

Juliet Shen

Seattle, Washington

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Juliet Shen was born and raised in New York City and has resided in Seattle since 1983. After working in local design firms for eight years, she opened Shen Design, eventually concentrating on typeface design. Projects of note included a font for Lushootseed based on traditional Salish aesthetic sensibilities; a font for Oxford University Press early childhood education publications; and a collaboration with Sakkal Design to produce a multi-lingual font harmonizing the Arabic and Latin alphabets.

Juliet studied oil painting as a child with Dick Ralph and in the 1960s with Richard Mayhew, as well as attending the Cooper Union School of Art in the 70s. Joining the Duwamish River Artists Residency in 2012 prompted her return to painting full time. She closed the design firm in 2012 and retired from teaching typography in 2015. Juliet currently works with Chinese brush and ink, watercolor inks and acrylics. Her paintings have been acquired by Tacoma Art Museum, and the portable art collections of Portland, Oregon, Seattle Public Utilities, King County, 2+U and Horizon House.



“My work is about the life-affirming transformations I observe in nature: new life arising from decay; resilience to catastrophe; surface chaos masking underlying unison. I paint on paper—every stroke leaving a mark that can’t be undone—much like the effect of human actions on the environment. I believe the natural cycle of life and death is benevolent and therefore intrinsically moral. We alienate ourselves from nature at our own moral peril.

My *Transient Chaos* series is based on multidirectional water currents and their patterns of resolution. *Transient Chaos 6*, included in this show, was inspired by the saltwater lagoons of Ebey’s Landing on Whidbey Island.”

Juliet Shen

Education

- 2006 Master of Typeface Design, with Distinction, University of Reading, UK.
- 1973 Certificate of Fine Arts, The Cooper Union, NY
- 1972 Bachelor of Arts, Sarah Lawrence College, NY

Career timeline

- 2012–2022 Member, Duwamish River Artists Residency.
- 2006–present Independent font designer.
- 2016–2020 Founding member, CoDraw Seattle.
- 2011–2022 Contributor, letterpress broadsides interpreting poems by pediatric patients at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Produced by the School of Visual Concepts and Seattle Arts & Lectures’ Writers in the Schools Program.
- 2009–2014 Board of Directors, Society of Typographic Aficionados
- 1999–2015 Typography instructor, School of Visual Concepts, Seattle, WA
- 1989–2012 Owner, Shen Design, Seattle, WA

Recent art exhibitions

- 2023 *BIMA Spotlight*. Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. Juried group show.
- 2023 Leonard Brothers Fine Art, Mount Vernon, WA. Salon style group show curated by David Kane.
- 2023 *Rim of Fire*. The Lakeshore, Seattle. Group show curated by June Sekiguchi.
- 2022 *80 Days in August: 10 Years Duwamish River Artist Residency*. AMcE Creative Arts. Group show.
- 2022 *Life From Decay*. Vashon Center for the Arts. Solo show. Curated by Lynann Politte.
- 2022 *A Fecund Forest*. The Garage Studio Gallery, Seattle. Solo show.
- 2022 *Juliet Shen*. Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Tacoma. Solo show. Curated by June Sekiguchi.
- 2022 Annual Juried Group Show, Gallery 110, Seattle. Curated by Emily Zimmerman.
- 2022 *New Landscapes*, University of Washington Elisabeth C. Miller Library. Solo show.
- 2021 *CoDraw Seattle*. Shift Window Gallery. Group show.
- 2021 *Free-for-All*. The Lakeshore, Seattle. Group show curated by June Sekiguchi.
- 2021 *Sheltering in the Studio*. Ida Culver House Broadview, Seattle. Group show curated by June Sekiguchi.
- 2020 *Earth, Wind & Fire*. Ida Culver House, Broadview, Seattle. Group show curated by June Sekiguchi.
- 2019 *Log noun (1) often attributive (loosely interpreted)*. BallardWorks. Group show.
- 2019 *CoDraw Seattle*. Columbia City Gallery. Group show.
- 2018 *Watercourse*. Atlas Arts, Seattle. Solo show.
- 2018 *Selected Works*. Adobe Waterfront Gallery, Seattle. Solo show.
- 2018 Tukwila Arts Commission Juried Show. First prize in *Environment* category.
- 2018 *On the Other Hand: Text in Abstraction*. North Seattle College, Seattle, WA. Curated by Amanda Knowles.
- 2017 *New Paintings*. Solo exhibit at Urban Hardwoods, Seattle, WA.
- 2017 *Russia, Mother Russia*. Shoreline Public Art Gallery, Shoreline WA. Group show curated by Chris Crites.
- 2016 *Into the Woods*. Gallery i.e., Edison, WA. 3-person show, featuring the No. Cascade series.
- 2016 *Out of Drawers*. Gallery i.e., Edison, WA. Salon-style drawing exhibition.
- 2016 *60 WuXing Snapshots*. Solo show at Foundry Annex, Corvallis, OR.
- 2015 *Littoral*. Solo exhibit presented by Cullom Gallery at Studio e Gallery, Seattle.
- 2015 *Northwest in the West: Exploring Our Roots*. Tacoma Art Museum group survey exhibition.
- 2015 *The Duwamish Residency: Process and Artifact*. Gallery4Culture group show.
- 2014 *A Wetlands Affair*. Solo show at Elisabeth C. Miller Library, University of Washington Botanic Gardens.
- 2013 *Duwamish River Artist Residency*. North Seattle College Art Gallery group show.

Artist residencies

- 2022 Vashon Artist Residency, Vashon Island, WA.
- 2015, 19 Willapa Bay AiR, Oysterville WA.

Typography

Selected writing and bibliography

- 2018 Author of "Native American Fonts and Tribal Sovereignty," *Book Club of California Quarterly*, 2018.
- 2017 Lushootseed Sulad included in *Type is Beautiful: The Story of Fifty Remarkable Fonts* by Simon Loxley.
- 2011 Author of *Searching for Morris Fuller Benton*. Limited edition letterpress book produced by Sherwin Beach Press. In private collections, the Library of Congress, and various university libraries.
- 2011 Author of "Aesthetic Innovation in Indigenous Typefaces". *Glimpse Journal*, Issue 7:Text.
- 2007 Author of *Resurrection of a Reliance*, documenting the refurbishment of a 19th century iron handpress.
- 2006 Author of *Of What Consequence, Design? The Intial Teaching Alphabet*. (www.typeculture.com)

Book design

- 2019, 17 *Art + Industry: Roots That Clutch,*
Art + Industry: LaFarge,
by Duwamish River Artists Residency
- 2012 *Up Fanno Creek*, by Eric L. Lindstrom

Font design

- 2016 Awan Zaman (with Mamoun Sakkal)
- 2009 Lushootseed Sulad (Tulalip Lushootseed Dept.)
- 2007 OUP Earlybird (Oxford University Press)
- 2006 Bullen (TypeNetwork)



Juliet Shen
2020
Transient Chaos 3
22 x 30 in



Juliet Shen
2023
*This Could Be
The Start of
Something New*
39 x 120 in