SANJA MANAKOSKI

+1 847 809 7096
sanjamanakoski@gmail.com
sanjamanakoski.com

ARTIST • LIVE ILLUSTRATOR • DRAWING & DESIGN EDUCATOR • COSTUME DESIGNER

EDUCATION

MFA, Theatre Design
Northwestern University *2017*

BFA, Fashion & Costume Design
University of Arts in Belgrade *2011*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Founder & Director
My Art Academia | Online
- Founded and leads an online art school serving nearly 7,000 young artists internationally.
- Develops curriculum and teaches drawing, portraiture, shading, anime/character design, illustration, and digital art.
- Recruits and mentors instructors and oversees educational programming.

Adjunct Professor
Northwestern University *2017–2021*
- Theatrical Figure Drawing — Graduate Level
- Digital Computer Drawing — Graduate Level
- Stage Makeup — Undergraduate Level

Guest Artist
Northwestern University *2017–2019*
- Introduction to Directing
- Advance Costume Design — Graduate Level

Art Instructor
Theatre Design Class, National High School Institute at Northwestern *2017*

Teaching Assistant
Northwestern University *2015–2017*
- Costume Design
- Stage Makeup

Instructor
Costume Shop Training, Northwestern University *2014–2016*
University of Illinois Chicago 2017–2021
- Set Design
- Scenography

Guest Lecturer
Ithaca College | Online 2024
- Figure Drawing

Adjunct Instructor
Hartnell College *Summer 2018 & 2019*
- Technical Production Techniques

ACADEMIC PROFILE

MFA-trained artist, designer, and educator
- University-level teaching in figure drawing, digital drawing, costume design, scenography, stage makeup, and technical production.
- Founder of My Art Academia, developing drawing and design curriculum for nearly 7,000 learners internationally.
- Professional practice spanning costume design, live illustration, visual development, and exhibited fine art.

AREAS OF TEACHING

Observational & Figure Drawing
Portrait Drawing & Shading
2D Design & Composition
Illustration & Visual Development
Costume / Character Design
Digital Drawing & Art Foundations
Portfolio Development & Critique

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Go Figure: Figures & Portraits from Hawai‘i’s Artists
Downtown Art Center, Honolulu, Hawai‘i *2024*
- Juried exhibition; two works accepted.
- Artwork selected as the featured image for the exhibition poster.

Urusai Con 2026
Sava Centar, Belgrade, Serbia *June 2026*
- Workshop presenter: Chibi Character Illustration.
- Participating artist in the convention artist program/bazaar.

Tribes - Prague Quadrennial Theatre Festival, Prague, 2015
Costume Design Exhibition and Performance - Belgrade Fashion Week, 2013-2015
Recycle - Kombank Hall, Belgrade, 2015
Fake Boutique - Cvijic Gallery, Belgrade, 2014
Balkan Myths - Belgrade, 2011
Contamination Between Art and Fashion - Premio Valcellina, Italy, 2010

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Live Illustrator - Live guest portraits and event illustration for weddings, private celebrations, corporate events, and fashion and brand activations, created in watercolor, ink, marker, and digital media.
Costume Designer - Steppenwolf Theatre, Music Theater Works, TheatreWorks, Urban Stages, Northwestern University, Western Stage, Teatro Vista, Red Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, Theatre Wit, and others.
Costume Design Assistant - Lyric Opera Chicago, Goodman Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Lookingglass Theatre, and others.
Film Costume Design - FDU productions, Belgrade; additional wardrobe and costume-design assistant credits on international film productions.
Co-Founder & Designer - KLASA fashion brand; SANJA MANAKOSKI fashion label.

SELECTED AWARDS

Michael Philippi Prize for Best Exhibit: Professional Designer - Michael Merritt Awards, 2019
American Theatre Magazine - Featured: 6 Theatre Workers You Should Know, 2018
Elle Fashion Award, 2014; Bazzart Fashion Award, 2014; Grazia Award, 2014
Ulupuds Award - Outstanding Costume Design, 2011