



JENIE GAO STUDIO

Getting to the root of things to reach understanding



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This interactive, hyperlinked PDF was prepared by Jenie Gao in September 2015, for your viewing convenience and enjoyment.

Have any questions? Want more information? You may reach me at my personal email, here@jenie.org. Thank you!

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Letter of Intent



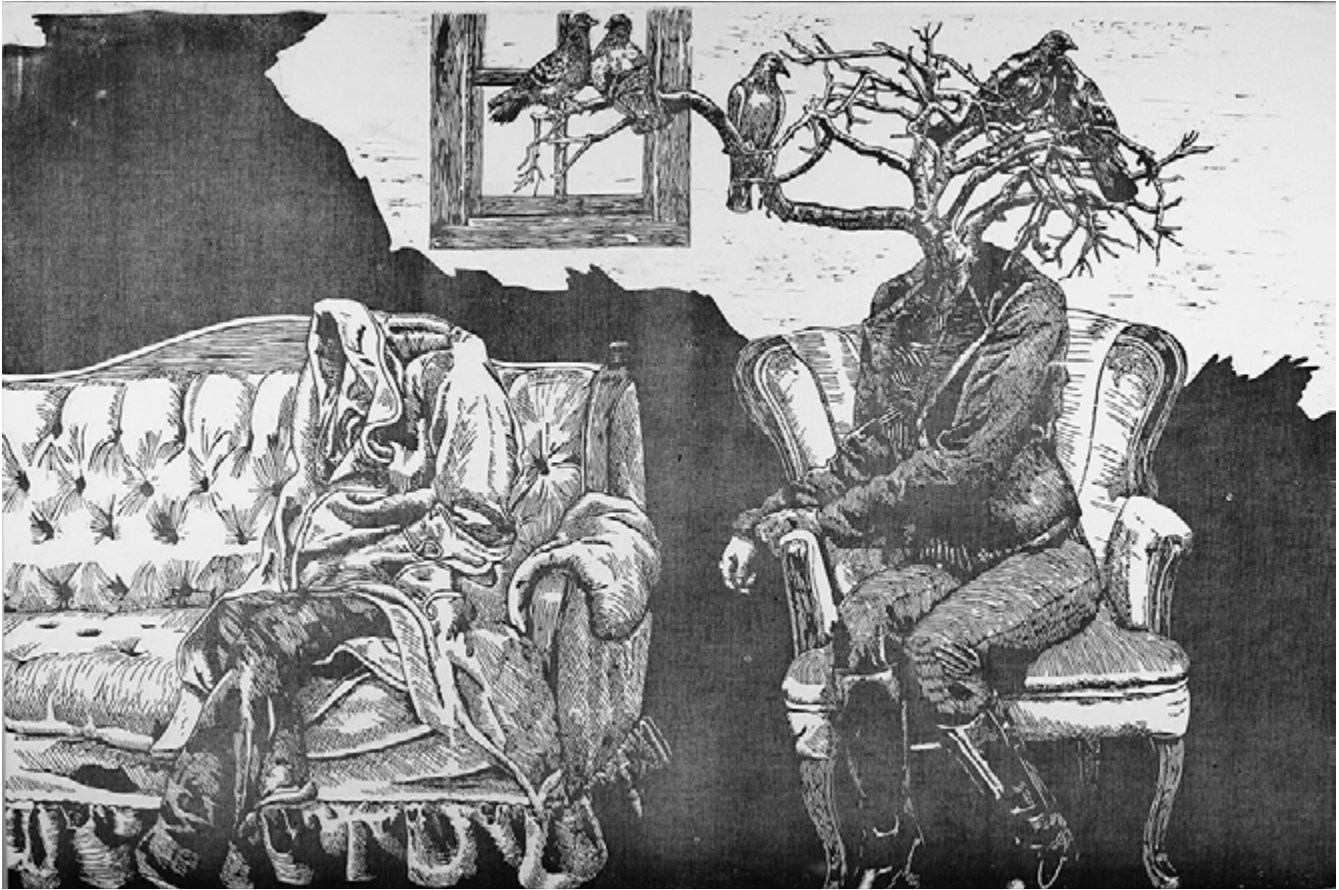
I am an artist and writer with a background in education and lean manufacturing/process improvement.

I believe the arts and humanities hold the key to sustainable social change.

Because of my work across industries, I strive to be the outside perspective and challenge conventional knowledge. I believe in the power of thinking differently to bring opposite forces together. I believe in using creativity and logic together to drive our lifelong learning and improvement. I believe in being both idealistic and realistic in setting and achieving our goals. I believe it is possible to have beautiful, ethical, less wasteful, and more effective businesses and communities.

My artwork and stories are a challenge to the way we see the world around us, to teach, communicate, and change for the better.

Selected Images: Artwork of Jenie Gao



Attention, woodcut on canvas, 40 x 60 inches



For Your Charming Lack of Content, ink and watercolor on paper, 21 x 33 inches

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Counter Intuition, ink and watercolor on paper, 20 x 30 inches



The Light Within Us We Do Not Use, ink and watercolor on paper, 23 x 23 inches



Our Little Freedom, ink and watercolor on paper, 20 x 30 inches



Stick, ink on paper, 14 x 10 inches

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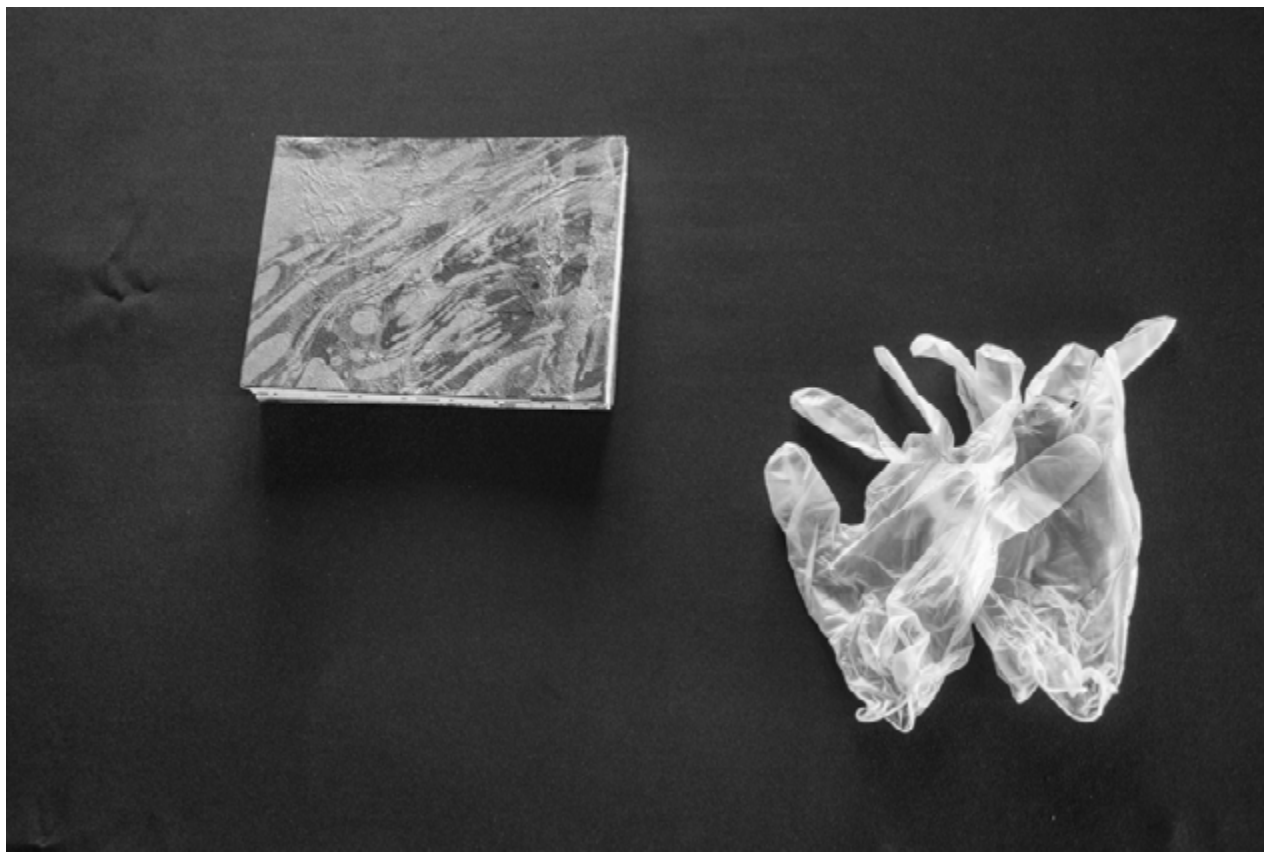
Trigger Finger, ink on paper, 21 x 15 inches



A Circulatory System, ink and watercolor on paper, 10 x 14 inches

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Artist's Book: *The Golden Cage*



Woodcut on paper with marbled cover, accordion bound, 6 x 8 inches closed, edition of 18

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Artist's Book: *The Golden Cage*



Woodcut on paper with marbled cover, accordion bound, 6 x 8 inches closed, edition of 18

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Selected Images: Events by Jenie Gao

The following images are from my solo show at Ploch Gallery of the [Sharon Lynne Wilson Center](#) in Brookfield, Wisconsin, as an example of what a show of mine might look like.

The show, entitled "Learning to See," featured work from my two residencies at [Proyecto'Ace](#) in Argentina and [Museo de Arte Moderno](#) in Chile alongside some works prior to the trip. I gave a talk during the opening reception on April 18, 2015.

You can find additional images from this and other events on my [website](#) and [blog](#).





Selected Images: Events by Jenie Gao

The following images are from one of the public events that I organized at my former studio and gallery in Milwaukee. It is to provide an example of how I would envision organizing an event around the creation and completion of the public work on the bike path.

“Here: A Show of Commitment” featured the artwork of four Milwaukee artists, Steph Davies (Waxwing owner), Zina Mussmann and Rachel Quirk (founders and curators of Greymatter Gallery), and Laura Macias Barrera (photographer). Alongside their artwork, the artists provided statements of what helps them stay persistent in both the making and sharing of their work. I chose to feature these artists because of their pursuits beyond making art itself. All four artists see themselves as active builders of the creative community they need for their art to thrive. During the reception, we also had a band, did live screen printing with audience participation, and sold the t-shirts we printed at the show.

I see organizing these kinds of events as taking on two roles:

1. The symbolic act of people coming together around a shared vision
2. The educational experience people gain by taking an active role in an organized event





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JENIE GAO

curriculum vitae

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314-757-4352

EDUCATION

2006-2010 Washington University in St. Louis, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts
BFA 2010 in Printmaking/Drawing
GPA: 3.73, Dean's List, Cum Laude
2008 CORE Student Award

CURATORIAL

2011—2014 Jenie Gao Studio & Gallery • Owner and Curator, Milwaukee, WI
Storefront studio and gallery space in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I curated group art shows, hosted and coordinated events with professional artists and college art students, and led workshops and demonstrations. Through these events, my personal studio practice became a platform for engaging, teaching, and collaborating with others.

RESIDENCIES

2015 Museo de Arte Moderno • Art Residency, Castro, Chile
Fundación 'ace para el Arte Contemporáneo • Proyecto 'ace^{PIRAR} SUB30 Art Residency, Buenos Aires, Argentina

AWARDS

2015 Madison Arts Commission • BLINK Grant Recipient for public art project, Madison, WI

EXHIBITIONS

2015 100State | 100Arts • Laika Boss, Madison, WI
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center | Ploch Art Gallery • Solo Show: Learning to See, Brookfield, WI
Fundación 'ace • Residency Show/Open Studio, Buenos Aires, Argentina
2013 Racine Arts Council • Pressing On: An Exploration in Local Printmaking, Racine, WI
2012 Greymatter Gallery • Featured Artist in Artbook: The Show, Milwaukee, WI
Cafe Lulu • Featured Artist, Milwaukee, WI
Bucketworks • Art Show & Silent Auction, Milwaukee, WI
EFFJAY PROJEKTS • Indiana Green, Sheboygan, WI
Studio Lounge • 3rd Annual INK! Show, Milwaukee, WI
2011 The Black-Eyed Press & Gallery • Featured Artist, Racine, WI
Studio Lounge • Tock with Jason Anthony LeRoy, Milwaukee, WI
Schlueter Art Gallery at Wisconsin Lutheran College • Nature by Three, Milwaukee, WI
Walker's Point Center for the Arts • Annual Members Show, Milwaukee, WI
Caggio • Two Year Anniversary Show, Milwaukee, WI
Bradley University • 33rd Bradley International Print and Drawing Show, Peoria, IL
Marshall Building in the Third Ward • Wisconsin Women in Art Show, Milwaukee, WI
2010 Dean Jensen Gallery • Big Bangs/Small Bucks Exhibition III, Milwaukee, WI
Gallery 2622 • Group Show with Stephanie Barenz and Kelda Martensen, Milwaukee, WI
Cedar Gallery • Summer Gallery Night, Milwaukee, WI
Laumeier Sculpture Park • Student Showcase, St. Louis, MO
Des Lee Gallery • No Vacancy: BFA Thesis Show, St. Louis, MO
Degiverville Gallery • Secret Identities, St. Louis, MO
Souard Art Market & Contemporary Gallery • Remastered, St. Louis, MO
2009 Washington University Art Fair • Selected Artist and Vendor, St. Louis, MO
Des Lee Gallery • Serious Business: Junior Printmaking Show, St. Louis, MO
Koken Art Factory • Naughti-Gras II and III, St. Louis, MO
Des Lee Gallery • CORE Student Exhibition, St. Louis, MO
Washington University Career Center • Crossroads Art Exhibit, St. Louis, MO

TALKS & LECTURES

2015 Sharon Lynne Wilson Center | Ploch Art Gallery • Artist Talk during opening reception, Brookfield, WI

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- 2014** The Moth grandSLAM Storytelling Championship at Turner Hall • Finalist, Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design • Artist Talk and Guest Critique for Rina Yoon's printmaking class, Milwaukee, WI
- 2013** The Moth storySLAM at Miramar Theatre • Storytelling winner of the theme, "Unintended," Milwaukee, WI
- 2012** Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design • Guest Demonstrator for printmaking professor Rina Yoon, Milwaukee, WI
Gozamos • Interview by Cierra McKissick during 3rd Annual INK! Show curated by Steph Davies, Milwaukee, WI
- 2011** BONK Performance Series • Guest Speaker invited by Nick Demske of Racine Arts Council, Racine, WI
Wisconsin Lutheran College • Guest Speaker for professor Kristin Gjerdsen, Milwaukee, WI
- 2010** Wisconsin Lutheran College • Guest Speaker for professor Stephanie Barenz, Milwaukee, WI
Carroll University • Visiting Artist and Demonstrator for professor Peggy Farrell, Waukesha, WI

ACTIVITIES

- 2015** Maker Faire • Featured Artist with UW Milwaukee & MIAD Print Clubs, Milwaukee, WI
- 2014** Milwaukee Spring Gallery Night • Fundraiser for Mid-America Print Council, Milwaukee, WI
Maker Faire • Featured Artist & Demonstrator, Milwaukee, WI
RedLine Printshop • Instructor for Woodcut Workshops, Milwaukee, WI
Bay View Gallery Night • Gao Gallery: Featured Venue, Milwaukee, WI
- 2013** The Fastest Painter in Milwaukee: Fundraiser for Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Milwaukee, WI
Print: MKE 2013 • Participating Artist & Featured Venue, Milwaukee, WI
Bay View Gallery Night • Gao Gallery: Featured Venue, Milwaukee, WI
Makerfest • Featured Artist & Demonstrator, Milwaukee, WI
- 2012** ARTVS. CRAFT • Featured Artist, Milwaukee, WI, November 2012
Bay View Gallery Night • Participating Artist & Featured Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
Print: MKE 2013, Southern Graphics Council International • Panels/Papers Committee Member, Milwaukee, WI
Bay View Gallery Night (Fall) • Gao Gallery: Featured Venue, Milwaukee, WI
Marcus Center of Performing Arts • Art at the Center: Silent Art Auction, Milwaukee, WI
Sweetwater Organics • FIRE! FIRE! A Benefit for Center Street Artists, Milwaukee, WI
Bay View Gallery Night (Summer) • Gao Gallery: Featured Venue, Milwaukee, WI
- 2011** Scholastic Art Awards—Wisconsin • Judge, Milwaukee, WI
BONK Performance Series • Guest Speaker, Racine, WI
Celebrating Brad Foundation • Steamroller at FLUX Design, Milwaukee, WI
Brady Street Festival • Demonstrating Artist at Caggio, Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee Art Museum • Demonstrating Artist
RedLine Milwaukee and Danceworks • My Other Press is a STEAMROLLER
RedLine Printshop • Instructor for Woodcut Workshop, Milwaukee, WI
RedLine Printshop Committee • Member, Milwaukee, WI
- 2010** WHAMMO Arts and Press • Member, St. Louis, MO

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015** Graphic Impressions: The Newsletter of SGC International • Featured Artist
- 2014** 365 Days 365 Artists: Collaborative Project Between Frank Juarez Gallery & Greymatter • Featured Artist
Verse Wisconsin: Midwest Remix • Featured Artist
- 2012** Bay View Compass: Opportunity and creativity along Howell • Business article, Milwaukee, WI
Artful Vagabond: Art Review • Featured Artist, Washington County, NY
Creative Quarterly: The Journal of Art & Design • Featured Artist, Brooklyn, NY
Aesthetica: Creative Works Annual 2012 • Finalist in Creative Works Competition, York, UK
Artbook MKE: Winter 11/12 • Featured Artist
- 2011** StudioSTL • Illustrator of *Walking with Skinned Knees: Stories of Perseverance*, St. Louis, MO
The Art List • Featured Artist of the Month: September 2011
ArtMail: Milwaukee • Featured Artist
SGC International: Graphic Impressions Spring 2011 • Featured Artist
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel • Mary Louise Schumacher's Art City, Review by Lonnie Turner
- 2010** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel • Reggie Baylor's Gallery Night Pick
Spires Magazine: Intercollegiate Arts & Literary Magazine • Featured Artist, St. Louis, MO
- 2009** X Magazine • Featured Artist, St. Louis, MO
ARTillery • Featured Artist, St. Louis, MO

COLLECTIONS

- 2010-2015** University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries • Special Collections, Milwaukee, WI
Fundación 'ace • Permanent Collection, Buenos Aires, Argentina
ME/TO/YOU • Print Portfolio, Martins Ferry, OH
Matthew Campbell Gallery • Permanent Collection, Greenville, SC
Washington University • Special & Rare Books Collections, St. Louis, MO
Multiple private collections in St. Louis, Milwaukee, Madison, Cincinnati, New York City, San Francisco, and others

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work resume

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EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

BFA 2010 in Printmaking/Drawing
GPA: 3.73, Dean's List, Cum Laude
Selected by faculty for the CORE Student Award

EXPERIENCE

Independent Lean Consultant

November 2014—present

Brought on board by a privately held manufacturing company in Wisconsin to streamline the process for one of their major product lines (direct mail printing) and reduce both process and material waste. Saved over \$50,000 in 4 weeks and worked with the Senior Business Process Manager to develop a strategic plan for over \$350,000 in savings, reduce the product lead time from 12 days to under 5, and run educational, interactive workshops for sustained, continuous improvement during and beyond each project's timeline;

Currently working with software company SMAGMedia based in Washington, DC, on workflows and a web project to better deliver its solutions to customers in the healthcare industry

Western States Envelope & Label • Lean Facilitator

Sun Prairie, WI, October 2013—September 2014

Lead continuous improvement projects that target plant, office, and training processes that support our expectation of producing high quality work as efficiently and accurately as possible; most recent initiative focused on eliminating paperwork and consolidating all job information to one server location; this project took six weeks, cost \$2370 in time and software to implement, and resulted in a direct annual savings of \$49,801, ROI 15 days;

Create educational materials that support team members throughout process changes and enable them to take on new roles as the organization evolves; this includes and goes beyond education in Lean tools, and one example is a computer training program that brought both English and non-English speaking team members up to computer literacy before we shifted to an all digital workflow;

Develop ways to share and analyze our metrics so team members and production managers can work together to improve production numbers, the leadership and continuous improvement teams can easily track and manage their projects, and all levels of the organization have visibility of where the company is headed;

Wrote the Core Values and supporting agreement forms of the company as a part of the company's restructuring that will dictate future hiring, firing, and promotional decisions; the values and forms focus on the quality of the people going into the roles and the leaders who will maintain the values within their own departments and teams; the values ensure that the right people receive the right roles, regardless of personal background, and that skill without good character will not allow a person to advance within the company

Western States Envelope & Label • Technical Services Representative

Milwaukee, WI, September 2011—October 2013

Began as a member of the Digital Imaging department preflighting customer artwork for orders to ensure quality printing;

Streamlined several processes that effectively reduced Customer Service errors by 30% in 3 months, which reduced proof turn times and saved \$12,000 in office consumables a year, improved communication among departments, and saved 4000 labor hours a year managing orders;

Ultimately eliminated this position by cross training production artists, implementing process improvements, and automating action lists in the artists' processes, which cut our proof turn time in half

81st Street School through Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee • Art Program Specialist

Milwaukee, WI, September 2010—October 2011

Led a pilot art program at a school that had not had art education in several years;

Created and taught daily art and art history curriculum for students ages K4-8th grades;

Sought opportunities for the students to participate in student shows, art contests, and community projects, including a show at the Milwaukee Art Museum that engaged students with the community and gained exposure for the program;

Created personalized lessons in addition to regular coursework to help individual students carry out independent projects that related to their specific interests, advanced their learning, and helped them gain hands-on experience

Connected with, planned projects with, and submitted proposals to other art and arts education professionals and nonprofit organizations to seek further opportunities resources, and funding for the students' future learning

Jamie Adams Studio • Studio Assistant/Intern

St. Louis, MO, May 2008—May 2009

Built and prepared canvases, mixed paint palettes, and worked on oil paintings;

Researched exhibition opportunities and prepared marketing materials;

Made digital, animated versions of sketchbooks in Adobe Flash that were exhibited across the nation

Galerie Bonheur • Gallery Intern

Ladue, MO, May 2008—January 2009

Documented, inventoried, and archived artworks and artist biographies;

Maintained website and correspondence with other galleries, publications, and clientele;

Designed brochures, postcards, email blasts, and newsletters for new artists, events, and merchandise;

Managed gallery finances and accounting

WAGS with Campus YMCA • Program Leader

St. Louis, MO, May 2008—May 2010

Managed volunteer schedules and training sessions at multiple animal shelters in the Greater St. Louis area;

Sought opportunities for further volunteer engagement in the community, including starting a pet food pantry for the city;

Assisted shelter staff in caring for and socializing the animals;

Planned fundraising events, designed and printed fliers and t-shirts, and promoted animal advocacy

Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum • Security Captain, Floor Manager

St. Louis, MO, August 2006—May 2010

Oversaw the schedule and a staff of 6 to 12 museum attendants during normal museum hours, special events, and new show installations to maintain the safety and security of the art collection, patrons, and personnel;

Performed daily opening and closing inspections, which included recording the conditions of galleries and facilities to ensure proper care of the art collection;

Provided information about events, lectures, and current exhibitions to visitors;

Was responsible for new employee training and ongoing training both on-the-job and in the classroom;

Wrote assessments and manuals for security training and safety procedures as a part of documenting and establishing best practices within the organization

**SKILLS
& EXPERTISE**

Lean Manufacturing Tools, Lean Facilitation, Systematic Problem Solving, change management, operational excellence, commercial offset & flexo printing, commercial digital printing, Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Acrobat, Microsoft Office, Enfocus Pitstop Pro, cPanel, XHTML, CSS, PHP, Wordpress, and various printmaking processes including relief, etching, monotype, photolithography, collagraph, screen printing, letterpress, bookbinding

Artist Biography

Jenie Gao is an artist specializing in woodcuts, ink drawings, and allegorical storytelling. Her work across industries has made her a firm believer in different disciplines working together to inform and help one another. Art is nothing without dialogue and inseparable from culture and the values that define it.

Jenie received her BFA in Printmaking/Drawing from Washington University in St. Louis. Following her studies, Jenie worked in education and nonprofit before going into commercial printing and the pursuit of a career in lean manufacturing: the reduction of waste in business operations.

In the past year, Jenie left her job at her former company to pursue her artwork. She spent the beginning of 2015 traveling to pursue two art residencies in Argentina and Chile, and has now returned to Madison with new work and new stories that challenge the way we see ourselves and the world around us, and therefore invite us to make a difference. She continues to consult in lean and sees her creative philosophies as inseparable from her vision of organizations that run more simply and beautifully.



Contact Information

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More Information

[Online CV with hyperlinks](#)

