

KRISTINE O'BRIEN

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGNER & ILLUSTRATOR

RESEARCH DEEPLY • ILLUSTRATE THOUGHTFULLY • DESIGN FOR UNDERSTANDING

SUMMARY

Visual Communication Designer with more than twenty years of experience helping people understand complex ideas through illustration, animation, information design, and human-centered design. I enjoy collaborating with educators, researchers, and interdisciplinary teams to create visual communication that is clear, engaging, and accessible, with a particular interest in design for health and the human condition.

SELECTED VISUAL COMMUNICATION PROJECTS

SYNAPSE

A self-initiated educational concept exploring how animation and illustration can make neural communication easier to understand.

PAIN-FREE PATHWAYS

Illustrated book cover for a publication exploring biomechanics, pain, and recovery.

TRANSLUCENT MEMORIES

Community arts initiative in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Dallas, fostering reflection and dialogue around Alzheimer's disease.

HUMANIZING HEALTHCARE ROBOTICS

Research collaboration exploring how character design and expressive illustration can foster communication and empathy in healthcare robotics.

DISAPPEARANCE OF POLLINATORS

Proximity-sensing illustrations exploring the interconnectedness of pollinators, ecosystems, and human well-being.

HIDDEN COST OF FAST FASHION

Public education campaign featuring hand-illustrated textiles, digital print design, and interactive animation.

AWARDS

- Invited Presenter: ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction
- Grant (Collaborator): *A Robot Walks into a Waiting Room...*, and *Robots and Shakespeare*, Digital Arts and Humanities/University of Texas Arlington
- Official Selections and screenings at national and international film festivals, including *NYC Indie Theatre Film Festival*, *Cannes Shorts*, and *CultureHub Re-Fest*
- Creative Residency: The TX Studio

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EMPLOYMENT

2011–present

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON

Multimedia Producer

- Designed educational illustrations, infographics, multimedia presentations, publications, and digital experiences that communicated information to diverse audiences.
- Collaborated with faculty, researchers, and subject-matter experts to develop clear, engaging visual communication across print, web, and motion media.
- Applied accessibility principles and iterative design methods to improve clarity, usability, and audience understanding.
- Managed projects from research and concept development through production and publication.

2017–present

Adjunct Assistant Professor

of Art & Design

- University instruction in observational drawing and rendering techniques.
- Developed project-based curriculum focused on visual analysis, communication, and iterative problem-solving.
- Mentored students in translating complex concepts into clear visual narratives.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF FINE ARTS VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

University of Texas Arlington

BACHELOR OF ARTS EDUCATION

Concordia University St. Paul

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS VISUAL ART

University of Minnesota Duluth

HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN TRAINING

IDEO

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATE

University of Texas Arlington

FITNESS NUTRITION COACH CERTIFICATE

NESTA

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Human-Centered Design
- Scientific & Educational Illustration
- Information Design
- Public Education
- Visual Storytelling
- Accessibility
- Research & Concept Development
- Photography
- Animation
- Adobe CC