



# F A B R I C A

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To whom it may concern,

I have known JoshuaRay Stephens in my role as Head of Visual Communication Design in Fabrica, the research center on communication created by Luciano Benetton and Oliviero Toscani. Joshua was in my department for a full year from 2001 to 2002.

Intelligent, disciplined, full of interests and always ready to go beyond the expected. Joshua's capability of doing extraordinary work in interdisciplinary communication is truly amazing. His conceptual and technical abilities in video, graphic design and photography are extremely developed and his creative nature has always given excellent results in both set and self-initiated projects. Independent thinker but also very contributive to group projects.

He also has the important capacity to understand and grow from critique.

Sensitive, full of energy and honest, Joshua has true friendly manners and his constant irony and positivity make it a pleasure to interact with him.

I strongly recommend him for your consideration.

If you require any further information or details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Omar Vulpinari  
Head of Visual Communication Design Fabrica

02.03.03  
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# CRANBROOK

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**ACADEMY OF ART**

Upon appointment to the position of Designer in Residence at Cranbrook Academy of Art in July 2000, I was faced with the task of continuing the Design Department's tradition of excellence. I immediately asked Joshua Stephens to consider graduate studies in the Design Department. For the past two years, I have served as his mentor, and teacher. I simply cannot stress how impressed I have been by his sincerity, diligence, intellectual capacity and character. He has grown into an amazing designer. Hyperbole aside, Joshua is a rare individual.

I met Joshua in September of 1999 at Fabbrica in Treviso, Italy. Joshua immediately struck me as the most diligent, intelligent and articulate member of the Fabbrica studio. I was asked by Bennetton, to work with a group of their designers, filmmakers, photographers and musicians on nontraditional projects. At Fabbrica, extremely talented young men and women from all over the world were charged with working together on diverse problems. Projects included AIDS awareness campaigns, film projects and work for the World Wildlife Foundation. Joshua excelled in this environment.

I believe you would be hard pressed to find a more talented and diligent Designer than Joshua. I can unequivocally recommend him to you. He is truly a rare individual, who I believe is poised to do amazing things. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about his work, skills or character. My direct number is 248.645.3083.

Sincerely,



Elliott Peter Earls

Designer In Residence

Cranbrook Academy of Art

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COMMUNICATION DESIGN

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June 5, 2003

In support of Joshua Ray Stephens:

Joshua Stephens was an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communication Design during academic year 2002/03. He was responsible for teaching typography courses including all the necessary preparation of material relevant to the topic and instructional needs of the students. Working with Mr. Stephens I have found him perceptive, articulate and insightful. He is serious and committed in his responsibilities, demonstrating care and thoroughness in his preparation. As an educator Mr. Stephens is sensitive to the wider goals of the curriculum. He understood the level of the course and its connection to broader curriculum goals. Mr. Stephens is collegial, working closely with colleagues in the department to maintain the necessary link between his instruction and the broader goals of the curriculum.

Mr. Stephens was well prepared for his classes, on time, and capable in resolving all his responsibilities associated with his teaching appointment.

On a personal level I found Mr. Stephens an interesting and pleasant colleague. He is intelligent, well read, motivated, curious with a clear and demonstrated interest in design within a broad frame.

I feel Mr. Stephens would be an excellent colleague.

Best regards,  
Douglas Kisor  
Chair, Communication Design  
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