

MICHALE WARREN

Hackettstown, NJ | www.MichaleWarren.com | MichaleWarrenNicotra@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Women in Toys (WIT) Ruth Handler Mentorship, 09/2026 - 12/2026

Selected participant in a mentorship focused on toy and product design, and growing knowledge of the toy industry.

WORK HISTORY

Freelance Plush Toy Designer | Remote

07/2026-Present

- Designs original plush toy concepts from ideation sketches/mockups through production-ready artwork, including character design, orthographic drawings, and technical specifications
- Translates consumer trends and market research into innovative, market-viable plush concepts that balance creativity, play value, manufacturability, and cost
- Prepares factory-ready artwork, print files, and product specification sheets
- Experience illustrating and rendering characters based on licensing style guides

Art Director/Designer | NEIGHBOR Animation LLC | Remote

06/2018-Present

- Participates in ideation and design of 2D/3D characters, storyboards, and concepts that elevate character-driven stories and resonate with target consumers
- Creates spec sheets for characters and props to streamline the production process
- Brainstorms collaboratively and presents pitch decks to internal teams and in client-facing settings
- Reviews the design team's work and provides clear, constructive feedback
- Manages detailed project timelines and milestones for a team of artists to ensure timely deliveries
- Collaborates closely with other designers, directors, and producers to problem-solve

Illustrator/Animator | King Show Games | Minnetonka, MN

06/2016 - 05/2018

- Designed and developed slot machine game concepts from ideation through final game shipment
- Collaborated and communicated across departments to develop exciting game experiences

SOFTWARE

- Illustrator
- Photoshop
- Maya
- Fusion 360
- After Effects
- Premiere Pro

SOFT SKILLS

- Clear communication
- Comfortable in fast-paced environments
- Problem solving
- Innovation
- Self-discipline
- Time Management

EDUCATION

Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, FL

BFA, Computer Animation, 2016

