

Maddie Helland

Animator • Illustrator • Director
(309) 339-1575 · madison.helland@gmail.com
[LinkedIn](#) · [@maddiecoreee](#) · [www.maddiehelland.com](#)

EDUCATION

Columbia College Chicago

August 2020 - May 2024

Bachelor of Art in Animation, Summa Cum Laude

- 4.0 GPA
- Recognized on the Dean's List all 8 semesters

Warrior Art Camp

July 2024

Illustrative Storytelling Workshop with Chedil K Marak

EXPERIENCE

"Goofball & Gwen"

June 2025 - September 2025

Director, Character Designer, Storyboard Artist, Layout/Background Artist, Animator

- Directed 2-minute short film in 3 months
- Researched "Schoolhouse Rock!" animation style extensively to bring the client's vision to life
- Delivered on time and on budget

"Let's All Go To The Lobby"

September 2024 - April 2025

Character Designer, Storyboard Artist, Animation Lead

- Collaborated with client to ideate a fitting art style
- Delivered iterations of each character design and quickly made revisions based on client feedback
- Met deadlines week by week

"Frankie" - Senior Thesis Film

September 2023 - May 2024

Director, Character Designer, Visual Development Artist,

- Managed a team of 24 students to produce a 7-minute animated film from scratch-to-screening
- Pitched original concept to class before becoming director by vote
- Developed resources such as model sheets and prop assets to ensure consistency between artists
- Critiqued work from all students twice a week and documented notes on their behalf

"TechnoPet" - Solo Film

March 2022 - May 2022

Responsible for all work

- Went above and beyond for an assignment to create a 2-minute short film in 1 month
- Selected to premiere at Columbia's annual Animation Showcase for the Manifest Arts Festival
- Tackled all areas of the animation production pipeline single-handedly

Trader Joe's

June 2023 - Current

Crew Member and Section Lead

- Entrusted to develop and run training program for new hires
 - Promoted to section lead 5 months after being hired
 - 1 of 5 employees to receive "WOW" bonus in Fall 2024 and Winter 2026 review period
 - Strived to grow skills in leadership by joining the Mate (management) development program
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SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe After Effects
- Toon Boom Harmony
- Autodesk Maya
- Google Suite

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Dean's Scholarship, 2020
- Faculty Recognition Award, 2020
- "Frankie" received the "Biggie Silver" award at The Big Picture Peoria Film Festival, 2024
- "Frankie" was an official selection of 10 film festivals, most recently the NYICFF