



Contact

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Profile

With more than 20 years of professional design and illustration experience, including 14 years working in the online educational field, I've done a bit of everything though I've always excelled at learning new skills and technology, and I particularly enjoy problem-solving, "breaking things," and streamlining production.

Skills

- Adobe Creative Suite:
 - Animate
 - Photoshop
 - InDesign
 - Illustrator
 - Acrobat
- Microsoft Office Professional
- Wordpress/CSS/HTML/MathML
- Constant Contact/newsletter design
- illustration (digital & traditional)
- creative direction
- instructional design
- interaction design
- ePub/Kindle formatting

Education

BFA: Design
Syracuse University
1994

Organizations

SCBWI
1997 - Present

Career History

Freelance Designer/Illustrator

Illumination Services, LLC, Reston, Virginia

12/2016 - present

Develops and executes creative solutions for small businesses and organizations, with a primary focus on educational materials, design, and traditional illustration. Provides design, illustration, and website layout and content support for a variety of clients and projects, primarily focused on children's entertainment and educational markets. Clients include the Alliance for Patient Access and Wisewire, Ed.

Freelance Graphic Designer

Wisewire Ed, Washington D.C. Metro

11/2015 - 12/2016

Created and implemented templates in InDesign and Microsoft Word as well as general overflow graphic production as needed. Reviewed vendor-created content for editorial, visual, and technical compliance.

Freelance Visual Designer

K12 Inc., Herndon, Virginia

2/2010 - 12/2016

Implemented graphics and mark-up coding to display individual K-12 lessons across multiple platforms, focusing on grades 6 through 10 math (Pre-Algebra/Algebra and Geometry) lesson and assessment graphics. Worked with Content Designers and Instructional Designers to create front-end K-12 curriculum components including animated teach pieces, interactive assessment items, responsive graphics, and robust lesson content. Reviewed vendor-created content for editorial, visual, and technical compliance. Specific technologies included Flash Animation, HTML5/JSON production, MathML, Adobe Creative Suite and proprietary software.

Senior Visual Designer

K12 Inc., Herndon, Virginia

7/2002 - 1/2010

Implemented graphics and mark-up coding to display individual lessons across multiple platforms for kindergarten through high school. Worked with Content Designers and Instructional Designers to create front-end K-12 curriculum components including animated teach pieces, interactive assessment items, student worksheets, and robust lesson content. Trained and reviewed vendors' and colleagues' work for editorial, visual, and technical compliance. Worked with Art Directors and Instructional Designers on product consistency through documentation, and storyboarding. Helped problem-solve and test integration and implementation of new and proprietary technology. Supported all subjects with a focus on grades 6 through 10 mathematics (Pre-Algebra/Algebra and Geometry). Specific technologies included Flash Animation, Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, and proprietary software.

Freelance Digital Artist

Starlight Children's Foundation, Los Angeles, California

5/1999 - 3/2002

Provided practical and digital illustrations for website devoted to supporting children with serious illnesses. Produced graphics and layouts for both print and online promotional items. Produced art for monthly illustration challenges.

Senior Designer

Internet Outfitters / AppNet / Commerce One, Los Angeles, California

10/1999 - 5/2001

Responsible for website design, maintenance, graphics production, animation, and HTML, and banner advertisements for client projects including work for Acuvue and Hyundai.



Recommendations

Paul Thomas
Director, Mathematics, K12
June 2006 – August 2015

"Mishka is a wonderful designer who consistently creates beautiful, accurate illustrations and interactive content. What makes her so great to work with are her passion for learning and growing as well as her ability to make sure that what she creates meets the actual need. Her passion, flexibility, and communication skills set Mishka apart."

Deb Fuller
Freelance Instructional Designer and
Curriculum Specialist

"Mishka is an excellent designer and was great to work with. She developed creative solutions to dry, bland math problems that were greatly improved with her interactives and graphics. She responded to change requests quickly and efficiently and worked with me to troubleshoot issues with graphics and interactive assets. Mishka also developed many high quality visual assets under tight deadlines with changing requirements, often helping out her fellow designers to ensure that the project didn't fall behind. She's a great person to work with and never loses her sense of humor. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Mishka for any job that comes her way."

Robert Knickman
Site Producer
Pacific Bell Interactive Media
February 1995 – July 1997

"Outstanding creative capabilities. Michelle helped make the launch of a brand a success with her intuitive design approach and can do attitude."

Career History (continued)

Freelance Visual Designer
Los Angeles, California 3/1999 - 9/1999

Website design, general graphics production, online advertising, HTML coding, digital coloring and overflow work for clients including Scholastic Books, PeopleSupport, BOHO music, On Line Design, Imigistic Media Studios, Venu Interactive

Freelance Design & Production Specialist
Mattel Media, Los Angeles, California 8/1998 - 2/1999

Responsible for overall website production, including writing HTML, and optimizing images for online publication. Produced graphics for notable Mattel products such as "Build Your Own Barbie." Converted Quark layouts and PDF documents into Web pages.

Design & Production Specialist
eToys, Los Angeles, California 1/1998 - 8/1998

Initial production manager. Helped build and maintain website, including writing HTML and optimizing images for online publication. Designed interfaces for usability including shopping cart and checkout procedure. Worked between departments to manage flow of graphics from the design staff, copywriting from editorial, and HTML from production to streamline creation of final product.

Designer and Production Specialist
idealab, Los Angeles, California 8/1997 - 12/1997

Designed prototype websites and graphics for presentation to potential investors. Notable successes include initial design and development of the weddingchannel.com website.

Freelance Graphic Designer
Los Angeles, California 12/1996 - 7/1997

Website design, general graphics production, online advertising, HTML coding, digital coloring and overflow work for clients including US Web Hollywood, Scholastic Books, Siegel & Gale, Fattal & Collins, Media Revolution, Chiat Day.

Senior Graphics & Interface Designer
Pacific Bell Interactive Media, Los Angeles, California 5/1996 - 11/1996

Designed websites and banner advertisements. Developed processes and solutions for graphics formatting and optimization. Wrote internal training documentation on the use of graphic types (vector vs. raster) for online publication. Trained design staff in design parameters, file, and graphics optimization for online publication.

Art Director and Designer
20th Century Fox / News Corporation, Los Angeles, California 10/1995 - 5/1996

Worked with senior producers to design and develop first-generation websites for 20th Century Fox properties. Art Directed the first fox.com website. Graphic design and production for Fox property websites including thex-files.com and foxkids.com. Integrated and implemented early online animation technologies.

Digital Colorist & Production Manager
Electric Crayon Productions 8/1994 - 9/1995

Digitally colored comic book pages using 4-color separation. Managed pre-press production of final product using Quark and Photoshop 2.5. Notable projects and clients included DC's "Vertigo Comics," Marvel's X-Men series, Wildstorm's "WildC.A.T.s.," Topps, Image, Bongo and Motown Machineworks, "Man Against Time" series.