

ELIZABETH ULANOVA

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EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Master in Landscape Architecture Candidate - M.L.A

August 2021 - December 2023

Honors: Harvard GSD Fully Funded Dean's Merit Scholarship+Tier 1 Grant for top-ranked students that covers 100% tuition, Harvard Innovation Lab Spark Grant Award (3X Awarded, 2x Highest Amount), Harvard GSD ASLA 2023 Conference Travel Grant, Harvard GSD Fully Funded Community Service Fellowship (Harvard JCHS Fellowship)

Independent Studies (ADV-9201) Final Research Presentations:

- Fall 2023 Urban Design Research: "Not Just For Kids: An Inquiry Into The Foundations, Benefits, and Design Interventions Of Play Equity For Adults: Advocating For the Fundamental Right to Play For Adults and the Creation of Playful Spaces As A Holistic Design Approach For Urban Well-Being. Supervisor: Karen Janosky (Program Director) and Belinda Tato
- Fall 2022 Art, Architectural History Research and Visual Artistic Exhibition: "Alchemy: Between The Past and Magic" Supervisor and Reviewer: Ed Eigen and Gary Hilderbrand (Chair)

Landscape Architecture Core Studio Final Design Presentations:

- Core 3, Landfill Design: PlayScape Renewal: Transforming Rumney Marsh Landfill and Nahant Garbage Dump Into A Public Space For Natural Play
- Core 2, Cemetery Design: Project Re(Generation): A Cemetery for the Future
- Core 1, Park Design: Project Synthesis: A Park to Recover

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Master of Philosophy - M.Phil, Sociology of Media and Culture

October 2019 - November 2020

Honors: The Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Twining Egginton Prize, Downing Graduate Conference (Select Research Presenter), Downing College MCR-SCR Seminar (Select Research Presenter), Downing College Twining Egginton Exhibition (Select Art Exhibitor), Downing College Cedar Tree Exhibition (Select Art Exhibitor), Seton Cavendish Bequest Grant.

Thesis: "The Influence of Social Media on Modern Romantic Relationships". Supervisor: Dr. Rikke Amundsen

Activities and Societies: Downing College MCR, Cambridge Tap and Jazz Dance Society, Cambridge Technology and New Media Research Cluster, Cambrovision. Initiated the creation of the first-ever art studio for students use at Downing College (first student beta user), and the first student to propose an art residency.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Bachelor of Arts - B.A, Visual Art, Magna Cum Laude, 3.86 GPA

September 2016 - May 2019

Honors: Magna Cum Laude (High Honors/Great Distinction), Dean's List, Leadership Service Award, Senior Thesis Stipend Award, Senior Thesis Studio, Independent Study (Department Chair, Matthew Buckingham), Tuition Scholarship, Junior Marshall Selectee, Spectator Senior Profile. 2021 Columbia Magazine (Owl Alum Feature). First-Generation Students Advisory Board, Undergrad Orientation Leader & Peer Mentor

Thesis: "Clashings of Art, Culture, and Technology in a Digital Anthropological-World". Supervisor: Nicola Lopez (Program Director) and Matthew Buckingham (Chair)

Activities and Societies: Ivy Council National, Ivy Council Steering, First Generation Student Advisory Board, Orientation Leader, Peer Mentor, Ivy Policy Conference, Ivy Leadership Summit, Spring Gala Design Co-Chair, Apollo Society, Latin Dance, One For The World

CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications: HSK Level 5 Certification of Mandarin Chinese Fluency,

Hanban Credential ID H51312066193

(Achieved December 2013)

SELECT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

GIRLS IN RESEARCH

LOCATION: REMOTE

Co-Founder and Executive Director

April 2024- Present

-An ed-tech social enterprise that aims to empower the next generation of world-class researchers. "Where every idea has the power to change the world". Join Girls in Research today and be part of a global movement where diversity fuels innovation. Together, we are empowering young women everywhere to lead, create, and inspire.

PROJECT ACCESS INTERNATIONAL

LOCATION: NEW YORK, LONDON, AUSTRIA

Co-Head of US Expansion September 2018 - August 2019

A global London-based non-profit, education startup with 20+ country teams and partnered with top universities and companies. Co-led the American expansion as a social entrepreneurship startup in strategy, partnerships, product and business development, and marketing. Highlights include: co-founding 5 ivy league campus teams and research task team

IVY LEAGUE COUNCIL NATIONAL

LOCATION: NEW YORK

National President Emeritus January 2017 - May 2019

-Elected from regional conference director to national president in 1.5 years. President Emeritus ('18-'19), National President ('18), National Vice President of Technology ('17-'18), Columbia Head Delegate ('17), and IPC Director of Technology ('17). Led executive efforts that oversaw all 8 Ivy League chapters, annual conferences, policy, operational, publication, and international ventures including 30 officers and 1,300 members.

SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

LOCATION: CAMBRIDGE, MA

Visitor Services Team & Permanent Staff Member | April 2024 - Present

-The List Visual Arts Center, MIT's contemporary art museum, collects, commissions, and presents rigorous, provocative, and artist-centric projects that engage MIT and the global art community. -Customer service, public speaking, curatorial and educational tours

HARVARD INNOVATION LABS AND RECESS.VIP

LOCATION: CAMBRIDGE, MA

I-Lab Venture Member of I-Lab and Founder of Recess | May 2023 - Present

-Built the startup Recess at I-Lab Venture Incubation Program select cohort as team of 1. Successfully launched pilot games of Boston pop-ups in Summer 2023 with detailed, diverse user feedback. 4k+ in Cash Prize Grants from Harvard (3x Spark Grant Award). Market research, business development, product prototyping, social media marketing, product research, web design, built 2 collaborations with exterior agencies to host pop-ups, web design, customer communication

INDUSTRY LAB

LOCATION: CAMBRIDGE, MA

Solo Artist-in-Residence | June 2023 - September 2023

-Organized community engagement initiatives for over 100 residents, including hosting lectures and events.

-Created, curated, and presented an exclusive month-long exhibition with receptions

CULTUREHOUSE

LOCATION: SOMERVILLE, MA

Community Design Intern & Harvard JCHS Fellow | June 2023 - August 2023

-CultureHouse is an urban design non-profit studio that improves livability in local communities by transforming underutilized spaces into vibrant social infrastructure.

-Data collected on design sites, made design renders for urban design studio projects, event planning for hack day, project research, wrote articles, internal and external communication,

HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

LOCATION: CAMBRIDGE, MA

Graduate Teaching Assistant | September 2022 - December 2022

-Fall 2022: Teaching Assistant (HIS4141) at Harvard Graduate School of Design for Histories of Landscape Architecture I with Professor Edward Eigen for 80 graduate students

RICHI CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION AND PENPAIRS.ORG

LOCATION: BOSTON, MA

Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Founder of Penpairs | March 2016 - August 2016

-Richi's first ever EIR, first American employee and youngest employee. Worked directly with both Richi's president as well as executive board on initiatives such as Richi's Social Entrepreneurs and Richi's Summer Immersion (social incubator). Supported 15 of Richi 2016 Immersion' portfolio startups that ranged from education to digital tech in social media, strategy, pitch building, and research. Built startup "PenPairs", business modeling, research, design and prototyping

ARTISTIC EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES

- 2024 - TBA "Boston Voices", The Napkin Poetry Review + Soho House Boston, Laisun Keane Gallery, Boston, MA, April 25th, 2024, Curators: Caroline King and Courtney Jacobovits
- 2024 - "In Pursuit of Well Being", Industry Lab, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 29 - Friday, April 12, 2024, Curator: Zoe Zoë Kustritz
- 2024 - "March Outspoken Saturdays" Boston GBH BPL TV Filming Studio - Poetry & Spoken Word. Curator: Amanda Shea
- 2024 - "Boston Voices", The Napkin Poetry Review, Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, Boston, MA, Jan 25th, 2024, Curators: Caroline King and Courtney Jacobovits
- 2023 - "Swan Song", Sidewalk Video Gallery, Fountain Street Fine Art, November 2-29, 2023. Curator: Marie Craig
- 2023 - "New Language: Contemporary Abstraction", National Juried Exhibition, Gallery 263, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 12 - November 4, 2023. Jury and Curator: Daniela Rivera
- 2023 - "Fluid Memory," Solo Artist Residency Exhibition, Industry Lab, Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 18 - September 15, 2023. Curator: Justice McDaniel
- 2023 - "Harvard University Graduate School of Design Studios & Seminars Spring 2023" (For STU1112), Druker Design Gallery, Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 2023.
- 2022 - "Alchemy: Between the Past and Magic," Solo Independent Study Exhibition (For ADV9201), Gund Hall, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, Massachusetts, December 2022. Reviewers: Gary Hilderbrand and Ed Eigen
- 2021 - "Design Award 2021 Exhibition" A + D Architecture and Design Museum, Los Angeles, California (In Collaboration with Anna Stevens as writer for Steven's "Palka" exhibit).
- 2020 - "Twining Egginton 2020 Exhibition" Heong Gallery, Cambridge, England (Covid Canceled), Jury and Curator: Vicky Ambery Smith
- 2020 - "Twining Egginton 2020 Exhibition" Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England (Virtual Exhibit), Jury and Curator: Vicky Ambery Smith
- 2020 - "Cedar Tree Exhibition" Battcock Lodge, Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England. Jury and Curator: Vicky Ambery Smith
- 2018 - "Fall 2018 Senior Thesis Presentation", Leroy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University, Manhattan, New York. Curator: Nicola Lopez and Serra Bothwell Fels
- 2018 - "Fall 2018 Visual Arts Department Exhibition" Prentis Hall, Columbia University, Manhattan, New York. Curator: Nicola Lopez
- 2018 - "Spring 2018 Visual Arts Department Exhibition" Prentis Hall, Columbia University, Manhattan, New York. Curator: Nicola Lopez
- 2017 - "Fall 2017 Visual Arts Department Exhibition" Prentis Hall, Columbia University, Manhattan, New York. Curator: Nicola Lopez
- 2017 - "Spring 2017 Visual Arts Department Exhibition" Prentis Hall, Columbia University, Manhattan, New York. Curator: Nicola Lopez

SELECT PRESENTATIONS & PRESS

- 2024 - TBA Research Presentation on Playful Design Interventions, Harvard GSD Design Research Forum, April 18th, 2024
- 2023 - Press, Summer 2023 Fellows, [Harvard University Joint Center For Housing Studies](#)
- 2023 - Lecture: Artist Show and Tell: Elizabeth Ulanova, Industry Lab, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 2022 - Lecture: "On Zhang DaQian and Alchemy: Between the Past and Magic", Independent Study Exhibition, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 2022 - Guest Lecture, "On Chinese Cultural Implementation, Desecration, and Exportation", HIS 4141: Histories of Landscape Architecture I: Textuality and the Practice of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University Graduate School of Design
- 2021 - Press, Notable Alumni, Alumni Notes, The Owl Magazine, Columbia University
- 2020 - Lecture, "The Influence of Social Media on Modern Romantic Relationships", Downing Graduate Conference, Downing College, University of Cambridge
- 2020 - Lecture, "Social Intimacy In An Age of Technology Inspired Culture", MCR Seminar, Downing College, University of Cambridge
- 2019 - Press, "Elizabeth Ulanova Is Where Art Meets Technology Meets Axe Throwing", The Eye Feature, Columbia Daily Spectator, Columbia University

TRAVEL & SELECT SKILLS

- **Travel:** Lived in cities all over the US as well as in Asia, and Europe. Visited countries on 5 continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, Americas, Oceania). Fluent in Mandarin Chinese.
- **Business:** business modeling, strategic planning, pitching, social media marketing, public speaking, team-building, management, product research, communication
- **Media:** canva, strikingly, illustrator, rhino, photoshop, typing, mac+pc adept, cadmapper, lasercutter, 3D printing, final cut pro, Nikon D3300, Canon 70D, scriptwriting, mixed media, fine painting, sculptural fabrication, ink drawing, graphic rendering.

SELECT ACADEMIC RESEARCH

"Not Just For Kids: An Inquiry Into The Foundations, Benefits, and Design Interventions Of Play Equity For Adults: Advocating For the Fundamental Right to Play For Adults and the Creation of Playful Spaces As A Holistic Design Approach For Urban Well-Being"
Harvard University Graduate School of Design | September 2023 - December 2023

- Design and psychological research paper. Conducted utilizing empirical cases, in-person interview and discourse analysis. Topics: play equity, design interventions, psychological health, urbanism.
- This scholarly inquiry undertakes an exploration of the paradigm of 'Adult Play Equity', challenging prevailing notions that restrict play to the domain of childhood. Through an analysis of its definition, importance, and inherent characteristics, the paper illuminates the profound advantages that play confers upon adults, spanning realms such as mental health, physical vigor, and social-emotional development.
- Supervisor: Karen Janosky (Program Director) and Belinda Tato
- Conference Presentations: 2024 - TBA Research Presentation on Playful Design Interventions, Harvard GSD Design Research Forum, April 18th, 2024

"The Influence of Social Media on Modern Romantic Relationships"
University of Cambridge / England | Jan 2020 - August 2020

- Conducted utilizing empirical cases and discourse analysis. Topics: new media, digital tech, political culture, media psychology.
- A graduate sociology research thesis at the University of Cambridge, Department of Sociology. Supervisor: Dr. Rikke Amundsen
- The role of social media technology has had a profound influence on modern romantic relationships in the past decade. This dissertation critically reviews empirical literature from the field of new media studies (situated within the broader field of media and communications) that focus on the heightened impact of social media usage in the beginning to maintenance stages of romantic relationships. Moreover, gaps in the current literature are explored, such as limitations in the demographics and romantic relationship stages that are analyzed for data collection.
- Conference Presentations: October 2020 (Cambridge University Downing Graduate Conference), January 2020 Cambridge University Downing College MCR-SCR Night

"Color. Celebrity. Clout. The Privilege of Media Representation: Social Opacity in an Age of #MeToo"

University of Cambridge / England | Jan 2020 - March 2020

- A graduate sociology field review at the University of Cambridge, Department of Sociology.
- Supervisor: Dr. Rikke Amundsen
- A critical analysis of how social media movements such as #MeToo are a shocking, yet crucial reminder of the deeply embedded epistemologies still in place in society today. Privileged structures may be invisible, but are always present.

"Clashings of Art, Culture, and Technology in a Digital Anthropological World"

Columbia University / New York | January 2018 - December 2018

- A studio-based honors thesis composed of a series of original short films, kinetic art installations, and academic inquiry.
- Conducted via both Columbia University visual arts honors senior thesis I (advanced video) & senior thesis II studio and honors independent studies.
- Projects supervised by Matthew Buckingham (department chair), Nicola Lopez (department director), Serra Victoria Bothwell Fels, and Sondra Perry.
- Exhibitions: 2018 - Leroy Neiman Gallery, Manhattan, New York.

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GLOBAL TRAVELER| VISUAL ARTIST| RESEARCH SOCIOLOGIST|
WRITER| DESIGNER| STORYTELLER| TECH NON-PROFIT
MANAGEMENT| MARKETING

Elizabeth Ulanova, based in Cambridge-Boston, works at the intersection of culture, art, tech, and design. Academically, Elizabeth attended Columbia University (B.A, Visual Arts, Magna Cum Laude), the University of Cambridge (M.Phil, Sociology of Media and Culture, Twining Egginton Prize), and Harvard University Graduate School of Design (M.L.A, Landscape Architecture Candidate) as a full tuition Dean's Merit Scholar and Harvard JCHS summer fellow in urban community design. She was a graduate teaching assistant at Harvard GSD, and her current academic research focuses on the utilization of play equity as a design intervention for urban well-being. Her startup Recess (3x Harvard Spark Grant Award Recipient) at Harvard Innovation Lab currently hosts social fitness game sessions for adults that utilize playing children's games as a fresh perspective in building authentic relationships in a post-Covid world. Beginning spring 2024, Elizabeth will be taking an academic break to establish Girls In Research, an ed-tech social enterprise that aims to empower the next generation of world-class researchers.

A passionate artist and writer, Elizabeth's artistry is deeply influenced by fluid, psychological storytelling. As a survivor of domestic violence, a neurodivergent child of colored immigrants, and a first-generation American, her first love in life is the art of crafting dialogue. As a visual artist, her artistic practice is described as 'fluid memory' and she has exhibited original artworks in New York, England, and Boston. Elizabeth's artwork ranges from abstract sculptures and fluid paintings to conceptual video installations and graphic renderings. She has also performed her poetry live in spoken word form in artistic galleries, making tangible the intangible emotions one experiences. Eager to push beyond conventional limits, Elizabeth initiated her independent study at both Columbia and Harvard, and helped initiate the first student art studio at Downing College, University of Cambridge. As a sociologist, Elizabeth undertook research in the realm of new media communication, specifically exploring the influence of social media on contemporary romantic relationships.

California-born, Elizabeth is a New Yorker at heart and has lived in Asia and Europe. Elizabeth has a lifelong love for travel and has visited countries on five continents. Professionally, Elizabeth has held management positions at tech startups and education NGOs, such as National President for The Ivy League Council, and Co-Head of the US Expansion of Project Access International (New York). Prior to Columbia, she developed digital startups as the first-ever entrepreneur-in-residence at Richi Foundation (Boston), worked in business liaison, journalism, and corporate education (China), and studied Mandarin Chinese, after finishing high school early (California). Elizabeth is a proud mom of two adopted pitbulls, Brave (deceased) and Skylar, and can often be found driving with her dog.