**Essa Neima**

NW. Washington, DC

Portfolio [www.essaneima.com](http://www.essaneima.com/)

**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Bilingual animation and design expert with over 15 years of professional experience working with a wide variety of multimedia programs, and teaching classic and digital art.

**KEY SKILLS**

* 2D digital animation, layout, and design development
* Visual problem-solving skills and conceptual acumen
* Concept art for cartoon character illustrations
* Storyboard creation with digital media and traditional tools
* Freehand drawing and painting with traditional and technological media
* Undergraduate instructor for digital art and traditional drawing
* Microsoft Office and various applications, including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Adobe Animate, Flash, Aura US and After effects
* Fluent in English and Arabic

**AWARDS**

* 2018: Vice President Award for Excellence, The World Bank Group (USA)
* 2013: Best Animation Award, Zanzibar International Film Festival (Zanzibar)
* 2013: Special Picture Award, 3D Korea International Film Festival (Korea)
* 2012: Best Animation Award, Digital Studio Awards, Dubai (UAE)
* 2010: Golden Prize Award, 20th Cairo International Family and Children’s Film Festival (Egypt)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Corporate info-graphic Coach (Freelancing)**  06/2018 – 01/2019

**Earthjustice, Washington, DC (USA)**

[www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org)

* Organized training workshops for the company’s designers from DC and San Francisco branches.
* Taught the principles of animation and infographics with Adobe Flash, Animate and After Effects.
* Trained students on apps to optimize the creation of GIF and motion graphic animations.
* Taught private lessons in advanced animation and post-production to produce high quality animation and creative videos to improve the company’s social media platform.

**International Consultant** 05/2018 – 06/2018

**The World Bank Group, Washington, DC (USA)**

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

* Created a brand for activities on Syrian refugees in the Middle East and North Africa region.
* Developed high quality graphic concepts for social inclusion and civil coexistence.
* Created the concept art, illustrations, event collateral, and advertisements for ENHANCING URBAN RESILIENCE, an event in Lebanon, which spotlights 40 drawings of famous building in the country.

**Adjunct Professor of Animation/Computer Art** 08/2012 – 04/2018

**University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC (USA)**

[www.ude.edu](http://www.ude.edu)

* Taught 30-45 students per semester in fundamental motion design concepts, concept art development and advanced methods of animation.
* Produced animation video in an academic digital studio environment to help students become familiar with techniques used in traditional and experimental filmmaking.
* Build confidence in students in the use of digital media as they create original animation work for their portfolios, producing 15 to 20 short movies every year.

**Teaching Artist** 10/2012 – 05/2014

**Arts on the Block, Germantown, MD (USA)**

[www.artsontheblock.com](http://www.artsontheblock.com)

*The art program “Excel Beyond the Bell,” enlists the aid of professional teaching artists in offering creative programs at select schools, chosen on the basis of the greatest need for supplemental services.*

* Taught after-school art and illustration for 150 underserved middle school students in Montgomery County
* Applied the principles of advancing youth development (AYD) methods of teaching to create a healthy teaching environment in the classroom where students felt safe to be themselves, expressed their thoughts and feeling, respected others and the art material

**Animation Team Supervisor** 10/2010 – 02/2012

**Blink Studios Co, Dubai, UAE**

www.blinkstudios.ae

*Multi-platform production studio targeting children and families with content across the Arab world and beyond. Produced award winning TV shows and movies for Cartoon Network Arabia, UAE government and many more.*

* Contributed to award winning TV shows and movies for Cartoon Network Arabia and UAE Government.
* Created the animation of ten cartoon characters for 6 episodes of the Arabic language version of a British/Canadian/American children's TV show “Skatoony” produced by Cartoon Network.
* Redeveloped six of the original characters and parts of the environments with original animation to fit the Arabic culture and audiences.
* Created the three main characters and developed the style of the animation for an animated movie (Ostora) about the UAE’s formation.
* Supervised a team of seven artists on how to adhere to the style of the drawing and the animation.
* Prepared 28 different poses of the characters to help the animator of accomplishing their tasks.
* Edited the patterns, ornamentation, character outfits, and prepared studies for over 80 facial expressions to produce movie winning awards including Best Animation of 2012 at Digital Studio Awards, Dubai UAE, Best Animation at Zanzibar International Film Festival 2013, and Special Picture at 3D Korea International Film Festival 2013.

**Senior Graphic Designer** 05/2007 – 09/2010

**Digitcom - Smart Home Co,** **Dubai (UAE)**

[www.smarthomebus.com](http://www.smarthomebus.com)

* Created eight infographic instructional and educational animations about the concept of over 100 products.
* Created more than 25 brochures, 80 flyers, 5 catalogues, 20 banners, and additional collateral as needed.

**Art Director and Animator** 02/2006 – 12/2006

**Genres Studio, Damascus (Syria)**

* Developed cartoon characters, prepared layouts, conceptualized art and design, storyboarded eight television episodes.
* Directed and supervised the animation team of “City of Numbers” and the “Yes or No” television series
* Created a short advertisement video for (R&R) cartoon production company, which included creating the character to the post-production work.
* Created the movement style of the main characters, supervising the animation workshop of 5 artists to produce series of educational and instructional videos based on the elementary school books

**Animator** 01/2003 – 01/2006

**Tiger Production, Spacetoon TV, Damascus (Syria)**

[www.spacetoon.com](http://www.spacetoon.com)

* Worked with six artists on large frame-by-frame animation project to improve animation style by arranging a weekly movie night, artist conversations, benchmarking, research, and studies for the character design
* Produced pilot episode earning wide recognition as number one in animation in Syria and UAE
* Supervised a workshop of six animators for two years as the lead director for 20-30 short animations.
* Completed full animation for 4 scenes (20 minutes of 90 minute movie) of Life Fiber, the first long animation movie in Syria, winning the Golden Prize, Best Arabic Movie, at the 20th Cairo International Family and Children’s Film Festival, Egypt 2010

**EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Fine Arts** 2003

University of Damascus, Damascus, Syria

*Ranked 1st most competitive university in Syria; accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education*

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**DC Best Advancing Youth Development**

DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation DC CYITC, Washington DC, 2012

**EXHIBITIONS**

* 2019 Memories, at Onishi Gallery, New York, NY (USA)
* 2018: Yet, at La Pop Gallery, Washington, DC (USA)
* 2017: Different, at White Cloud Gallery, Washington, DC (USA)
* 2016: Color for life, at Tryst, Washington, DC (USA)
* 2015: Touch Me Not, at Presbyterian Church of the Pilgrims, Washington, DC (USA)