MICA media artists and illustration grads use their skills in many industries, from publishing to film and from games to education. One alumna, Noelle Stevenson ’13 (ILL), got started early, signing her first book deal while a senior at MICA. Stevenson began working on her young adult graphic novel, Nimona, as a junior, and the book was published by Harper Collins in 2015. Nimona was a success, and Stevenson became the youngest National Book Award finalist when her novel was up for the honor in Young People’s Literature. The illustrator is also co-writer of the comics series Lumberjanes, recognized as Best New Series and Best Publication for Teens at the 2015 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards. For more career success stories, turn the page.
MICA media arts and illustration graduates shape the way we see the world...

...entertainment, film, & tv

Lofty Nathan ’09 (photo) is a New York-based filmmaker whose debut documentary, the Twelve O’Clock Boys, was released in theaters in 2014 and was featured at over 100 film festivals worldwide. Nathan is currently in production for a science fiction miniseries.

Kit Turley ’10 (ANIM) is a production coordinator at Walt Disney Animation Studios in Los Angeles, where she worked on the Oscar-winning Frozen, the 2013 Best Animated Feature, and the 2013 Oscar-winning animation short, Paperman.

Jeremie Talbot ’98 (ILL) is a character supervisor at Pixar Animation Studios, where she worked as a character modeling and articulation artist for the Oscar-winning animated movie, Brave.

The youngest cinematographer ever to shoot an Oscar-winning film when the documentary short, Music by Prudence, won in that category, Errol Webber ’08 (video) also shot American Promise, a documentary that earned three Emmy nominations in 2015.

Many MICA graduates work in the gaming industry. Firaxis Games is home to 3D artist John Ward ’11 (ANIM, ILL); Jenna Croarkin ’11 (ILL) is a 2D artist at Super Boise Studios; and Stephen Stone ’11 (ANIM) is an artist at Sparkypants Studios; and Zachary Urtes ’12 (ILL) is art director at BatteryStapleGames.

Sarah Kujubu ’12 (ANIM) is a production coordinator for the show Sanjay and Craig at Nickelodeon Animation Studio. Will Niu ’12 (ILL) is a background designer for Nickelodeon’s Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Adam Sauermilch ’08 (video) is an independent filmmaker based in New York who recently created on-air documentary segments for MSNBC.

Javier Ameijeiras ’05 (ILL) is a successful storyboard artist who won an Emmy for Outstanding Main Title Design for HBO’s Bored to Death. He provided concept illustration for the 2015 movies The Intern and Joy.

Derek Blanks ’00 (ILL) is a high-profile professional photographer and business owner. He works with clients that include Beyoncé and Usher, as well as Universal Studios and the record label Def Jam.

Tyler Hach ’12 (video) is an MCR operator and provides art support at the New York-based visual effects firm The Mill.

Christine Holmes ’10 (ANIM) is a production coordinator at DreamWorks Animation. She is currently collaborating with the company’s Effects and Crowds departments for the upcoming 3D animated film, Home.

...publishing

Annie Wu ’10 (ILL) recently co-created Batgirl Beyond for DC Comics and illustrated an arc in Marvel’s Hawkeye. She is currently working on DC’s Black Canary, and the relaunched Archie series.

Rebecca Mock ’11 (ILL) drew a graphic novel, Compass South, written by Hope Larson, that was published in 2015 by Farrar Straus and Giroux.

Zach Montoya ’12 (ANIM) is a successful freelance illustrator whose work was featured in 2014’s Spectrum 21. He has designed seven covers for Valiant Comics, and his other clients include Marvel, Sparkypants game studio, and Mindgrunt Games.


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Babs Tarr ’10 (ILL) was nominated for the 2015 Eisner Award for Best Penciller/Inker for her work in DC Comics’ Batgirl.

Christina Dacanay ’13 (ILL) is a design assistant at Penguin Random House in New York City.

Sam Bosma ’09 (ILL) is a background designer at the Cartoon Network and an illustrator who has been recognized by the Spectrum, American Illustration, and the Society of Illustrators. His Fantasy Basketball! won the 2014 Ignatz Award for outstanding artist, which recognizes excellence in independent comics.

Gina Triplett ’97 (ILL) is a successful freelance illustrator who has been featured on the cover of Step Inside Design and created a new visual identity for Whole Foods Market’s 365 brand. She continues to exhibit personal work in New York, Los Angeles, and internationally.

Ramsey Beyer ’07 (ANIM) is the author of Little Fish, a memoir chronicling her foundation year at MICA and recently released by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
...featured online, in print, & on tv

Elena Rosemond-Hoerr ’08 (photo) released The American Cookbook: A Fresh Take on Classic Recipes in 2014. The author, whose successful blog Biscuits and Such has been featured in Saveur and Southern Living, is also the education manager at the Jewish Museum, Maryland.

Michael Hoeweler ’10 (ILL) illustrated a recent special edition of Le Monde and Time magazine’s 2014 story titled “100 Most Influential People.” Hoeweler has a successful freelance career with clients including GQ, Cosmopolitan, Newsweek, Travel + Leisure, Saveur, the National Park Service, Golf Digest, Time, Maxim, and Brooks Brothers.

As head of production at Dime Media Haus, Jacqueline Wheeler ’13 (video) creates promotional materials, including videos used on client websites and social media outlets.

Adam Golfer ’07 (photo), a highly successful freelance photographer who has photographed actor John Turturro, journalist Christiane Amanpour, and German author Daniel Kehlman. Golfer was featured as a critic’s pick on Artforum in 2015, and he also exhibited, with a solo show in Brooklyn featuring his work A House Without A Roof. In 2016, his work will be shown at Arts Center Kuldiga in Latvia.

Eric Helgas ’12 (photo) is a successful freelance photographer for high-end commercial and editorial clients. Currently based in New York City, Helgas’ recent clients include Esquire, J.Crew, the New Yorker, the New York Times Magazine, and Popular Mechanics. In 2016, his work will be shown at Arts Center Kuldiga in Latvia.

Olivia Huynh ’13 (ANIM) is currently part of the Doodle Team creating Google’s homepage doodle animations for holidays such as Valentine’s Day, Halloween, and Lunar New Year.

Daniel Shea ’07 (photo) shot the photos for the January 2, 2014 New York Times Magazine’s article, “A Speck in the Sea.” He also recently covered General Motors for Bloomberg Businessweek as well as the largest underground public works project in Indianapolis’s history for Indianapolis Weekly.

Paige Vickers ’12 (ILL) is a book design assistant for Rodale in New York. She continues to freelance as well, with clients such as Time Out New York, Cottage Life Magazine, and the New York Times.

Nicholas Grinere ’14 (ILL) and Kristy Hambrick ’15 (ILL) had pieces chosen by American Illustration 33 that will appear permanently online as part of The American Illustration-American Photography (AI-AP) Archive.

Kristen Lepore ’07 (ANIM) is a director and animator whose films have taken top prizes at SXSW, the Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film, the Vimeo Awards, and the Annie Awards, among others. She recently wrote and guest directed a stop-motion episode of Cartoon Network’s Adventure Time.

Lindsay Bottos ’14 (photo) took the internet by storm with her Anonymous project, which imposed harsh messages she received online on top of her self-portraits. The project received national attention from Good Morning America, BuzzFeed, MTV, and Huffington Post.

...business, nonprofits, education, & government

Meg Vazquez ’13 (ILL) is senior designer for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign in Brooklyn, NY where she is the creative lead for all social media and email.

Freelance illustrator Kali Ciesemier ’08 (ILL) has worked for Google, illustrating the “Google Doodle” celebrating renowned opera singer Maria Callas’ 90th birthday.

Saralyn Rosenfield ’06 (ILL) is assistant director of education at the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington, Delaware.

Nick Kalivas ’11 (ILL) is visual designer for the Los Angeles-based advertising firm Collective.

Elle Perez ’11 (photo) recently took a faculty position at Williams College. She frequently exhibits and has received the Theo Westenberger Prize for Photography, a Bronx Council of the Arts grant, and a prestigious residency at Skowhegan.

Kat McNally ’12 (ANIM) is lead artist for the Kata Project, a JHU School of Medicine Department of Neurology-based venture that created the game Bandit’s Shark Showdown. The game, which uses animation to help recovering stroke victims, and the Kata Project team, including McNally, were featured in a November 2015 issue of the New Yorker.

Jennifer Light ’12 (ANIM) is a project coordinator at Be A Mentor, Inc., a San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit that connects youth with challenging lives with dedicated volunteer mentors.

Daniela Mikeykovsky ’14 (video) is a camera assistant at MB Productions, where she recently helped create training videos for the United States Postal Service.

Eric Varela ’12 (video) is currently a 3D artist at Mosaic Learning, a corporation that creates eLearning solutions for clients such as Audi and Volkswagen.