



Illustration

Visualizing ideas
and stories.



Ringling College
of Art + Design

Here's a sneak peek →



At the heart of our Illustration program is the belief that every student has a unique creative voice waiting to be developed. Our curriculum is designed to open doors equipping artists with versatile skills that thrive across today's dynamic creative industries.

During the first two years, students begin with a strong foundation in drawing, design, and visual storytelling. From there, they choose their path through one of two areas of emphasis: **Illustration** or **Visual Development**. Whether you're drawn to publishing, product design, concept art, pattern design, or beyond, our program empowers students to refine their passions, discover their strengths, and graduate ready to make their mark as professional illustrators.

Illustration students work in both 2D and 3D, gaining hands-on experience with the tools and techniques shaping today's creative world. Learning comes alive through demonstrations, critiques, collaborative projects, and professional connections with guest speakers, recruiters, and real-world clients. Opportunities such as internships and workshops further prepare students to step confidently into their careers. By graduation, you'll not only be **career-ready**—you'll have a polished, diverse portfolio that reflects your unique vision and creative voice.

Our graduates bring their talents to some of the most exciting corners of the industry. They design book covers, graphic novels, and comics; create editorial art for magazines and newspapers; and write and illustrate children's books. Many pursue careers in concept art for film, animation, and gaming, while others explore 3D toy design, surface and pattern design for apparel, or illustration that integrates seamlessly with graphic design.

Community and Studio Space

The Illustration Department offers an array of facilities to create and exhibit student artwork. We provide three Cintiq labs, painting and drawing studios, and a laptop for every student fully equipped with the latest Adobe Creative Suite software.

The Illustration building, located centrally on campus, houses its own gallery and a tropical courtyard in the center of the building for student gathering.

Our vibrant community celebrates student accomplishments through numerous events, including the student run annual Illest of Ill juried exhibition and the Best of Ringling Rising Stars event. The department also hosts a three-day event every spring bringing art directors from diverse industries to campus for presentations, workshops, panels, and one-on-one portfolio reviews.

Society of Illustrators

Each year, about 300 works are selected from over 8,700 entries submitted by professors of college-level students nationwide. In 2026, 47 of 216 works in the Society of Illustrators exhibition were from Ringling Illustration students.

We also had a junior win the Zankel Scholarship which covers a large part of their senior year tuition. This award is very prestigious and sought after by numerous competitive institutions.

Industry Guests

Bess Palleres

David Curtis

Edward Kinsella

Gallery Gerard

Hasbro

Irene Gallo

Kohls

Yuko Shimizu

Lauren Panepinto

Loveis Wise

Nasrin Sheykhi

Saho Fujii



Artwork by Emelia Feldman '26

Employers

Abercrombie & Fitch

American Greetings

Apple

Bath and Bodyworks

Blizzard Entertainment

Carter's

Cartoon Network

CIA

Creative Arts

Disney

EA Games

Flickr

General Motors

GM Hallmark

Hasbro

LAIKA

Lilly Pulitzer

Marvel Studios

Moonbot Studios

Riot Games

RSVLTs

The United States Mint

Universal

U.S. Mint

Wizards of the Coast

Zynga

Internships

Abercrombie & Fitch

American Greetings

Bath and Bodyworks

Carter's

Coach

Disney

Disney Live

Entertainment

Disney/Marvel

GM

Hallmark

Hasbro

Hollister

Jazwares

Kohl's

Mattel

Moonbot

MOTE

NASA

Pixar

Selby Gardens

Smithsonian American

Art Museum

The Children's Place

Universal

U.S. Army

Awards and Accolades

Out of 150+ schools across the country, Ringling College of Art and Design's Illustration program is consistently ranked as a top program nationally, in the South, and in Florida by *The Rookies* and *Animation Career Review*. Our students have earned top recognition at the annual **Concept Art Awards Competition** at **Lightbox Expo** in Pasadena, winning in the highly competitive Character Design category—an honor judged by a panel of leading industry professionals and celebrating excellence across all areas of concept art.

Exhibitions and Representation

Illustration students and alumni are exhibited and represented internationally and by galleries and museums throughout the United States. Here are just some of the institutions representing Ringling alumni.

**Andrea Brown
Literary**

**Brandt-Roberts
Galleries**
Ohio

**Butler Institute of
American Art**
Ohio

**Cahoon Museum
of American Art**
Massachusetts

NYCAC Gallery
New York

**Dahesh Museum
of Art**
New York

**Fort Wayne
Museum
of Art**
Texas

Gallery Nucleus
California

Ghostprint Gallery
Virginia

Kiley Court Gallery
Massachusetts

**Palm Avenue
Fine Art**
Florida

**Shannon
Associates**
New York

**Smithsonian
American
Art Museum**
Washington, D.C.

The Bright Agency
London

The CAT Agency
**Williamsburg Art
Nexus**
New York

Faculty

Our 23 full time Illustration faculty are a vibrant community of artists and illustrators passionate about shaping the next generation of creative leaders through our hands-on studio teaching model. They are actively working in the industry, mastering both digital and traditional techniques, and balancing careers in illustration and fine art. Many of our instructors are also entrepreneurs, developing and managing their own intellectual properties while sharing real-world insights with students. Learn more:

www.ringling.edu/faculty

Author/Illustrator Certificate

This certificate equips students to turn their stories and art into market-ready books. Focused on children's books, comics, and graphic novels, the program emphasizes storytelling, design, and industry-savvy production. Offered by the Creative Writing and Illustration departments, students learn to pitch to publishers, explore self-publishing, and master professional publishing strategies. Courses cover engaging children's books, sequential storytelling for comics and graphic novels, and marketing and distribution techniques to launch work successfully upon graduation.

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