

Cara Tuttle

Boston, MA | ctuttle@massart.edu

PATENT

Tuttle, Cara. 2016. Blast Debris Protective Harness (BDPH). Primary Patent Holder for US Patent No. 9,322,618 (utility patent), filed November 27th, 2012, and issued April 26th 2016. The BDPH was designed to protect the groin and rear areas of soldiers in the periphery of an IED explosion. It is currently used by the US Army as part of the Soldier Protection System (SPS).
<https://patents.google.com/patent/US9322618>

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Boston, Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking (May 2020)
Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design (May 2004)

EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA (1/12 - Present)

Assistant Professor teaching core and elective classes in fashion design, accessory design, pattern drafting, and color, line, and design:

- Instruct students in areas such as clothing and accessory research, design and development methods, the design process, color palette development, pattern drafting, portfolio building, resume and cover letter development, thesis statement writing, and self-marketing skills
- Lecture on the history of accessories and adornment, brand development, the elements of color, the fundamentals of design, and current trend movements
- Advise and collaborate with students on planning class schedules, and obtaining internships and jobs
- Instruct and guide seniors through the annual Kenneth Cole footwear national design competition. Two MassArt seniors were top 10 finalists in 2016, and two were top 5 finalists in 2019

US Army Natick Soldier Research, Development, & Engineering Center (Natick Labs), Natick, MA (9/10 - 9/17)

Clothing Designer for the United States Army. Designed male and female soldiers' combat clothing, protective gear, and experimental items:

- Lead a team in the design of the Extreme Cold Weather Clothing System
- Collaborated with engineers and scientists in the creation of complex and novel systems that lessen the burden on soldiers
- Performed in-depth research and concept development, illustrated designs, and created flats
- Drafted and digitized patterns using Gerber Accumark
- Created full-scale prototypes for testing before clothing items went into production
- Traveled to factories to guide them through initial production
- Performed fit testing on soldiers and special operations forces at various Army bases
- Performed quality control checks of clothing items after factory production
- Conducted trainings for my team in beginner to advanced Illustrator techniques for clothing design
- Primary patent holder for the Blast Debris Protective Harness. US Patent No. 9,322,618 issued April 26th 2016

Mount Ida College, Newton, MA (12/07 – 12/13)

Adjunct Faculty in the Fashion Design department. Taught core classes in fashion design and digital rendering to sophomores and juniors.

Reebok International, Ltd., Boston, MA (6/08 - 9/10)

Color Designer for women's sport footwear and apparel:

- Managed the women's sport color palette
- Created and delivered color palettes, and color and trend presentations to design and marketing each season
- Worked closely with design and marketing to uphold and confirm color and trend information
- Researched emerging trends in design and technology
- Traveled Europe and the United States to shop the market, observe and report on the latest trends, attend Première Vision Paris, and meet with trend service agencies to obtain the latest color and trend information

The Boston Conservatory, Boston, MA (12/03 - 04/05 and 11/06 - 4/08)

Head Draper: Performed draping, pattern drafting, garment fit, and clothing construction;

Costume Designer: Lucky Duck, 2007; Assistant Costume Designer for Akhenaten, 2005.

The Haddad Apparel Group, Ltd., New York, NY (1/06 - 12/06)

Assistant Designer for Nike Brand Boys division; Assisted with Nike Brand Girls and Levis Girls as needed

**SELECT
FREELANCE
EXPERIENCE**

Spaeth Design, New York, NY (09/05-11/05)

Draped over animatronic skeletons to create bodies and costumes for characters from *The Chronicles of Narnia* for the Macy's Holiday Window displays.

Charged Studios, Brooklyn, NY (06/05 - 09/05)

Costume Designer for Court TV's Smoking Gun TV, 2005: Designed costumes and managed the costuming process; designed and constructed several soft-sculpture puppets. Smoking Gun TV aired on Court TV in 2005 and on Comedy Central in 2006.

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

- **NC State University Textile Technology courses** on site at Natick Labs, Natick, MA (2016-2017): Intensive courses in textile technology including Textile Fundamentals, Knit and Woven Fabric Design and Development, Fundamentals of Textile Testing, and Fundamentals of Technical Fabrics
- TexWorld seminars in sustainability, NY, NY (2018)
- MassArt Faculty Incubator Training, Boston, MA (2017)
- Advanced Adobe Illustrator training at American Graphics Institute, Woburn, MA (2017)
- Gerber Accumark training at Gerber Technology, Tolland, CT (2011 & 2015): 7 days of training covering digitizing, pattern creation and manipulation, grading and alterations
- Anthropometric training to help understand improved fit and function as the body moves. Training conducted by Anthrotech on site at Natick Labs, Natick, MA (2012)

**SHOWS, EXHIBITS,
& AWARDS**

- University of Massachusetts Boston, Delores Gallo Award for Creative Development and Outreach, 2020
- Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement for significant contributions toward design solutions for a combat uniform suitable for the hot, wet climate found in the jungle environment (2016)
- US Army Natick Soldier Research, Development, and Engineering Center, Tier 1 Customer Focus Team Award for clothing design and fabric selection contributions on the Jungle Fabric Architecture Design Effort (2016)
- The New Currency Exhibit, wearable sculpture and performance, Visual Arts Gallery, New York, NY (7/09)
- The Cherry Show, charcoal drawings, The Shirey, New York, NY (10/09)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Gerber Accumark, Powerpoint, Indesign, iMovie, Word, and Excel

**PRESENTATIONS
& SCHOLARLY WORK**

Speaker: "Designing a Toolbox to Improve Creative Output: A Guide for Cultivating Critical, Creative, and Conceptual Thinking Skills in an Increasingly Distracted Society", CG Scholar's Fifteenth International Conference on Design Principles & Practices, 2021

Tuttle, Cara, "Designing a Toolbox to Improve Creative Output: A Guide for Cultivating Critical, Creative, and Conceptual Thinking Skills in an Increasingly Distracted Society", 2020. Critical and Creative Thinking Capstones Collection, University of Massachusetts Boston, Scholarworks.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/cct_capstone/381