Brian Williamson

visualjournalist@gmail.com
https://visualjournali.st

Forward-thinking visual journalist skilled at designing, programming and producing data visualizations, animations and multimedia stories. Experienced illustrator equally comfortable working with dirty, real-world paint or the virtual equivalent to create conceptual illustrations, portraits and comics.

EXPERIENCE

Interactive Designer and Illustrator ⏐ Voice of America   2016 - present

Developed interactive maps and graphics using HTML, SASS/CSS and JavaScript (including D3, Leaflet and MapLibre). Created static maps and graphics using Illustrator, QGIS and ai2html. Scripted, storyboard-ed, illustrated and coded responsive web-based comics. Created animations in Procreate and After Effects. Coordinated workflows and developed tools for simplifying the translation of graphics and web projects.

Senior UX Designer ⏐ Broadcasting Board of Governors   2012 – 2016

Led a team that redesigned the BBG's .gov website, transforming it into a modern responsive website using the U.S. Web Design Standards. Illustrated and designed ebooks and print-on-demand books for Radio Free Asia. Led a team that developed an open source tool for journalists to create and edit web-based interactive videos. Helped run a series of iterative usability tests on mobile apps.

Designer and Illustrator ⏐ XPLANE ⏐ Dachis Group   2011 – 2012

Facilitated on-site discovery sessions with clients using live sketching to explore client needs and deliverable options. Conceptualized, designed and illustrated print graphics to communicate business strategies. Scripted, storyboarded, illustrated and animated videos to explain business processes.

Interactive Designer ⏐ St. Louis Post-Dispatch   2007 – 2010

Produced interactive and multimedia projects. Combined interactive data visualizations with audio and video. Designed and coded Flash templates for the newsroom staff to create their own quizzes and slideshows. Designed and developed a mobile web app using JavaScript, PHP and MySQL.

Page Designer and Illustrator ⏐ St. Louis Post-Dispatch   2004 – 2006

Designed A1, Metro, Business and Feature section pages. Brainstormed, illustrated and designed special sections. Created illustrations using paint, scratchboard, ink and digital techniques.

EDUCATION

Graduate course work in visual journalism
Missouri School of Journalism ⏐ Columbia, Missouri

BFA in Graphic Communications — Illustration
Washington University ⏐ St. Louis, Missouri

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AWARDS

2023

Society for News Design (SND) — Best of Digital Design — Award of Excellence for feature and social issues

New York Festivals TV and Film awards — Bronze — Documentary, Human Rights

2022

SND — Bronze award for page design

SND — Award of excellence for use of in-house illustration

SND — Award of excellence for design portfolio for illustrations in projects

Shorty Awards — Finalist — Art direction

New York Festivals TV and Film awards — Silver — Current Affairs Documentary

Association for Women in Communications (AWC) — Finalist — Online Journalism, Special News Section

One World Media Award — Finalist — Refugee reporting

2020

Online Journalism Awards — Digital Video Storytelling, Long Form

PRESENTATIONS

2022

Online News Association (ONA) annual conference: Using comics journalism for deeper, broader engagement

2020

Society for News Design (SND) annual conference: Watercolor, animation and the Islamic State

COMPUTER SKILLS

Comfortable hand-coding HTML, SASS/CSS and JavaScript

Building static sites using Jekyll and Liquid templating

Working knowledge of Node, PHP and QGIS

Skilled Adobe CC user, including Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign and After Effects