

AYAKO ARATANI

Furniture Designer / Maker

EDUCATION

2014 - 2016	Cranbrook Academy of Art	Master of Fine Arts (MFA)	3-dimensional Design
2003 - 2007	Chiba University	Bachelor of Engineering (BE)	Product Design

CURRENT PRACTICE

2024 – Present Cranbrook Academy of Art — Studio Manager, Architecture & Industrial Design

TEACHING

2023 – Present Lawrence Technological University — Adjunct Faculty

2021 –2024 College for Creative Studies — Adjunct Faculty

Courses include Furniture & Millwork, Basic Prototyping, Casting & Construction, Process & Making, and Furniture Studio.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007-2014 Okamura Corporation, Tokyo — Furniture Designer

AWARDS

2026 NYCxDESIGN Awards — Finalist, Residential Side Table, *Wa Table in Brown Grid*

2019 UNESCO Design City — Worldwide Things Collection, *Click-Clock*

2017 Designlines Magazine — 1 of 100 Editor's Choice, *Click-Clock*

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026 Otras Formas SS/26, Otras Formas Showroom, NYC

2025 Otras Formas FW/25, Otras Formas Showroom, NYC

Objects, Sofas & Waffles, Floyd Showroom, Detroit

Warehouse Art & Design Fair, Detroit

ICFF + WantedDesign Manhattan, NYC

2023 Idea House 3, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

Stop Making Sense Plus One, Janice Charach Gallery, Michigan

ICFF + WantedDesign Manhattan, NYC

2022 Stop Making Sense, College for Creative Studies, Detroit

2021 Cranbrook Chair Show, Detroit

2020 Never Normal, Wasserman Projects Gallery, Detroit

2019 Lawless as Aratani Fay, Salon Gallery, Boston

- Edge Walkers, Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art, Harrisonburg, VA
2017 SaloneSatellite, Milan
Studio North, Interior Design Show, Toronto
2016 Collective Design, NYC

SELECTED PRESS / PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 Dezeen, "Fifteen furniture designers showcased at ICFF's Look Book 2025" [[link](#)]
2025 Stirpad, "Designing in Harmony at ICFF 2025, a global stage for human-centred design" [[link](#)]
2025 Women's Wear Daily, "NYCxDesign 2025: The Highlights" [[link](#)]
2024 The New York Times, "Reincarnating a Treasured Design Store in Minneapolis" Page 41
2024 Walker Art Center, "Studio visit with Ayako Aratani | Idea House 3" Interview [[link](#)]
2023 Walker Art Center, "From Tokyo to Pontiac: Ayako Aratani on Design, Craft, and Nature" [[link](#)]
2023 Dezeen, "Sixteen furniture designers to see at WantedDesign's Look Book" [[link](#)]
2020 Architectural Digest India "Shop" Page 157
2019 DesignWanted, "Intuitive Design – Interview with Ayako Aratani and Evan Fay" [[link](#)]
2018 Dwell, "Up-and-Coming Designers to Watch" Page 32
2018 Azure, "Detroit's Aratani Fay is Colouring Outside of Furniture's Lines" [[link](#)]
2017 Domus "SaloneSatellite 2017" [[link](#)]

SELECTED LECTURES

- 2025 Design Lecture Series, School of Design, Carnegie Mellon University