

12 Career Paths of Art and Design

Business of Art & Design

This category bridges creativity with strategy. Artists here turn ideas into enterprises — managing brands, marketing campaigns, galleries, and creative teams. It’s where art meets leadership, communication, and commerce. Students drawn to this field think creatively *and* strategically, building the business side of the arts.

Computer Animation

The art of movement. This category combines traditional drawing and design principles with cutting-edge technology to create characters, environments, and effects for film, television, and gaming. Animators are storytellers who bring imagination to life through motion and digital tools.

Entertainment Design

This field focuses on immersive experiences — theme parks, stage productions, museum exhibits, and branded environments. Artists in entertainment design create the worlds audiences step into, merging art, architecture, storytelling, and technology to shape emotional and memorable experiences.

Fine Arts

Fine arts is the foundation of creative expression — painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, and mixed media. These artists explore emotion, identity, and culture through their work. Whether in galleries, museums, or public spaces, fine artists drive the visual language of creativity itself.

Game Arts

Game arts bring imagination into interactive worlds. Artists here design characters, environments, and visual effects that make games come alive. This field blends design, storytelling, animation, and technology to create engaging visual experiences for players around the globe.

Graphic Design

Where creativity meets communication. Graphic design shapes how information is seen, felt, and understood — from logos and packaging to social media and digital branding. Designers use color, typography, and imagery to communicate messages clearly and powerfully in visual form.

Illustration

Illustrators are visual storytellers. They create images that educate, inspire, or entertain — from children’s books to medical diagrams and editorial cartoons. This field combines fine art technique with conceptual thinking, often crossing into animation, fashion, and digital content. *(Includes live illustration and keynote illustration careers.)*

Motion Design

Motion design blends graphic design, film, and animation to tell stories through movement. Artists in this field create title sequences, advertisements, user interfaces, and digital experiences that capture attention and communicate energy. It’s where visuals and timing merge to move audiences — literally.

Virtual Reality Development

The frontier of immersive creativity. VR artists and designers build interactive digital worlds for education, entertainment, and training. This category unites 3D modeling, coding, storytelling, and spatial design to craft experiences that allow users to *step inside* the art.

Photography & Imaging

This field captures reality through the lens of creativity. Photographers and image specialists document, direct, and design moments — whether in fashion, film, journalism, or fine art. They balance technical precision with artistic vision to communicate ideas and emotions through images.

Visual Studies

Visual Studies explores how images and culture shape the way we see the world. It blends art history, theory, and practice — connecting design, media, and philosophy. Students in this field become curators, researchers, critics, and creative thinkers who study and influence the meaning behind visual communication.

Art Education

Art Education focuses on developing the next generation of creators. Educators, teaching artists, and program directors share not just techniques, but the mindset of creativity. This pathway transforms artists into mentors — those who use art to teach, heal, and inspire communities.

Careers in Art and Design

Entertainment Design

Attractions Designer
Branded Entertainment Designer
Costume Designer
Creative Services Manager
Customer Experience Designer
Engagement Content Creator
Exhibit Content Developer
Exhibit Designer
Exhibit Fabricator
Experience Design Manager
Graphics Implementation Designer
Hospitality Designer
In-Show Graphics Designer
Interactive / Digital Project Manager
Museum Exhibit Designer
Planning Specialist
Production Show Set Designer
Project Manager (Entertainment)
Sets & Scenic Designer
Show Designer
Show Set Lead / Architectural Designer
Signage Designer
Technical Designer
Technical Director (Show)
Technology Coordinator
Themed Entertainment Creator
Visualization Designer

Fine Arts

Archive Manager
Art Appraiser
Art Association Director
Art Broker
Art Critic
Art Dealer
Art Historian
Art Investment Advisor
Art Preservationist
Art Restorer
Art Sales Associate
Art Therapist
Art Writer
Artist Representative
Arts Conservator
Arts & Culture Program Director
Arts Festival Director
Arts Grant Writer
Ceramist
Collection Care Specialist
Computer Artist
Curator
Digital Printmaker
Director of Public Art
District Arts Consultant
Exhibition Designer / Director
Gallery Assistant
Gallery Cataloguer
Gallery Manager
Gallery Owner / Director
Holography Artist
Mask Artist (Film)
Mixed Media Artist
Muralist
Museum Curator
Museum Manager
Museum Registrar
Painter
Portrait Artist
Printmaker
Professor / Teacher
Programs Administrator
Scenic Artist
Set Designer
Sketch Artist
Special Effects Artist — Motion Pictures
Studio Manager / Principal
Surface Artist
Video Artist / Designer

Careers in Art and Design

Game Design

2D Pixel Artist (Games)
 3D Artist (Mobile Games)
 3D Character Sculptor
 3D Lighting Director
 3D Production Manager
 Animation Programmer
 Animator (Games)
 Art Director (Games)
 Building Artist
 Character Animator (Games)
 Character Modeler (Games)
 Character Rigging Artist (Games)
 Character Setup Artist
 Character Texture Artist
 Cinematic Animator
 Cinematic Artist
 Concept Artist
 Content Designer
 Creative Services Director (Games)
 Effects Artist (Games)
 Environment Artist
 FX Artist
 Game Designer
 Game Marketing Strategist
 Game Strategy Specialist
 Game Systems Designer
 Lead Artist (Games)
 Lead Building Artist
 Level Art Director
 Level Designer
 Lighting Compositor (Games)
 Lighting Specialist (Games)
 Lighting Technical Director (Games)
 Line Producer (Games)
 Live-Action Animator (Games)
 Maya Animator
 Mission Designer
 Mobile Games Artist
 Modeler (Games)
 Morphing Artist (Games)
 Online Gaming Strategist
 Rigger
 Set Designer (Games)
 Shading Artist (Games)
 Sketch Artist (Games)
 Sports Game Designer
 Storyboard Artist / Illustrator (Games)
 Technical Animator (Games)
 Technical Artist (Games)
 Technical Director (Games)
 Technical Lighting Director (Games)
 Texture Artist (Games)
 Texture Coordinator
 Texture Map Painter (Games)
 Texture Painter (Games)
 Vehicle Artist
 Visual Development Artist (Games)
 Visual Effects Artist (Games)

Graphic Design

App Designer
 Art Director (Design)
 Book Designer / Interactive
 Brand Campaign Designer
 Brand Consultant
 Brand Development Designer
 Campaign Project Strategist
 Catalog Designer
 Communications Director (Design)
 Corporate Marketing Designer
 Creative Director (Design)
 Creative Imaging Coordinator
 Creative Services Manager (Design)
 Design Director — Print Media
 Design Entrepreneur
 Digital Image Artist
 Digital Publication Designer
 Direct Marketing Designer
 Editorial Designer
 Environmental Designer
 Exhibit Planner / Designer
 Experience Design Strategist
 Film Title Designer
 Freelance Event Designer
 Global Brand Manager
 Graphic Designer
 Graphics Marketing Director
 Identity Designer
 Information Designer
 Interactive Creative Director
 Interactive Media Designer
 Licensing Production Artist
 Logo Designer
 Map Designer (Cartographer)
 Marketing Graphics Director
 Media Production Specialist
 Mobile Web Designer
 Motion Graphics Designer
 Multimedia Art Director
 Multimedia Designer
 Online Experience Designer
 Packaging Designer
 Photo Art Director / Editor
 Point-of-Purchase Designer
 Presentation Artist
 Product Art Director
 Product Designer / Illustrator
 Production Manager (Design)
 Project Manager (Design)
 Promotional Designer
 Publications Director
 Responsive Web Designer
 Signage Developer / Designer
 Social Media Director
 Sports Graphic Designer
 Streaming Media Artist
 Trade Show Designer
 Typeface / Font Designer
 UI (User Interface) Designer
 Video / Film Graphic Designer
 Virtual Graphics Designer
 Visual Identity Art Director
 Wayfinding Designer
 Website Art Director
 Website Designer / Developer

Careers in Art and Design

Illustration

Advertising Comp Artist
Advertising Layout Artist
Animation / Illustration Artist
Architectural Illustrator
Biomedical Illustrator
Book Cover Illustrator
Botanical Illustrator
Broadcast Illustrator
Cartoon Illustrator
Character Artist
Children's Book Illustrator
Comic Book Illustrator
Conceptual Artist
Costume Designer
Creative / Fashion Director
Digital Illustrator
E-Greeting Card Illustrator
Editorial Cartoonist
Fabric Print Artist
Fashion Illustrator
Graphic Novel Artist / Writer
Greeting Card Illustrator
Home Textiles Designer
Iconographer (Symbols)
Imaging Specialist
Keynote Illustrator (Live Illustration & Speaking)
Live Caricature Artist
Magazine Illustrator
Map Illustrator
Marketing Artist
Medical Illustrator
Medical Products Illustrator
Music Video Set Painter
Packaging Illustrator
Pattern Creation Designer
Point-of-Purchase Designer
Pop-Up Card / Book Designer
Portrait Artist
Pre-visualization Artist
Product Illustrator
Scientific Illustrator
Set Designer — Film & TV
Set Painter — Theater
Signage Developer / Designer
Storyboard Sketch Artist
Surface Designer
Tattoo Designer
Textbook Illustrator
Toy Designer

Motion Design

2D & 3D Animator (Motion)
Animatic Designer
AR/VR Interaction Designer
Audio-Visual Specialist
Augmented Reality Designer
Broadcast Designer (Motion)
Commercial Producer
Communications Strategist (Motion)
Compositor (Motion)
Content Creator (Motion)
Creative Director (Motion)
Creative Technologist
Design Director, Broadcast
Digital Product Designer (Motion)
E-Learning Media Developer
Experience Designer (Motion)
Experience Strategist (Motion)
Film Sequence Specialist
Film Titles Animator & Designer
Graphics Editor
Image Design Director
Implementation Designer
Interface Designer (Motion)
Interactive Art Director (Motion)
Interactive Artist (Motion)
Interactive Illustrator (Motion)
Interactive Media Designer (Motion)
Mobile App Developer (Motion)
Mobile Graphics Animator
Mobile Web Designer (Motion)
Motion Artist
Motion Designer
Motion Graphics Designer
Multimedia Designer (Motion)
On-Air Art Director
On-Air Motion Designer
Online Media Designer
Phone Screen Designer
Pre-Viz Designer
Production Editor
Production Specialist (Motion)
Projection Mapping Designer
Special Effects Designer (Motion)
Stop-Motion Animator
Storyboard Artist (Motion)
Television Effects Creator
Title Sequence Designer
Touch Screen UX/UI Designer
User Experience Lead
User Interface Designer
UX/UI Motion Designer
UX/UI Researcher
UX/UI Strategist (Motion)
Video Compressionist
Videographer
Visual Effects Designer
Web Graphics Designer
Web Designer / Developer

Careers in Art and Design

Visual Studies

Archivist
Art Consultant
Art Director
Art Historian
Art Critic
Arts Manager
Book Designer
Brand Manager
Brand Strategist
Character Artist
Communications Content Strategist
Copywriter
Cultural Journalist
Curator
Designer
Editor
Entrepreneur
Events Strategist
Exhibit Designer

Filmmaker
Interactive Designer
Interface Designer
Marketing Manager
Mixed Media Artist
Multimedia Producer
Project Manager
Prototype Maker
Researcher
Service Designer
Studio Artist
Trends Specialist
Video Producer
Visual Stylist
Website Designer

Art Education

Art Educator (K-12)
Professor / Lecturer (Higher Ed)
Online Arts Instructor
Teaching Artist
Museum Educator
District Arts Consultant
Programs Administrator (Education)
Curriculum Designer (Arts)
Art Therapy Assistant / Coordinator
Community Arts Coordinator
After-School Arts Program Director

Careers in Art and Design

Virtual Reality Development

- 3D Artist (VR)
- 3D Generalist (VR)
- 3D Modeler (VR)
- Animator (VR)
- Chief Creative Officer (VR)
- Creative Director (VR)
- Experience Designer (VR)
- Game Designer (VR)
- Game Director (VR)
- Gameplay Programmer
- Interaction Designer (VR)
- Interactive Animator (VR)
- Lead Artist (VR)
- Level Artist (VR)
- Medical Visualization Specialist
- Military Training Specialist
- Product Engineer (VR)
- Scientific Visualization Artist
- Software Developer (VR)
- Spatial & Visualization Engineer
- Technical Artist (VR)
- Training Specialist (VR)
- Unreal Engine Scripter
- UX/UI Designer (VR)
- Virtual Reality Creator
- Visualization Artist
- VR Content Producer
- VR Developer
- VR Engineer
- VR Specialist
- World Builder

Photography and Imaging

- Aerial Photographer
- Architectural Photographer
- Automotive Photographer
- Blog Photographer
- Broadcast Photojournalist
- Catalog Photographer
- Cinematographer
- Color Corrector
- Combat Photographer
- Continuity Photographer
- Cosmetic Retoucher
- Creative Coordinator
- Digital Asset Manager
- Digital Image Archivist
- Digital Image Retoucher
- Digital Photo Lab Director
- Director of Photography
- Documentary Producer
- Educator / Professor
- Environmental Photographer
- Event Photographer
- Fashion Photographer
- Food Photographer
- Gallery Photo Curator
- Home Design Photographer
- Image Archives Coordinator
- Imaging Technician
- Interior Photographer
- Magazine Photographer
- Media Production Specialist (Photo)
- Medical Photographer
- Multimedia Technician
- Museum Image Archivist
- Museum Photo Curator
- News Photographer
- Online Photo Manager
- Photo Sales Manager
- Photo / Video Editor
- Photo Researcher
- Photo Restorer
- Photo Studio Manager
- Photo Stylist
- Photography Archivist
- Photography Historian
- Photography Scout
- Photojournalist
- Portrait Photographer
- Promotional Photographer
- Real Estate Photographer
- Sports Photographer
- Stock Photo Provider
- Studio Lighting Expert
- Surveillance Photographer
- Travel Photographer
- Visual Stylist
- Website Photographer

Careers in Art and Design

Business of Art & Design

Account Manager	Gallery Owner/Director
Account Planner	Grant Writer
Advertising Strategist	Marketing Analyst
Animation Production Manager	Marketing and Advertising Executive
Art Buyer/Appraiser	Marketing Consultant
Art Director	Media Director
Art Educator	Media Planner/Buyer
Artist Representative/Agent	Media Research Analyst
Arts Administrator	Media Supervisor
Arts Council Director	New Product Developer
Brand Manager	Online Strategy Specialist
Brand Strategist	Production Manager
Business Analyst	Production Studio Producer
Business Developer	Project Manager
Business Owner	Research and Development Strategist
Campaign Strategist	Social Medi Manager
Client Relationship Manager	TV Production Coordinator
Communications Director	
Consumer Insights Manager	
Content Strategist	
Corporate Design Manager	
Creative Assets Manager	
Creative Business Consultant	
Creative Director	
Creative Marketing Strategist	
Creative Producer	
Design Manager	
Design Operations Manager (Design Ops)	
Design Studio Owner	
Digital Campaign Strategist	
Director of Culture and Engagement	
Entrepreneur	
Events Designer and Planner	
Events Strategist	

Computer Animation

2D Artist (Animation Studio)	Motion Graphics Animator
2D Production Manager	Orthographic Designer
Animator	Painter (Animation Digital)
Animation Character Artist	Post-Production Designer
Animator / 3D Generalist	Pre-visualization Artist
Breakdown Artist	Product Launch Director
Broadcast Designer	Production Coordinator
CG Programmer	Production Rendering Artist
CG Supervisor	Prop Designer (Animation)
Character Animator	Render Pipeline Artist
Character Designer	Render Pipeline Coordinator
Character Modeler	Senior Design Manager
Character Rigging Artist	Set Designer (Animation)
Character Technical Director	Shading Artist
Compositor	Storyboard Artist
Creature Animator / Technical Director	Technical Animator
Digital Fusion Compositor	Texture Artist
Dynamics Scriptor	Texture Map Painter
Effects Animator	Title Animator
Environment Designer	Tracker
Feature Production Assistant	VFX Supervisor
In-Between Artist	Visual Development Artist
Interaction Art Director	
Interaction Designer	
Lead Artist	
Lighting Artist	
Lighting Compositor	
Lighting Specialist	
Lighting Technical Director	
Live-Action Animator	
Location Designer	
Maya Generalist	
Mobile Graphics Animator	
Morphing Artist (Film)	
Motion Capture Artist	
Motion Graphics Artist	