



## Wenwen Zhu

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Wenwen Zhu is a Chicago-based animator and visual designer who transforms client goals into cinematic motion and refined visual identities. Specializing in high-end **3D animation**, **motion graphics**, and **brand-focused design**, she delivers broadcast-ready edits and striking illustrations that distill complex ideas into instant impact. Wenwen presents clients with multiple creative directions, then guides each project through rigorous feedback cycles to a cohesive finish. Fluent in **Maya**, **After Effects**, **Premiere Pro**, **Photoshop**, and **Illustrator**, she manages the entire production pipeline—from concept sketch to final render—ensuring every frame meets professional standards and resonates with its audience.

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## Education

### **Master of Fine Arts, Film, Video, New Media & Animation**

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
August 2021 - Dec 2024

### **Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration**

School of Visual Arts, New York, NY,  
August 2017 - May 2021

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## Key Skills

- Maya: Modeling/ Rigging/3D Animation/Mocap
- Sound Software: Logic Pro
- Unity: 3D game
- Adobe Substance 3D Painter
- Adobe Premiere
- After Effects: Motion Graphic
- Adobe Suite
- Printing: Etching/Silkscreen

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## Professional Experience

### **Independent Animation Director**

August 2022 – Jan 2025

- Directed and produced a 12-minute 3D animated short film, overseeing all stages from concept development to final post-production. Techniques included scriptwriting, character animation, and motion capture. Official selection at Annecy 2025 and Zagreb 2025.

### **Freelance Design**

Illustrator & Graphic Designer  
August 2017 - Present

#### **Clients:**

- Circle Q LLC. Pattern, pattern design. [circleqessentials.com](http://circleqessentials.com)
- Daifuku Ramen, Branding design. [daifukuchicago.com](http://daifukuchicago.com)
- JOOJUO OFFICAL, Branding design. Online Shop
- Cosme, editorial illustration, 2021 09/2022 09
- Fiverr, editorial illustration. Support Asian Communities

### **Art Teacher & Artist Assistant**

School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
August 2022 - Present

- In motion design AE course and 3D advanced class, assisted teachers with instruction and provide technology demos and support students.
- In Unity class, provided coding and technology supports.

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## Awards and Honors

### Screening:

2025 Anney International Animation Film Festival, France.  
2025 manifest Zagreb, Croatia.  
2024 Innovative Film Festival West Hollywood, West Hollywood, CA, US.  
2024 Think Art Museum/www.think-1.cn  
2024 Black Owl Film Festival, Bodrum, Mugla Turkey.  
2024 Belgrade International Film Festival, Tuckwood Cineplex, Serbia.  
2024 Canada China International Film Festival, Montréal, Québec, Canada.  
2024 The Dreamers Film Festival, in Dumbo, Brooklyn, US.  
2024 Asian Independent Film Festival, Indian Council For Cultural Relations, India.  
2024 4theatre selection. Online Screening.  
2024 Bestlov Film Festival. Online Screening.  
2023 Imagina AniFest, official selection, Queens Library, New York NY, US.  
2023 Snow Leopard Film Festival (WLIFF), Stockholm, Sweden.  
2023 Silver Wings International Film Festival. West Bengal.  
2023 The Best Short, ICE CINEFEST. Cincinnati, OH, US.  
2023 Chicago International Indie Film Festival, Chicago IL, US.  
2023 Short Stop International Film Festival, Iasi, Romania.

### Awards:

2025 American Illustration 44 CHOSEN Winner, New York, US.  
2024 Asian Independent Film Festival, Experimental Film winner. Indian Council For Cultural Relations, India.  
2024 The Dreamers Film Festival, Experimental Film winner, in Dumbo, Brooklyn, US.  
2024 International Gold Awards, Experimental Film winner, New York, US.  
2024 Milan Gold Awards, Experimental Film winner, Milan, Italy.  
2024 New York Movie Awards, Experimental Film winner, New York, US.  
2024 London Movie Awards, London, UK.  
2024 Snow Leopard Film Festival (WLIFF) Best Experimental Film Quarter-Finalist. Stockholm, Sweden.  
2024 8 & Halfilm Experimental Film Awards winner, Rome.  
2023 Silver Wings International Film Festival, Women's Films winner. West Bengal.  
2023 The Best Short, ICE CINEFEST. Cincinnati, OH, US.

### Exhibitions:

2025 The Flow, Think-1 Museum, Little Big Secrets, Shanghai, China.  
2023 The Flow, Youth Art Exhibition, Hefei, China.  
2021 "SVA Solidarity" exhibition, SVA Gallery, New York.  
2021 World Illustration Awards/Long list.  
2020 Jack Endewelt Memorial Award, School of Visual Arts, New York.  
2020 "Man-Made Monsters" exhibition, SVA Chelsea Gallery, New York.  
2020 "Mid-Autumn" exhibition, ISO Gallery, New York.

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## Interviews

- 2025 [Visualatelier8 Interview](#)
- 2024 [London Movie Rewards Interview](#)
- 2024 [International Gold Awards New York](#)
- 2024 [SAIC EXTV INTERVIEW](#)
- 2023 [Blue Gallery, contemporary youth painting exhibition, Wei Gallery, China.](#)
- 2021 [Itsnicethat: Wenwen Zhu on the poetic and meditative parts of illustration](#)
- 2021 [NY1:SVA art exhibition support Asian and Asian-American communities at school](#)