interdisciplinary collaborations through rigorously peer-reviewed presentation of arts-inclusive work, and guided reflection on the processes that support them. It aims to support a robust, critical community of practice in support of such work, while sharing best practices for interdisciplinary collaboration to ever wider spheres of practice, within and without the academy." <https://a2ru.org/groundworks/>

2019 - Present              **National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)**

Trained Accreditation Evaluator

2019 - 2021                  **College Art Association (CAA)**

Member of the Education Committee

Developing resources and programming around best practices and current issues in post-secondary art education. Current areas of focus for programming include:

- trauma-informed pedagogy
- learning outcomes assessment
- online learning management systems (LMS)
- disciplinary integration

AUG 2011 - MAR 2017      **Glass Art Society (GAS)**

Board of Directors

Elected to serve two 3-year terms for this international professional organization

- served as treasurer on the executive committee for 2 years
- programmed international educational events for students
- reviewed proposals and programming for annual conferences
- wrote for various organizational publications

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## Professional Development

2019	<b>Harvard Graduate School of Education</b> Cambridge, MA MLE - Management and Leadership in Education
2018	<b>Council for the Advancement &amp; Support of Education (CASE)</b> Vancouver, BC Development for Deans and Academic Leaders
2016	<b>Harvard Graduate School of Education</b> Cambridge, MA MDP - Management Development Program

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## Professional Artistic Practice

I am fascinated by the human inclination to seek out and gather odd and novel objects for personal contemplation and public display; an urge exemplified by the "WunderKammer" or cabinets of curiosities of Renaissance Europe. Ironically, the qualities that animate living organisms are highlighted by captivity and containment; the rigid materials associated with collection and display serve as effective foils for the luminous softness of living flesh. The most prized specimens in any collection are those that diverge from the norm or defy classification. Although it is our nature to categorize and define, we relish the sense of wonder that accompanies an enigma. As an artist, I am essentially making my own confounding oddities to entice and perplex the viewer.

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## Select Grants, Fellowships & Residencies

JUN 2019	<b>Henry Ford Museum</b> Dearborn, MI Visiting Artist in Residence
AUG 2016 - MAY 2017	<b>Rochester Institute of Technology Connect Grant</b> <i>part of the "Advance RIT" initiative funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF)</i> <b>RIT Women's Research Colloquium Series presented by The Council for the Representation and Engagement of Women Faculty (CREW)</b> Principal Investigator, Co-PI's - Betsy Dell, Callie Babbitt, Dhireesha Kudithipudi, and Stephanie Ludi
AUG 2014 - MAY 2015	<b>Rochester Institute of Technology Provost's Learning Innovation Grant (PLIG)</b> <b>The Digital Hand: Integrating CAD &amp; Rapid Prototyping into Material Arts Education</b> Principal Investigator, Co-PI - Jane Shellenbarger
AUG 2010 - FEB 2011	<b>Osaka University of Art</b> Osaka, Japan Visiting Artist Residency
JUN 2008, JUN 2005	<b>Tacoma Museum of Glass and Center for Contemporary Art</b> Tacoma, WA

Visiting Artist Residency

2006, 2002, 2000

**New York State Arts and Cultural Council**

Monroe County

Four Special Opportunity Stipend (SOS) grants in support of solo exhibitions

JUN 2002 - AUG 2002

**Seto City Cultural Center**

Seto, Japan

Visiting Artist Residency

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**Select Solo Exhibitions**

2017

**If Anything Happens...**

View Arts Center, Old Forge, NY

Collaborative installation with Bill Klingensmith

2015

**Menagerie**

Axom Gallery, Rochester, NY

2011

**Curious Growths**

Shift Gallery, Seattle WA

2007

**Yield**

Alexander Brest Museum, Jacksonville, FL

2006

**Consumption**

Tittot Museum of Glass, Taipei, Taiwan

2001

**A Slight Breach**

Bromfield Gallery, Boston, MA

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**Select Group Exhibitions**

2015

**FLOW / GROW: Qingdao Contemporary Glass Art Exhibition**

Qingdao, China

Qingdao Archives & Research Center for Contemporary Art

2008

**A Gathering of Contemporary Glass**

Rockland, ME

Farnsworth Museum of Art

**Clear Your Mind: Contemporary Glass Invitational**

Davenport, IA

Figge Art Museum

2007

**Contemporary Glass Invitational**

San Bernardino, CA

Fullerton Art Museum

2005

**International Glass and Ceramic Art Festival Exhibition**

Aichi, Japan

Seto City Cultural Center

2002

**American Educators Exhibition**

Taipei, Taiwan

Tittot Museum

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## Select Presentations and Workshops

- 2015                    **Central Academy of Fine Arts - International Foundations Program**  
Beijing, China  
external reviewer and visiting critic
- 2015                    **Alfred University**  
Alfred New York  
Parallel Frequencies collaborative group - career panel
- 2014                    **Fabrica (Benneton's art and design research center)**  
Treviso, Italy  
artist lecture <http://vimeo.com/110460113>
- 2012                    **Glass Art Society Conference**  
Toledo, Ohio  
"Embodied Learning: Intelligence of the Making Body" panelist
- 2010                    **Hong Kong Baptist University**  
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong  
lecture and demonstration
- 2010                    **Osaka Junior College**  
Osaka, Japan  
lecture and demonstration
- 2010                    **Nagoya University of Art**  
Nagoya, Japan  
lecture
- 2010, 2002           **Aichi University of Education**  
Kariya, Aichi, Japan  
lecture and demonstration
- 2010                    **Tama University**  
Tokyo, Japan  
lecture and demonstration
- 2010                    **Kent State University**  
Kent, Ohio  
workshop instructor
- 2008                    **California College of Arts**  
Oakland, California  
lecture
- 2008                    **San Jose State University**  
San Jose, California  
lecture, workshop instructor, visiting critic
- 2008, 2002           **National College of Art & Design**  
Dublin, Ireland  
workshop instructor
- 2008, 2004, 2002   **The Studio of The Corning Museum of Glass**  
Corning, New York  
instructor

2005, 2002	<b>Pilchuck Glass School</b> Stanwood, Washington workshop instructor
2003	<b>Jacksonville University</b> Jacksonville, Florida workshop instructor
2002	<b>Kook Min University</b> Seoul, Korea lecture, workshop instructor, visiting critic
2000	<b>Haystack Craft School</b> Deer Isle, Maine workshop instructor
1994	<b>UrbanGlass</b> Brooklyn, New York Vessel as Canvas

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## In progress

2019 - Present	<b>Northeastern University</b> Doctoral studies in pursuit of an Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership (ABD)  <i>Dissertation: Exploring the relationship between arts-integration and undergraduate STEM student attainment of communication skills</i>
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