

COVER LETTER

DATE:

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TO:

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FROM:

Russell Pinkston

To whom it may concern,

Thank you so much for your interest in my portfolio.

I am currently enrolled as a graduate student at the North Carolina State University College of Design, where I am pursuing a Master's degree in Art & Design. My focus is on human-centered design research methods—specifically, the ethical and ecological ramifications of design on the world's cultures and the natural ecosystem. I believe that design and culture are inextricably bound and that we can arrive at better futures through sustainable design that begins at the cultural level. I am using methods of Design Anthropology and Co-Design to study the ways people interact with each other and their environments, applying these findings to theories of Human-Computer Interaction and UX design for virtual and augmented reality.

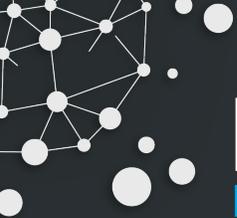
Though originally from Raleigh, NC, I have lived in London, New York City, Los Angeles, and Japan. I have also traveled extensively, and my experiences in different parts of the world have given me a keen understanding of life and an openness to other cultures. My passion is creativity—I am curious by nature and always looking for work that utilizes the abilities of the human mind. As a student, I learn and understand very quickly and possess an overall calm and patient demeanor and a strong eye for detail. As a worker, I understand the value of reliability and possess a diligent work ethic and a strong sense of responsibility and reason.

In my personal life, I enjoy backpacking and hiking outdoors, and I am an avid cinephile and audiophile who can always offer good suggestions for eclectic films and music.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy the work in my portfolio and that we can work together in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Russell Pinkston



EDUCATION

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE UNIVERSITY

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE UNIVERSITY

SKILLS

SOFTWARE

RESEARCH

DESIGN

MASTER OF ART & DESIGN - Raleigh, NC

Currently enrolled as a graduate student in the NCSU College of Design
 Expected Graduation: May 2021

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DESIGN STUDIES - Raleigh, NC

Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA)

- Editor of The Student Publication
- Commencement award for "Excellence in Research and Scholarship"

ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD

Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, After Effects, Premiere Pro, XD, Dreamweaver

OTHER PROGRAMS

Windows, OSX, Linux, Android, Virtualbox, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Oculus, Vive, Windows Mixed Reality, Unity, Steam, Processing, WondaVR, Firefox, Chrome, MS Office, Slack, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram

WRITING

Professional journalism, published essays, creative writing, screenwriting, blogging

DESIGN THINKING

Researched and written several papers on Design Thinking, Human-Centered Design, Design Anthropology, Humanitarian Design Practices, Co-Design, Human-Computer Interaction, Usability Testing, Design Ethics, the history of Western hegemony in design methods, and best practices to de-colonize design

DATA VISUALIZATION

Led and collaborated on projects to analyze and visualize massive datasets on housing and income inequality, immigration, and fair trade practices. Led a project dissecting and mapping metadata from Wikipedia

GRAPHIC & WEB DESIGN

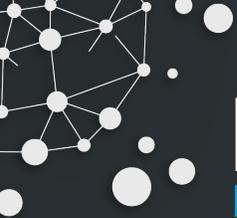
Worked for several years as a graphic designer, creating branding, logos, and advertising for local businesses, including dozens of websites using HTML, CSS, Javascript, and Wordpress

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

Professional filmmaking (camera, lighting, art design), Photography, and photo editing

CRAFT

Experience with printing, plotting, cutting, screen printing, dying, 3D printing, laser cutting, wood working, and other various tools of design



RUSSELL PINKSTON

HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

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russpinkston.com
russpinkston
Raleigh, NC

EXPERIENCE

LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION

CREATIVITY

PROBLEM SOLVING

CULTURAL APPRECIATION

WORK HISTORY

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT
Aug 2019 - Present

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Jul 2006 - Present

WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY
Jan 2015 - Aug 2016

FILM PRODUCTION
Feb 2005 - Aug 2014

LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION

- Collaborated with groups both large and small on creative projects at the University and Professional levels.
- Led Undergraduate courses, teaching and mentoring students through complex projects and theories
- Served as editor of The Student Publication, the nation's oldest student-led design journal, coordinating ideas between contributors and designers into a cohesive product
- Managed dozens of employees at a time in fast-paced creative environments

CREATIVITY

Experience working creatively in many different fields, including:

- writing screenplays and short stories
- film composition, production, post-production and art design
- graphic design and data visualization.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Developed personal practices for thinking, brainstorming, and analyzing in non-traditional ways that draw from a variety of experiences to approach wicked problems from unique perspectives.

CULTURAL APPRECIATION

Lived in major cities all over the US and abroad. Exposed to many vastly different cultures and peoples who have instilled the values of respecting and sharing the cultural knowledge of humanity.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY - Raleigh, NC

Currently employed as a Teaching Assistant at the NCSU College of Design, working alongside tenured professors to teach core classes for the Design Studies Undergraduate major
www.design.ncsu.edu

FREELANCE GRAPHIC DESIGN - Los Angeles, CA/Raleigh, NC

Worked for several years as a graphic designer in Los Angeles and Raleigh, with a portfolio comprising a range of branding, web design, and graphic art projects
www.russpinkston.com

THE DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE - Raleigh, NC

Frequently contributed to this local, monthly publication, writing articles highlighting small businesses and their benefit to the community
www.welovedowntown.com

FREELANCE FILM PRODUCTION - London, UK/Los Angeles, CA

Spent several years studying film composition and working in the film industry in London and Los Angeles in a range of responsibilities
Writer | Director | Editor | Camera | Art Department