

You think it, I'll design it.

Can't think it? I'll do that too.





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About Me

Currently based in Manchester with over 5 years' design experience both in-house and as a freelancer, I am now looking to use the skills gained in this time to bolster a design team. Enjoying everything creative and being a quick learner, I make a significant effort to teach myself new skills to benefit projects. I would be an ideal match for any team, getting along with a majority of people I am introduced to both professionally and personally.

For a full list of previous clients and work, you can look on my portfolio website.

Experience

Nationwide Vehicle Contracts - Manchester *Graphic Designer* December 2017 - Present

- Designed graphical elements, illustrations and infographics for both web and print including logos
- · Created web-page and email wireframes
- Consulted with our web development team so that designs presented well when coded
- Created screen-capture videos and animations to improve the customer experience
- · Designed creatively whilst within brand guidelines
- Assisted with marketing campaign strategy

Freelance Illustrator and Designer 2014-present

- Designed for Manchester-based businesses including Tokyo Ramen and Luck, Lust, Liquor and Burn
- Designed promotional and branding materials for social media and print including bespoke logo design
- Presented a workshop on CV design for Lancaster University Marketing Society
- Corresponded with clients to ensure they are aware of all developments as and when they occur
- · Worked to strict deadlines on multiple projects at once

The University of Manchester Student Support & Engagement Assistant October 2016 - December 2017

- Designed graphical elements, illustrations and infographics for both web and print
- · Created web-page wireframes including coding pages
- Collaborated with the University central marketing team to create student-friendly, accessible campaigns
- · Designed creatively whilst within brand guidelines
- Managed, filmed and edited a University-Wide wellbeing campaign series: "Manchester Minutes"

Education

The University of Manchester 2013-16
BA(Hons) Ancient History & Archaeology

Exeter School 2006-2012

A-Levels Maths, Physics, History (B)

AS-Level Art (B)

GCSE 3A*, 4A, 2B (inc. Maths and English)

Relevant Skills

Basic	Intermediate	Expert
Photoshop		
Illustrator		
InDesign		
Premier Pro		
After Effects		
Blender		
Adobe XD		
HTML/CSS		

Interests



Design

I have had personal work selected for exhibitions around the UK and do portraits at local events. I also take part in One Minute Briefs on Twitter to practice my skills.



Game Design

I often use computer games as inspiration for my artwork. Creating mock concept art has improved my knowledge of fundamental art theory and software proficiency.



Music

I appreciate most genres of music and sang and played the guitar at a monthly blues evening while living in Exeter. I also enjoy going out to see live acts when I can.



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Sports and Fitness

I take part in Parkruns regularly. I also played rugby for many years representing first teams for school, university and club sides before hanging up my boots due to injury.

About Me: The extra bits

- I was in the CCF at school where I learned to work as a team, pilot a glider and everything in-between
- I am proficient with basic IT software such as Microsoft Office and other organisational tools such as Trello
- I ran Peer Assisted Study Sessions for students while at University helping them with both academic and personal issues

Work Samples

Nationwide Vehicle Contracts Graphic Design

I have been employed by Nationwide Vehicle Contracts (NVC), a major UK Vehicle Leasing broker, since December 2017. During this time I have designed many graphical elements, illustrations and infographics for both web and print. All created with a consumer focus, either to draw in new business or to educate existing clients.

I designed web-pages, banners and graphics alongside NVC's external web development team. Clear communication was key to ensure designs were introduced as planned with projects being managed through the organisational tool, Trello. As NVC is always looking to expand into new markets, I also managed the production of wireframes for new web-pages and logo concepts.

I produced various videos and animations for the company website and social media channels. Video production involved the use of screencapture software alongside Adobe visual and audio editing software. For the animations, I designed assets from scratch to fit in with our existing brand identity. I also taught myself how to create animated gifs which were used as part of social media marketing campaigns. Another fundamental responsibility was updating online vehicle images to ensure the customers saw an accurate representation of the product before purchase.

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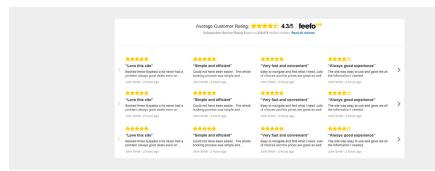


What our customers think



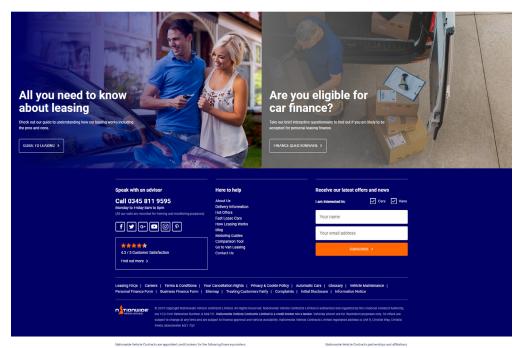






Popular Manufacturers









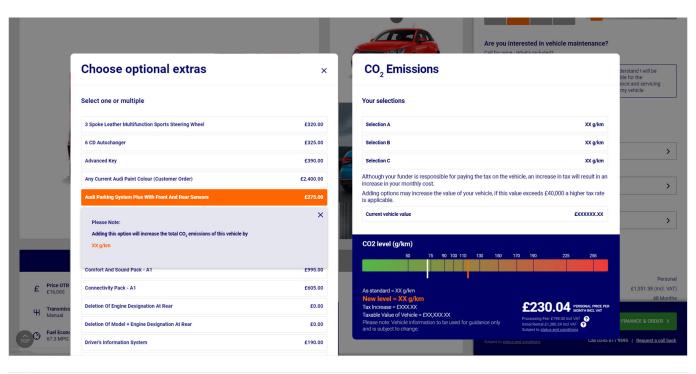










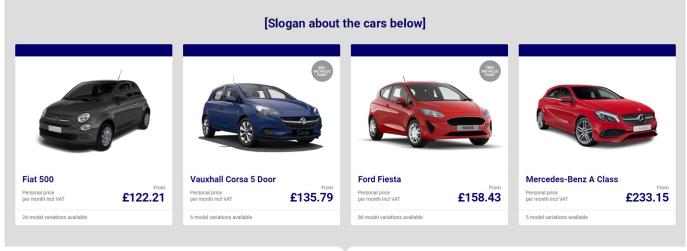








Subject to status and condition



The University of Manchester Student Support and Engagement Assistant

During my time as a Student Support and Engagement Assistant at The University of Manchester, I was allowed to develop my creative skills. The role itself was specifically tailored to me to take advantage of my design experience. I was put in charge of designing material for both digital and print to improve student financial and psychological wellbeing.

Working for the University meant working within strict brand guidelines. My largest challenge was stretching their limits to create engaging and contemporary materials that would not feel too corporate.

I also had much experience sending finished designs to print both in small and large formats. Flyers were being created and sent off on an almost weekly basis to coincide with University wellbeing campaigns. The samples included here predominantly cover financial issues, but some campaigns had a wellbeing focus.

I also managed graphics and some minor coding on the Student Support Website creating bespoke icons and designs and fine-tuning page layouts. The main goal was to simplify the user experience, making sure that the right advice was easy to find and reducing the strain on University support services. Because of my and the team's efforts, we saw a decrease in face-to-face visits and an increase in website visits and self-referrals.

I also oversaw filming, editing and branding of a monthly well-being video series called "Manchester Minutes". Rather than hire another member of staff, which would have been resourceintensive, I went out of my way to learn Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects to effectively produce the material.

willthompsonart.org/ university-of-manchester









My Safety



Whilst it is unlikely your personal safety will be at risk during your time at University, it's always better to be prepared. We've compiled a list of resources to ensure you are aware of the steps you can take to stay as safe as possible during your time in Manchester.







Top Tips to Staying Safe

Read more >



Read more >

Read more >





Run, Hide, Tell

Read more >









Freelance work/Side projects Graphic Design/Illustration

I have been undertaking freelance work and various side-projects since the end of my first year of University. These have ranged from designing for print to branding and logo design.

There is a section here dedicated to "One Minute Briefs", the Twitter-based creative contests. I started entering to show the range of my artistic and creative ability, and a few of my entries have been short-listed and have even won. I drastically limit the time I spend on each design to show off how I can quickly create engaging messages. I usually also take the time to look up the company's brand guidelines to create mock adverts that would fit in amongst their usual material. I have also been nominated for "Submission of the Year" 2019.

I have had artwork displayed at gallery evenings and events across the country, with the latest being a month-long temporary gallery in a Manchester Cafe.

The cartoons have become their own 'brand' under 'Twisted Aart' and have proved incredibly popular on social media. I have been commissioned by Manchester designers and businesses to create some custom shirt designs, one of which I have featured on the final page. I am also taking part in a solo exhibition at Federal Cafe in Manchester with a few select pieces for the month of November 2019.

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Brand design























































