



CHELSEA

Author, Illustrator, Character Designer & Animator

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About Chelsea

Chelsea Heard is a Children's Book Author, Illustrator, Character Designer and Animator based in sunny California with over 5+ years of experience! Since childhood, Chelsea has always enjoyed utilizing her art as a way to tell stories and draws most of her inspiration from her personal life. She enjoys experimenting with bold colors, lines, perspectives, facial expressions and exaggerated features when drawing which gives her work a unique look! *Curls*, was Chelsea's first children's book which she illustrated, wrote and published back in 2017 and then created an animated adaptation of it during her undergrad at NYU Tisch School of the Arts in 2022. *Curls* was inspired by her personal experiences with her curly hair growing up and it went on to win various awards during its film festival rounds, screening at the 2023 LA Shorts, and winning Best Animated Film at the 2023 Cannes World Film Festival. In 2024, Chelsea completed her Masters in Arts at New York University. Her thesis titled, *Beyond the Spectrum*, is an illustrative, audio visual presentation that focused on her grandparents trials and triumphs during the 1960s and premiered at the 2023 Spring Thesis Show in Shanghai China. Chelsea is currently working as a Freelance Contract Artist in the Los Angeles area and has had the wonderful opportunity to collaborate with company's such as, The Oxford University Press, DreamTea NYC and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy!

Awards

- 2025 Collision Awards Founding Jury Member
- 2025 Black Fairytale Exhibition Magazine
- 2024 Collision Awards Founding Jury Member
- 2023 Featured in Animation Magazine - (Animated Short "Curls")
- 2023 NYU IMA Low Res Spring Thesis Show - (Thesis, "Beyond the Spectrum") - Shanghai, China
- 2023 Cannes World Film Festival - Cannes, French Riviera - Won Best Animated Film
- 2023 LA Shorts International Film Festival - Los Angeles, CA - Official Selection
- 2023 Meet Film Festival - Roma, Italy - Finalist
- 2023 Student World Impact Film Festival - Honorable Mention
- 2022 Cultural Animation Film Festival- Honolulu, Hawaii - Official Selection
- 2022 Richard Protovin Animation Award Recipient
- 2022 James R. Janowsky Awardee Recipient

Experience

Movie Poster Designer (Boneless 180 Documentary)

Los Angeles, California Feb. 2025 - March. 2025

- Developed various complex character designs and movie poster iterations as requested by the client.
- Worked closely with the director and explored and developed various color palettes, for the movie poster.

Contracted Illustrator & Designer (Dream Tea NYC)

New York, NY Dec. 2024- Jan. 2025

- Created various designs for Dream Tea NYC's first artist series.
- Worked closely with the owner of the company to create a design that embodied the values of Dream Tea NYC.
- Delivered the final results before the deadline!

Contracted Color Artist

Los Angeles, California April. 2024 - May. 2024

- I was a Color Artist on the animated film "Little Girl in the Blue Dress." This was the thesis film of Re'h Hearne and was presented at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles!
- Colored over 200 frames of animation and delivered final product before the deadline!

Curls (Short Film) & Children's Book

Los Angeles, California Jan. 2017- Dec. 2022

- A Short animated film based on my children's book, *Curls*.
- Created the 5 min Animation, over 30 Character Designs, 2 Animatics, 1000 frames of Linework, 20 Background Designs, & fully colored over 1000 frames of animation.
- Illustrated, wrote and published my children's book called *CURLS*.

Contracted Illustrator, Oxford University Press

New York, New York, NY Dec. 2021 - Mar. 2022

- Created an illustrative cover for the Oxford University Press
- Coordinated 15 visual ideas for clients' creative direction.

Education

New York University

MA IMA | 2022 - 2024 | GPA: 4.0

2023 Graduation Commencement Speaker

Education

New York University

BFA Film & TV | 2019 - 2022 | GPA: 3.8

2022 Honors Scholar - Cum Laude

SKILLS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Procreate | Animation |
| • Toon Boom Harmony | Character Design |
| • Adobe Photoshop | Adobe Illustrator |
| • Adobe Premiere Pro | Blender |
| • Illustration | Storyboarding |
| • Microsoft 360 | Linework |