

Riley M. Brown

2D Animator | Painter | Educator

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PROFILE

Painter, 2D animator, and educator with an MFA in Film, Video, New Media, and Animation and college-level teaching experience at Northern Illinois University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. My animated films have screened at the Ottawa International Animation Festival, T-Short Animation Festival Germany, and Animafest Cyprus. I teach drawing and animation as one discipline: sustained observation, then play.

SCREENINGS

- Missed Connection (2024, 2 min, painted animation), Ottawa International Animation Festival, World Panorama: Non-Narrative Short Animation, 2024
- Missed Connection and Layabout Blue (2024), T-Short Animation Festival, Germany, 2024
- Faith in a Seed (2020), Animafest Cyprus, 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor, Digital Animation, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 2024 to 2025

- Independently developed and taught five sections of undergraduate digital animation: four introductory, one advanced experimental course in Blender
- Built the curriculum, assignments, demos, and assessment from the ground up; managed courses and grading in Blackboard
- Taught students of widely varying skill levels, including many creating digital art for the first time
- Student evaluations: overall instructor rating 4.8/5 across four sections (26 responses); 5.0 in Spring 2025

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Animation, School of the Art Institute of Chicago 2022 to 2024

- Supported 2D animation studio courses from introductory to advanced; demonstrated techniques and gave one-on-one feedback
- Facilitated group critique and taught students the vocabulary to engage with each other's work

Paraprofessional, Summit Academy, Amherst, MA 2025 to 2026

- Classroom assistant and frequent substitute teacher in therapeutic education programs, working with middle and high school students to build social, emotional, and academic skills

Instructor, Drawing and Painting Foundations, Snow Farm, Williamsburg, MA Summer 2021

- Taught a two-week intensive foundations course in observational drawing and painting for middle and high school students; co-developed the curriculum, from charcoal and ink wash through acrylic and oil

Elective Educator, Drawing and Painting, The Academy at Charlemont, Charlemont, MA 2020 to 2021

- Taught twice-weekly observational drawing and painting electives for middle and high school students
- Introduced a range of media and ran a collaborative, critique-based classroom

EDUCATION

MFA, Film, Video, New Media, and Animation, School of the Art Institute of Chicago 2022 to 2024

- 2D animation focus; independent painting practice; short films produced for festival distribution

BFA, Illustration, Rhode Island School of Design 2016 to 2020

- 2D animation focus; foundational draftsmanship, design, and illustration

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Practicing painter, 2D animator, illustrator, and sound designer since 2020 (six years). Independent animated films written, animated, and sound-designed solo, with original sound design treated as part of the storytelling, and screened internationally; commissioned animation and album art for musicians including This Is The Glasshouse (three releases, 2022 to 2024), Ehiorobo (full animated music video, 2022), and Graham Kartna (2023), plus commissioned paintings for private clients; daily multimedia sketchbook practice.

COURSES I CAN TEACH

Introduction to 2D Animation; Experimental Animation; Storyboarding and Visual Storytelling; Character Design; Blender for Artists; Sound Design for Animation; Stop Motion; Drawing I and II; Painting I; 2D Design / Foundations

SKILLS AND SOFTWARE

2D animation (hand-drawn, painted, and digital); storyboarding; character design; sound design and audio post (Ardour); Blender (2D Grease Pencil and 3D); Dragonframe; Krita; DaVinci Resolve; Premiere Pro; Blackboard