

ELENA CIOLACU

VISUAL ARTIST & STORYTELLER

www.elenaciolacu.com | Romania | e.ciolacu@gmail.com

PROFILE

Visual artist and storyteller working in the fields of illustration, animation and fine art. Experienced with designing and illustrating children's books, comic strips and graphic novels. Competent within all stages of production of short frame-by-frame animations. Self-taught fine artist with a broad range of techniques - oils, charcoal, dry pastels and gouache.

EXPERIENCE

VISUAL ARTIST

FREELANCING - 2013 -PRESENT

As a freelance visual artist I've worked on a variety of projects: from illustrated books and series of oil paintings, to murals and illustrations printed on toy.

VISUAL ARTIST AND MOTION GRAPHICS DESIGNER

MORALIS WEB3 – 2022-2025

Moralis is a web3 development platform designed to simplify the creation and deployment of decentralised applications. Within this company my role was to create various digital illustrations and motion graphics either for their website and products, or for their online promotional materials.

HEAD OF THE ANIMATION DEPARTMENT

BBS MEDIA, BUCUREȘTI, ROMÂNIA – 2019-2022

During my stay in this company I worked as an animator and illustrator on various commercial projects, eventually becoming head of the animation department. This role brought me the opportunity to work together with a small team on one of my most notable projects, the short animation "A True Story about Vlad Dracula", for which I provided the direction, concept art and animation.

PR ASSISTANT

THE BUCHAREST MUNICIPALITY MUSEUM – 2018-2019

My collaboration with the museum brought me the opportunity to take part in various cultural activities and educational events destined for children and teenagers. I also was given task of translating the museum's website into English.

EDUCATION

MASTER'S DEGREE IN ANIMATED FILM, 2016-2018

FACULTY OF FILM - THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF THEATER AND FILM "I.L.CARAGIALE",
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ILLUSTRATION AND ANIMATION, 2010-2013

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND DESIGN, COVENTRY UNIVERSITY, GREAT BRITAIN.

-

BACHELOR OF ARTS STUDIES IN GRAPHIC DESIGN, 2008-2010

FACULTY OF ARTS AND DESIGN, WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA.

AWARDS

For illustration:

- “A Story of Hope for the Bullied”, the graphic novel that I wrote and illustrated, won the First Prize at the „Creative Conscience Awards”, London, 2013, and also the “Curator’s Choice” award at NOISE International Festival, London, 2014. Starting from 2024 it also features in the 6th grade Romanian Language textbook, published by Litera. “A Story of Hope for the Bullied” is, most probably, the first graphic novel written and illustrated by a Romanian.
- “Disposable People”, the second graphic novel that I wrote and illustrated, was nominated as a finalist in the World Illustration Awards in 2016. Between 2016-2018 it was published in three paperback editions in Romania, one of them in English.
- Winner of the Vâlcea Artistică competition, 17th edition - Computer Graphics category, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Romania, 2013.
- Winner of the International Competition of Web Design and Computer Graphics, 10th edition - 2D Raster Image category, Vinnytsia, Ukraine, 2013.

For animation:

- “The Little Hero” was nominated for the Gopo Awards and the UCIN Awards (The Union of Romanian Cinematographers) in 2019, and throughout the next couple of years won more than 12 awards and nominations and was selected at more than 30 official screenings at festivals worldwide.
- “A true Story about Vlad Dracula” was awarded the Best Animated Short Film at RATMA International Film Festival, UK, 2020.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

“Open Doors”	25 June 2025, Râmnicu Vâlcea, România
“Tradition and Modernity”	19 February 2025, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova
“Grandmother’s Story	6 September 2024, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Romania 24 October 2024, Târgu Jiu, Romania
Reverberations	15 March 2024, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Romania
Winter Art Fair	December 2023, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Romania
Coventry University, Graduation Show	2013, Coventry & London, UK.
2004-2008 - exhibited in more than 12 group shows in Sibiu, Bucureşti and Râmnicu Vâlcea, Romania	