

Samia Khalaf

Art Director | Animation manager

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Experience

Duolingo

Animation Manager

Jan '24 – Present

- Lead and mentor a cross-disciplinary team of animators and illustrators, growing animation systems across products. Partner with PM, design, and engineering to tie animation to business impact while fostering a high-trust culture of psychological safety and creative growth.

Senior Illustrator

Apr '22 – Mar '24

- Contributed to award-winning initiatives and viral content across platforms

Funomena

Art Director

Jan '21 – Mar '22

- Led visual direction for branded Roblox experiences Ralph Lauren x Roblox
- Balanced creative excellence with team wellness by establishing production timelines

Meta

VR/AR Designer

Apr '18 – Oct '19

- Brought product visions to life through art, prototyping, and storyboarding, translating design goals into immersive user journeys

VR Film Director

Aug '20 – May '21

- Wrote and directed *Kteer Tayyeb*, an animated VR film, premiered at Tribeca, Ottawa International Animation Festival, and Arab Film Festival

Additional Roles

Adjunct Professor — *San Jose State University* 2020 – 2023

Animator — *Augenblick Studios, Warner Bros., Facebook, Jam City, Ghostbot* 2014 – 2020

- Contributed to IPs like *DC SuperHero Girls*, *Cyanide & Happiness*, and *Adam Ruins Everything*

Speaker & Workshop Leader — Tribeca Immersive, Arab Film Festival, and multiple U.S. universities

VR Illustrator — David Attenborough's Galapagos VR Mar '23 – Sept '23

- Designed spatial illustrations integrated with 8K 180° live-action documentary footage

Skills

Art Direction · Systems · Animation Management · Cross-Functional Collaboration

Character Design · Storyboarding · Inclusive Design · Workshop Development