Selected Creative & Professional Works

Ciara Parkhurst

Instructor - Graphic Designer - Visual Artist

Creative Practice & Approach

My creative practice explores typography through fragmentation and layering, using digital and analog processes to reconstruct visual forms. Memory, place, and language shape my work as I examine how typography conveys meaning beyond its traditional function.

My professional graphic design practice applies these interests to visual communication and problem-solving. I approach design through research and experimentation, considering how typography and composition influence interpretation.

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Deconstructed Type Specimen Sheets

Print - Adobe Illustrator

16 x 20 in. - 2025

Explores typography through fragmentation and rearrangement. Digitally dissected letterforms create abstract compositions that challenge conventional forms and meaning.



Dissecting Type's Personality Series: C

Digital, Analog - Mixed Media

4.5 x 9 in. - 2025

Transforms fragmented letterforms into three-dimensional compositions through digital and physical processes. Laser-cut layers are painted and assembled to create volume and movement. Color, shape, and shadow reveal the unique personality of each letterform.





process image - frame transitions

Fleeting Fragments

Digital - Adobe Illustrator

Projection - 2025

Investigates fragmented typography through motion. Digitally altered letterforms dissolve into shifting geometric compositions. The looping projection uses grayscale transitions to reflect the fleeting nature of meaning and form.





process image - letter layout

5 W's Abstraction

Digital - Adobe Illustrator
17 x 11 in. - 2023

Investigates the modularity of typography through the five W's: who, what, where, why, and when. Letterforms are rearranged within each word's initial "W." Repetition, color, and negative space create rhythm and balance within the compositions.



Spicy Time

Mixed Media

5 x 11 in. - 2022

Uses spices to build letterforms that match the word's meaning. Different colors and textures give each letter its own look. The work turns the word into a simple tactile experience.



I AM HERE

Mixed Media Lamp

11 x 11 x 13.5 in. - 2023

Explores the importance of being present in the moment. Illuminated letterforms spell “I AM HERE” through a three-dimensional structure. The light and surrounding shadows reinforce awareness of the present and one’s place in it.

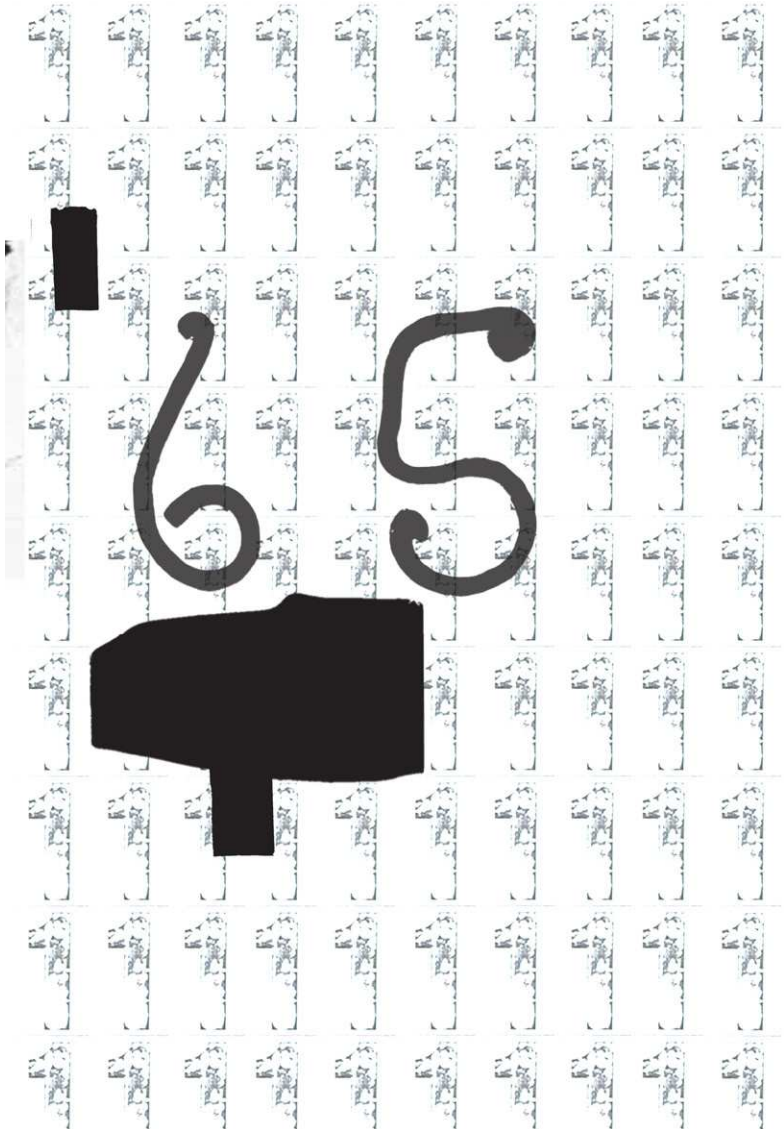


Speak Up

Digital

24 x 36 in. - 2024

Explores the emotional weight of language and the influence of memory and perception. Digitally fragmented letterforms deconstruct the phrase “speak up,” transforming personal frustration into abstract compositions. The overlapping forms and disrupted typography reflect internal conflict while reclaiming control over the phrase’s meaning.



St. Augustine Impressions

Digital

11 x 17 in. - 2024

Explores numerical abstraction through photographs of signage collected in St. Augustine, Florida. The composition transforms everyday typography into abstract forms that reflect the visual character of a particular place.

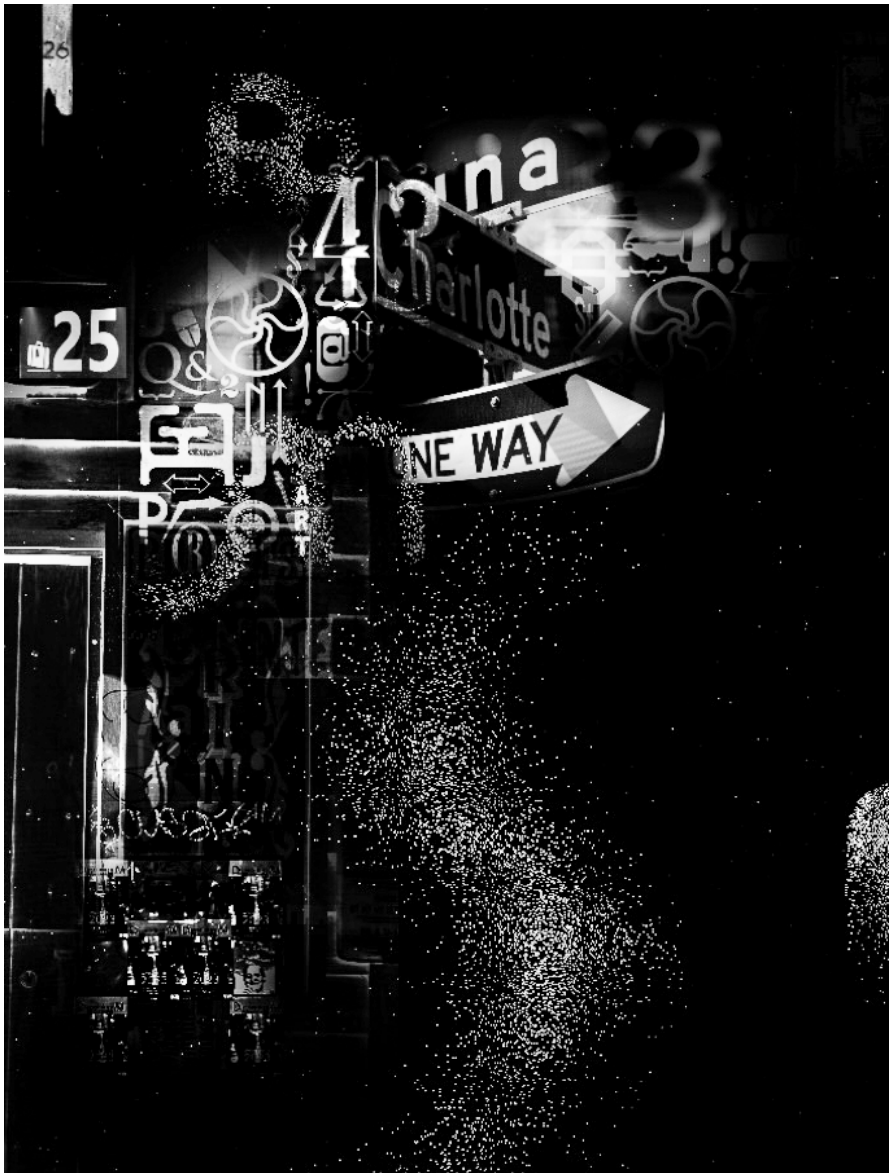


Minty Mind Map

Digital, Print - Adobe Photoshop

15 x 15 in. - 2023

Captures racing thoughts through layered typography and imagery collected in Seattle, Washington. Fragmented signage and shifting tonal values connect unrelated experiences. The composition reflects how memories come into focus and fade over time.



Ambivalence

Digital, Print - Adobe Illustrator
36 x 43 in. - 2023

Examines the conflicting emotions of having family in Washington and Florida and the inability to remain close to loved ones in both places. Layered signage and environmental fragments connect memories from each location. The composition reflects the tension between belonging to two places and having to choose one.

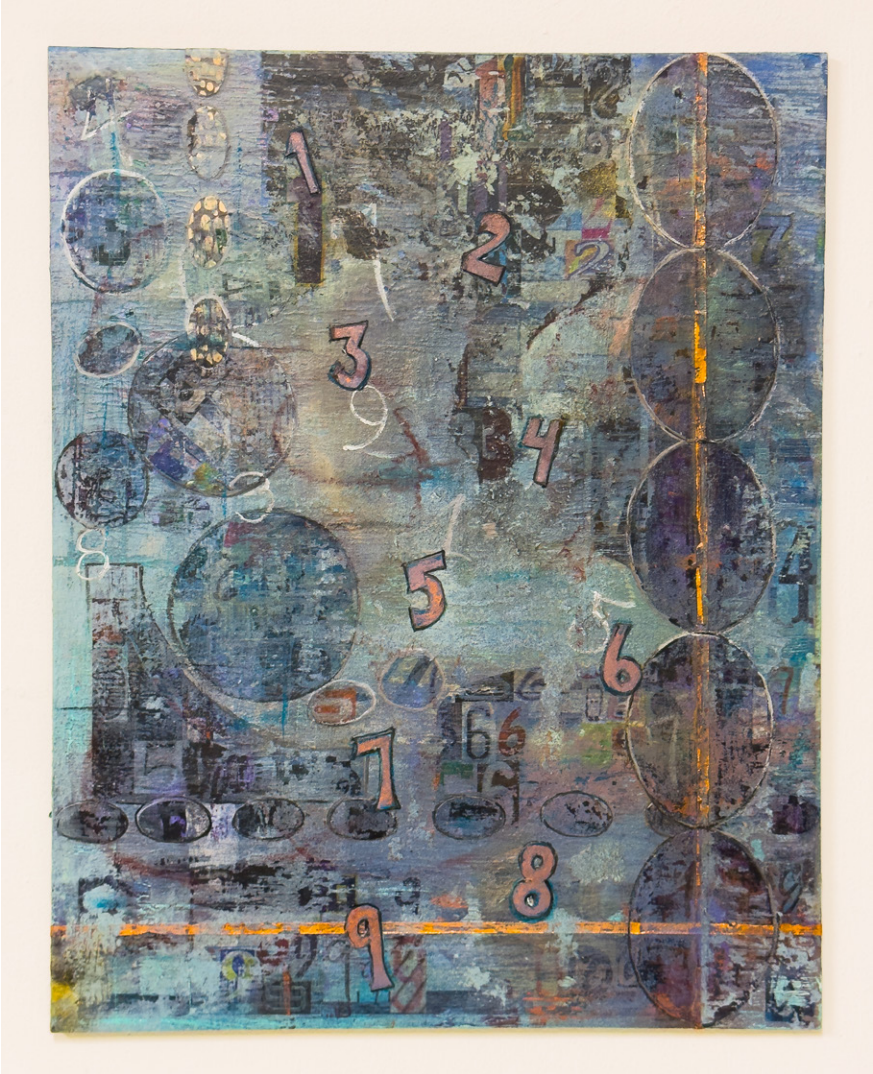


Numbers in My Days

Digital

23 x 36 in. - 2024

Examines numbers collected from everyday experiences and how their meanings shift depending on context. Layered photographs highlight differences in form and texture. The fragmented composition reflects how memories fade and change over time.



Numeric Relief

Mixed Media

16 x 20 in. - 2024

Explores the comfort and stability found in counting numbers. Layered materials and childlike number shapes reflect a habit developed during childhood. Vertical and horizontal lines create a sense of structure, while the collage represents how numbers bring calm to an overwhelming environment.



Think

Mixed Media

25 x 25 in. - 2025

Combines physical ephemera collected throughout graduate school, including unfinished projects and discarded prints. Layered fragments transform unused materials into a new composition.
The work reflects how abandoned ideas can inspire new creative directions.

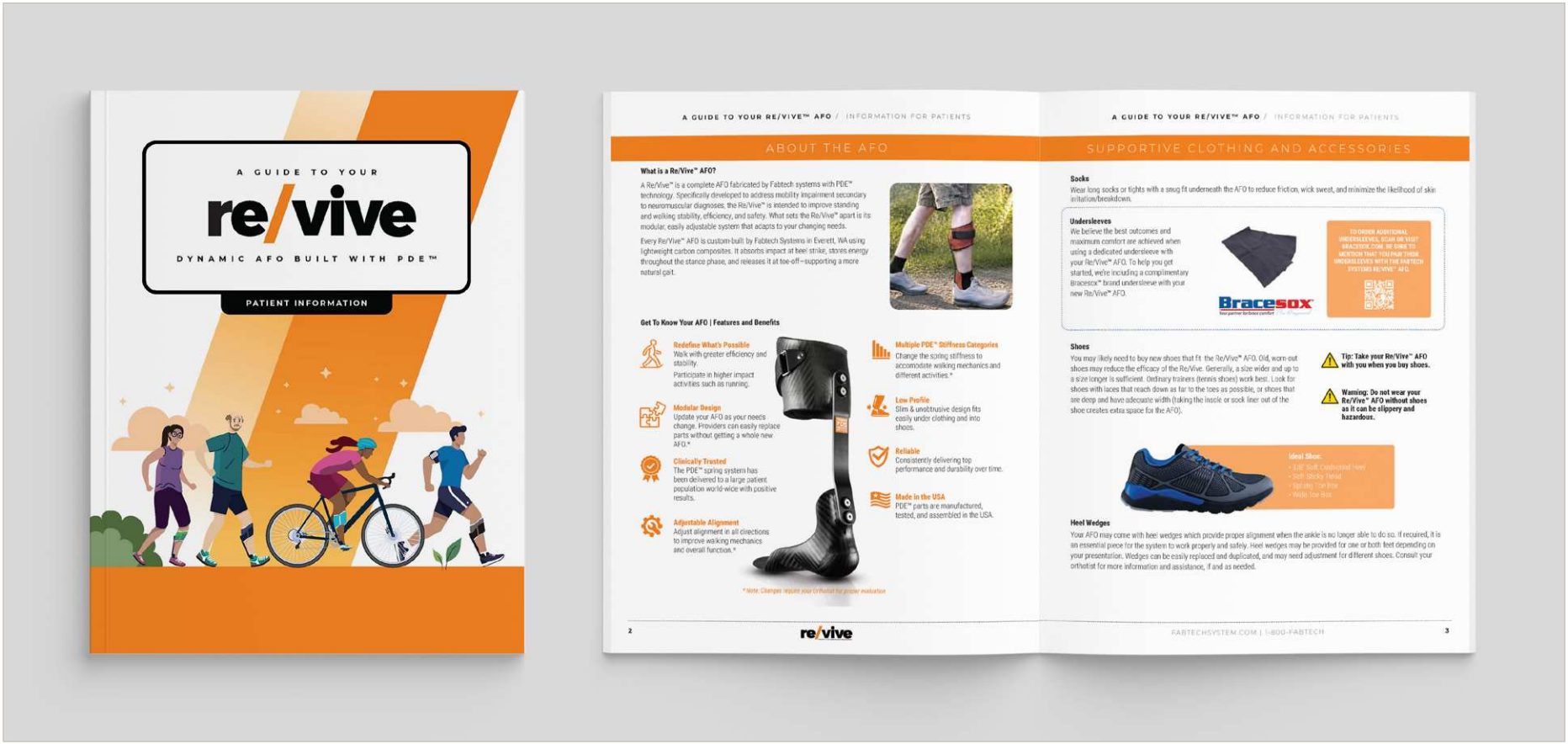


Art & Design Vector

Digital - Adobe Illustrator

12 x 18 in. - 2024

Commissioned artwork produced for the University of Idaho's Department of Art & Design. The design was utilized for a High School Art Exhibition hosted by the university.



Re/Vive™ Ankle-Foot Orthosis (AFO) — Patient Information Guide

Editorial Design & Print Publication - Client: Fabtech Systems - 2026

Designed a patient information guide for Fabtech Systems' Re/Vive™ AFO product. The layout combines illustrations, product photography, and clear typography to make technical information accessible to patients. The final booklet provides guidance on product features, proper use, and supportive accessories.

RIDENBAUGH GALLERY





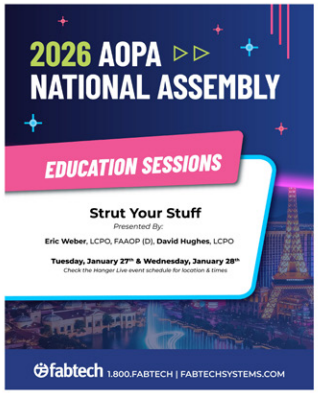


Ridenbaugh Gallery Identity

Visual Identity & Environmental Graphic Design - Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop - 2024

Developed a visual identity for the University of Idaho's Ridenbaugh Gallery, inspired by the building's architectural features. Simplified geometric arches reflect the gallery's windows, while university colors and typography maintain brand consistency. The final design extends across gallery signage and promotional materials to establish a recognizable identity.



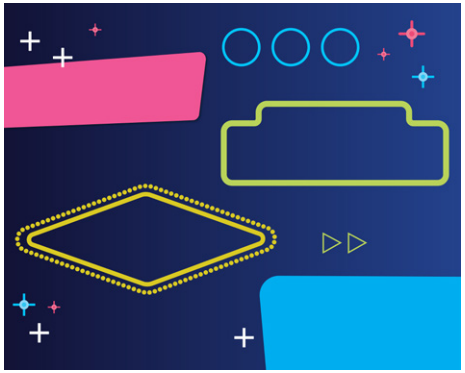


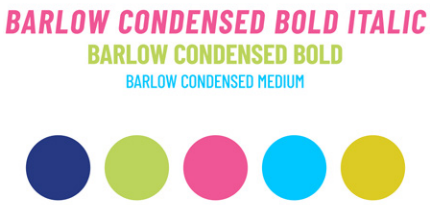












AOPA 2026 National Assembly — Digital Media Kit

Digital Campaign & Event Marketing Design

Client: Fabtech Systems - 2026

Developed a digital media kit to promote Fabtech Systems' attendance at the 2026 AOPA National Assembly in Las Vegas.

Bold typography and vibrant colors reflect the event's location. The campaign includes social media graphics, email banners, and digital advertisements to maintain a consistent visual identity across platforms.





ONE Makes a Difference — Digital Campaign

Campaign Identity & Digital Marketing Design - Client: Washington State University Athletics - 2022

Developed a campaign logo for the Washington State University Cougar Athletic Fund to promote athletic giving. Student-athlete photography is layered within bold typography to emphasize the impact of individual contributions. The design was applied across social media, game-day graphics, and website updates to maintain a consistent campaign identity.





University of Idaho — Strategic & Implementation Plan

Editorial Design & Multi-Page Publication - Client: University of Idaho, College of Art and Architecture - 2024

Custom typography, geometric elements, and a consistent color palette create a cohesive visual identity. The multi-page layout uses visual hierarchy to organize institutional goals and priorities. The design presents complex information in a clear and accessible format.









Fabtech Systems — 25th Anniversary

Anniversary Branding & Digital Marketing Design - Client: Fabtech Systems - 2026

Developed a 25th-anniversary logo to celebrate Fabtech Systems' history of innovation and partnership. The design incorporates the company's branding with commemorative typography and graphic elements. The anniversary identity was applied across social media, website graphics, and digital marketing materials to maintain brand consistency.