

leni.gao

motion design + illustration

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lenigao.com

Education

09.2021 – 12.2025
ArtCenter College of Design
Pasadena, CA

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration
Specialization in Motion Design
Minor in Business
Graduated with Honors

Focused Coursework at ArtCenter
11.2025
Daniel Rainn DesignStorm

Expertise

Strong working knowledge of:
Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, InDesign,
Cinema 4D, Redshift, Media Encoder, Figma,
Lightroom Classic, Glyphs 3, Procreate

Familiar with:
Substance Painter/Sampler/Designer,
ZBrush, Nomad Sculpt, Premiere Pro,
Audition, Marvelous Designer, Animate

Other skills:
2D and 3D motion design, brand identity
development, graphic design, font design,
editorial design, sequential design, digital
illustration, digital sculpting, cel animation,
ceramics, photography

Languages:
Fluent in English, native in Mandarin,
beginner in German

Experience

01.2025 – 06.2025
Design Intern
KCM Connect
Los Angeles, CA

Designed motion graphics and visual content
for social media campaigns to advertise
events, increase engagement and strengthen
brand visibility in the Los Angeles market.
Created logo animations and brand elements
tailored for client promotions and advertising
across digital platforms. Provided on-site
support for live events, including venue setup,
guest reception, and product introduction,
creating a welcoming experience for guests.

08.2023 – 09.2023
Freelance Motion Designer
ArtCenter College of Design
Pasadena, CA

Created a short motion video for a school
event. Actively communicated with staff to
meet project goals and deadlines. Delivered
a polished final product incorporating 2D
motion graphics, illustration, storytelling,
and design principles.

09.2022 – 04.2023
Teaching Assistant
ArtCenter College of Design
Pasadena, CA

Assisted Professor Pamela Olecki with her
Type I: Foundation course. Provided feedback
on homework to help students become
familiar with typography, create layout
with InDesign, and learn hand calligraphy.
Participated in the critiques. Advised
students after-hours to ensure active
engagement during class time.

Recognition

07.2025
VoyageLA
Interview Feature

01.2022 – 04.2025
ArtCenter Student Gallery
Femmebit Logo Reveal (motion design),
Deadline Rebrand (identity and motion
design), *The Polar Express* Main on End
(motion design), Soundtrack Your Life
(sequential design), *Everything Everywhere*
All at Once (sequential design), *Dear Ex*
(sequential design), *A Fantastic Journey*
(motion design), *City Toile* (illustration and
surface design)

Graphis New Talent Annual 2025
The Big Wave: The Golden Age of Cantopop
(Editorial Design)
Honorable Mention

Graphis New Talent Annual 2024
Milano Cortina 2026 Rebrand
(Brand Identity)
Silver

Fall 2024 Spring 2023 Spring 2022
Provost's List
ArtCenter College of Design
GPA of 3.8 or higher

Scholarships

09.2024 – 04.2025
ArtCenter 100 Scholarship

09.2021 – 04.2025
ArtCenter Undergraduate Scholarship

09.2023 – 04.2024
Kenneth R. Deardoff Endowed Scholarship