

Vicky (Shunyi) Xie

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About

Animation filmmaker and visual artist with an MFA in Animation and Digital Arts from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts and professional experience across Japanese and Western animation production. My practice combines filmmaking including directing sound and music, visual development, illustration, and independent creative publishing, alongside experience in teaching, mentoring, and practice-based creative research.

Education

UNIVERSITY of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, CA/ UNITED STATES
MFA in School of Cinematic Arts John C. Hench Division of Animation + Digital Arts 2021-2024
Specialty: Digital Filmmaking, Producing, Animation & Directing
GPA: 3.9/4.0

ART CENTER COLLEGE of DESIGN PASADENA, CA/ UNITED STATES
BS in Entertainment Design 2017-2021
Specialty: Visual Development, Concept Design, Digital Painting, Illustration
GPA: 3.659/4.0

Teaching & Mentoring Experience

TEACHING ASSISTANT – Digital Painting
ArtCenter College of Design, Pasadena, CA 2019-2021

- Provided individual and group feedback on digital painting assignments
- Guided students in composition, lighting, color, visual hierarchy, and storytelling.
- Helped students develop transferable visual problem-solving skills rather than relying solely on software-specific techniques.

ANIMATION PORTFOLIO MENTOR
Melo Studio 2023

- Mentored students preparing portfolios for undergraduate animation programs.
- Guided students through character design, visual development, environment design, and storytelling.
- Supported students in developing original portfolio projects and preparing applications to art colleges.

ARTIST MENTOR
Independent / Private Mentorship 2025

- Provided one-on-one draw-over critiques and guidance for illustration and animation projects, focusing on visual storytelling, composition, design, and execution.
- Guided artists through creative problem-solving and helped them develop independent approaches to improving their work.

Industry Experience

HIKE Inc. Japan.

Japanese anime Animation Supervisor

2026 - Present

- Reviewed and corrected key animation for assigned sequences, maintaining consistency in character acting, drawing, movement, and visual style.
- Collaborated with animators and production staff to refine shots and ensure that the animation supported the overall storytelling and direction.

LIDENFILMS Inc. Japan.

Japanese anime layout artist and key animator

2025 - Present

- Designed the layout of the shots based on the concept art and storyboard from the director.
- Animated the key poses of the characters on model, provide timesheets for inbetween artists.

TITMOUSE, Inc. United States.

Key animator

2024 - 2025

- Designed the layout of the shots based on the concept art and storyboard from the director.
- Animated the key poses of the characters on model, provide timesheets for inbetween artists.

STUDIO MOTHER inc. Japan

Japanese anime layout artist and key animator

2024 - 2025

- Designed the layout of the shots based on the concept art and storyboard from the director.
- Animated the key poses of the characters on model, provide timesheets for inbetween artists.

ANODYNE ANIMATION, Inc. United States.

Background designer and painter

2024

- Designed and painted the backgrounds assigned by the director based on the storyboard.
- Designed signage accesses for the background team to use in the production.

TONARI ANIMATION, Inc. United States.

Japanese anime layout artist and key animator

2024

- Designed the layout of the shots based on the concept art and storyboard from director
- Animated the key poses of the characters on model, provide timesheets for inbetween artists.

RAVENSBURGER / Disney Lorcana Project

Illustrator

2022

- Redesigned the character based on the theme of the project and the background of the character.
- Made variations of compositions for the final illustration that fits the layout of the card.
- Render and finalize the final illustration.

Artist Publications / Artbooks

Heart of Throns , 2026

- Self-published artbook, Vicky's Illustration Collections from 2024 - 2026
- Distributed through LightBox Expo, artist conventions and online sales.

Under the Gaze of Angels , 2023

- Self-published artbook, Vicky's Illustration Collections from 2021 - 2023
- Distributed through LightBox Expo, artist conventions and online sales.

Awards

***Celestial* - Animated short film directed by Shunyi Xie**

Canada Shorts - Canadian & International Short Film Fest. 2024
Best Animated Short film

Portugal Indie Film Festival 2024
Best Animation

Religion Faith International Film Festival. Fall 2024
Outstanding Excellence

Top Shorts Film Festival. July 2024
Best Original Story

Christian Film Festival. July 2024
Best Animation

Los Angeles Short Film Awards 2024
Animated Short Film - Finalist

New York Animation Film Awards (NYAFA) 2024
Best Animation Student Film - Finalist

Student Los Angeles Film Awards 2024
Best Animation Student Film - Finalist

Los Angeles Film Awards
AnimationSemi-Finalist

Montreal International Animation Film Festival - ANIMAZE 2024
International Student Film Contest - Nominee

International Christian Film & Music Festival 2024
Animation - Nominee

Electi Christian International Film Festival 2024
Honorable Mention

***Heart of Gold* - Animated short film Art directed by Shunyi Xie**

14th Los Angeles Animation Festival 2021
2D Student Film Silver Award

LA Student Film Festival 2021
Official Selection

Skills

LANGUAGES:

Mandarin Chinese (Native) , English (Fluent) , Japanese (Elementary)

TECHNICAL SKILLS:

Photoshop, Clip Studio Paint, ToonBoom Harmony, ToonBoom Storyboard, Autodesk Maya, Sketchup, Blender 3D, Premiere, AfterEffect, Traditional drawing.

Selected Professional Animation Credits

The Vermilion Mask EP4 — Animation Supervisor

朱色の仮面

STUDIO HIKE, Japan | 2026

Uncle's Obsession with Cute Things — Key Frame Animator

おじさんはカワイイものが好き。

LIDENFILM, Japan | 2026

Tokyo Revengers: War of the Three Titans Arc — Second Key Frame animator

東京リベンジャーズ 三天戦争編

LIDENFILM, Japan | 2026

Adult Swim's The Elephant — Key Frame Artist

Titmouse, Inc, USA | 2026

Be Forever Yamato - Rebel 3199 - Chapter 6 & 7 — Key Frame Animator

『ヤマトよ永遠に REBEL3199』の第六章「碧い迷宮」 & 第七章「虹色の輪廻」

Studio Mother, Japan | 2026

Media Features & Interviews

[Small S Magazine] , Japan — Featured Artist

VOL. 80 March, 2025

Illustration featured in Japanese art magazine.

Next ILLUSTRATION Award 2024 - Semi Final List

[S Magazine] , Japan — Featured Artist

VOL. 90 July, 2025

Illustration featured in Japanese art magazine.

[SHOUTOUT LA] — Artist Interview

2023

Interview discussing my creative practice, illustration, and filmmaking.

<https://shoutoutla.com/meet-vicky-xie-background-visual-development-artist-illustrator-storyteller/>

[VoyageLA] — Artist Interview

2023

Interview discussing my creative journey, past challenges and current focus.

<https://voyagela.com/interview/daily-inspiration-meet-vicky-xie/>

Exhibitions

LIGHTBOX EXPO Pasadena, California, USA

Artist Alley Exhibitor | 2026, 2024, 2023

GALLERY IYN "Garden of Happiness" Art exhibition Osaka, Japan

Featured Artist | 2025

OCO EXPO Shanghai, China

Artist Alley Exhibitor | 2022

CTN EXPO Burbank, California, USA

Artist Alley Exhibitor | 2019