MICA media artists and illustration grads use their skills in many industries, from publishing to film and from games to education. One student, Noelle Stevenson ’13 (ILL), got started early, inking her first book deal while a senior at MICA. Stevenson, a Tumblr-famous cartoonist, began working on her young adult graphic novel as a junior, eventually turning the work into her senior thesis. The result, *NIMONA*, is set to be published by Harper Collins in 2015. Stevenson credited MICA’s illustration faculty—successful illustrators, comic artists, and editors—for helping her chart her path, saying that their creative and professional advice were key to her success. For more stories of career success from MICA media arts and illustration grads, turn the page.
MICA media arts and illustration graduates shape the way we see the world...

...entertainment, film, & tv

Will Niu ’12 (ILL) has worked for Nickelodeon since 2012 as a background designer for the television show, The Legend of Korra.

Lofty Nathan ’09 (photo) is a New York-based filmmaker whose debut documentary, The Twelve O’Clock Boyz, was released in theaters in January, 2014.

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

Holden Brown ’13 (video) is a production assistant at Simpson Films in New York City.

Emily Bockmehyer ’13 (ANIM) is a costume designer at Center Stage in Baltimore.

Many MICA graduates work in the gaming industry. Firaxis Games is home to both 3D artist John Ward ’11 (ANIM, ILL) and Chris Sulzbach ’06 (ANIM), a lead modeler and senior artist. Jenna Croarkin ’11 (ILL) is a 2D artist at Super Boise Studios, and Neal Jany ’08 (ILL) is a texture artist at ZeniMax Online Studios.

Adam Sauermilch ’08 (video) is an independent filmmaker based in New York who worked on the Oscar short-listed documentary Golden Boys. His films have shown at festivals in New York, New Jersey, and California.

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

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 special jury award winner for U.S. documentary at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival.

Hector Liva ’08 is currently a web developer at New York City-based SuperGlue, a social media tool for sharing live music, news, and recaps from concerts around the world.

Adam Golfer ’07 (photo), a highly successful freelance photographer whose work has been featured in Bloomberg Business Week and Die Zeit, was on the PDN30 List of Emerging Photographers in 2013.

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

Javier Ameijeiras ’05 (ILL) has worked as a storyboard artist on more than 20 film and television productions, and he recently won an Emmy for Outstanding Main Title Design for HBO's Bored to Death.

Christine Holmes ’10 (ANIM) is a production coordinator at Dreamworks Animation.

...corporations & nonprofits

Yaeri Song ’07 (video), communications director for Vatos International, the Korean restaurant group behind Vatos Urban Tacos and Vatos Express, is also founder and editor in chief of the English language online art and culture magazine, Seoulist Mag.

Nick Kalivas ’11 (ILL) is an interactive designer at AOL.

Chand Nirankari ’03 (photo) is a design, communications, grassroots, online, and social media strategist for Students for a Free Tibet, part of the America India Foundation, in New York City.

Christina Dacanay ’13 (ILL) is a development and events manager at the Museum of American Illustration at the Society of Illustrators in New York City.

Graham Wilson ’08 (ANIM, GFA) is a toy designer for KIDdesigns, whose lines of toys include Nerf, Littlest Pet Shop, and Transformers.

Luke Schneider ’13 (video) recently landed a job as video/media specialist at the Electric Vehicle Institute in Baltimore.

Stephanie Devino ’11 (ILL) and Kristin Noble ’11 (ILL) were both hired as assistant designers for Target during their senior year at MICA.

Rafael Soldi ’08 (photo) is marketing director at the Photo Center NW, a fine arts photography school and gallery in Seattle.

Sneha Pai ’07 (ANIM) is a 3D artist at MedStar Health.
...publishing

Orpheus Collar '09 (ILL) who adapted, illustrated, and colored The New York Times best-selling graphic novel version of Rick Riordan's The Red Pyramid in 2012, also created the animatics and storyboards for the CG-animated show, Space Racers, which premiers on PBS in 2014.

Yao Li ‘12 (ILL) is a marketing assistant for the Baltimore Sun newspaper.

Corinne May Botz’s ’99 (photo) work, including photographic installations and books, has been reviewed by The New York Times, The Washington Post, Art Papers, and The Village Voice, among others. She recently published a book, Microworlds, and her work is exhibited widely, including in the United States, Germany, Bulgaria, and The Netherlands.

Lauren Castillo ’03 (ILL) is a successful illustrator who has lent her talents to popular children's books, including City Cats, which was reviewed by The New York Times in November of last year.

Freelance illustrator Kali Ciesemier ‘08 (ILL), whose clients include Cartoon Network, The New Yorker, Harper Collins, and United Way, has also worked for Google, illustrating the December 2, 2013 “Google Doodle” celebrating renowned opera singer Maria Callas’ 90th birthday.

Kristen Lepore '07 (ANIM) is a director and animator whose films have taken top prizes at SXSW, the Stuttgart Animation Festival, the Vimeo Awards, and the Annie Awards, among others. She was listed as one of Creativity magazine's top 50 creative people and her clients include Facebook, Yo Gabba Gabba, Whole Foods, and MTV.

Luis Diaz '99 (ILL), one of “Six Artists to Know” in CITY LINK magazine, has worked as an illustrator and graphic designer for television, print, video games, and other interactive media for more than 10 years.

Fawad Khan’s '01 (ILL) work has been featured on CNN and in The New York Times, as well as at The Bronx Museum, Exit Art, and ARCO Madrid. In 2013, he was a resident fellow at Institute Américain Universitaire in Aix-en-Provence, France, and his next solo exhibition is with Lu Magnus Gallery in New York in May 2014.

Naomi Fisher ‘98 (photo) has been featured in Artforum, and her work is exhibited worldwide, with solo shows in New York City, Miami, and Tokyo. She and her husband founded Bas Fisher International in Miami.

Annie Wu ’10 (ILL) recently co-created the new Batgirl Beyond, which is part of the Batman Beyond series by DC Comics. In 2012, she was listed as a Creator to Watch by newsrama.com in its “11 for ’11: Things to Watch in the New Year” series.

Gina Triplett ’97 (ILL) Gina Triplett is a very successful freelance illustrator who has been featured on the cover of Step Inside Design and created a new visual identity for Whole Foods. She was selected as one of Print Magazine’s 20 under 30 New Visual Artists; has a client list that includes Urban Outfitters, Entertainment Weekly, and Random House; and continues to exhibit personal work in New York, Los Angeles, and internationally.

Emily Flake '99 (ILL) is an award-winning author, illustrator, and cartoonist whose work has appeared in Time, The New Yorker, and Forbes. Her comic strip, Lulu Eightball, is syndicated in several alternative weeklies in the U.S. and internationally.

Jeansoo Chang ’09 (ILL), lead designer at Dreamkind, was featured in CMYK’s Illustration Showcase 46.

Rebecca Mock ’11 (ILL) is a Brooklyn-based illustrator whose work has been featured in The New York Times, on Adventure Time comic covers, and in art publications Red Cross Book and Monster Edition.

...featured online, in print, & on TV

Daniel Shea ’07 (photo) shot the photos for the January 2, 2014 New York Times Magazine’s article, “A Speck in the Sea.” He previously documented the coal industry, with those photographs being used online on NPR’s The Picture Show and Photography for a Greener Planet.

Shannon May ’10 (ILL), one of How magazine’s "Top 16 Creative Professionals to Watch In 2012," is a successful freelance illustrator whose clients include Harvard Business Review and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Paige Vickers ‘12 (ILL) is an illustrator for Mr. Boddington’s Studio in New York, where she has designed for Penguin Books and Anthropologie.

John Lehr’s ’98 (photo) 2013 solo exhibition, Low Relief, at Kate Werble Gallery in New York, was reviewed by Art in America, Artforum, and The New Yorker. His work has been featured at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, and is in the public collections of The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, and The Yale University Art Gallery.
...making contacts through professionally connected MICA faculty

The Illustration Department is chaired by Harvey Award-winning colorist José Villarrubia, who is widely known for his collaborations with author Alan Moore. Villarrubia is also the recent recipient of a Harvey Award as Best Colorist for Cuba: My Revolution. His experience in the comics industry, along with student interest, led to the development of a sequential art and pre-production track for Illustration majors who want to specialize in comics, graphic novels, film, and video game industries.

Other illustration faculty members include Jonathon Scott Fuqua, the author of award-winning young adult novels, The Reappearance of Sam Webber, DARBY, and The Willoughby Spit Wonder; Willy Hartland, an animator and recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Film; and Shadra Strickland, who co-illustrated Our Children Can Soar, winner of a 2010 NAACP Image Award. Illustration seniors connect with regional and national art directors and editors through the annual Illustration Showcase event.

Photography majors are taught by a host of full-time and adjunct faculty with a variety of professional backgrounds. The department is led by Regina DeLuise, a Guggenheim Fellowship recipient who is represented by Bonni Benrubi Gallery in New York and has exhibited internationally. Full-time faculty members include Nate Larson, whose successful Geolocation project was just featured on wired.com; and Jay Gould, who has won numerous national awards such as the Berenice Abbott Prize for an emerging photographer.


...through professional partnerships

MICA’s curriculum offers hands-on, real-world projects to gain professional skills, experience, and connections. For example, students in animation partner with industry leaders such as Direct Dimensions to test new technology for 3D imaging. Animation faculty, such as Lynn Tomlinson, who is known for her work on Sesame Street and PBS Kids, lead real-world projects in the community that allow students to gain valuable professional experience; Tomlinson and her students recently teamed with a local school that educates students with language-based learning disabilities to develop short animated films that focus on memory skills that facilitate learning.

MICA students interested in computer gaming have a unique advantage in launching careers in the industry. According to Dave Inscore ’95 (ILL), co-founder of Big Huge Games and industry veteran, “MICA is the only art school on the East Coast that has such a strong community of game developers and game studios nearby.” MICA alumni from almost every program of study—including many from animation, illustration, and video and film arts—have interned and are working professionally at firms such as Pure Bang Games, Bully! Entertainment, Three Rings Design, Zenimax Online Studies, and Firaxis Games.

MICA video and film students have gained experience in professional filmmaking through a number of off-campus, project-oriented courses taught by renowned cinematographer and filmmaker Allen Moore, a longtime MICA faculty member and Emmy-award winner. Moore was director of photography for several of documentary filmmaker Ken Burns’ historical films shown on PBS, including The Civil War, Baseball, and the recent The National Parks: America’s Best Idea. Students in these courses have produced trailers for Baltimore’s local independent cinema, an advocacy video for Maryland Charter Schools, and video documentation in partnership with MICA’s Center for Design Practice for their Bio-Diesel University project. Video and film arts students have also had the chance to work with Oscar-award winning producer and department chair Patrick Wright, who worked on the short documentary Academy Award winner, Music by Prudence.

A new studio concentration in filmmaking, offered in partnership with Johns Hopkins University’s Film and Media Studies program, gives students access to industry professionals with a wide variety of expertise and cinematic strengths. Students have access to a faculty from both institutions who will teach about the making and distribution of films, offer insight into the business of cinema, and help them begin to build a professional network.

A weekly workshop series from Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Career Development includes topics of special interest to artists who choose to run their own businesses. Here’s a sampling: Expanding Your Connections, Starting Your Own Business, Pricing Your Time and Work, Contracts for Artists, and Legal Dos and Don’ts for Artists and Designers.

Those MICA students and alumni who achieve the highest rate of career success are those who take full advantage of career services and of the education programs offered by MICA.