



# Meet Your Mentor:

[ Tumelo ]

## 1. Studio Shadowing

As a grade 10 kid, I went to an Animation studio almost every afternoon to play around on their PC 's and get tips and advice from the kind animators - seeing if this is something I want to pursue as a career.



## 2. After School Mentorship

After finishing school I wanted to study but needed some help with building my art portfolio. I searched in the yellow pages and found 2 animation Samurais who mentored me in the basics of fine art and creating art from memory which helped me to apply to the animation school.



## 3. Studying Animation

I Studied at The Animation School, in Cape Town and did so well that I studied on a bursary in my last year. Our group 's short film was a runner up in the multi choice 's VUKA awards.



[Tumelo]

## 4. Working at an Animation Studio

Directly after graduating I worked on a series of animated short films and later got a position at Triggerfish, working as a senior Animator among other roles in 3 feature films: Jock of the Bushveld, Adventures in Zambezia and Khumba.



## 5. Starting Digital Canvas Academy

In an attempt to more closely fill the gap between school and tertiary education, we moved our classes to the National School of Arts in JHB, starting an after school program together with our holiday classes to be able to give kids more ways to improve their portfolio 's while working with extremely talented and passionate Mentors. And this is just the beginning!



## 6. DCA in collaboration with NSA

After working for Triggerfish and a couple of other studios after that, I saw that there was a gap in the education and training of animation students coming directly from highschool. Basic knowledge and skills were lacking and caused for mediocre work. So I started own Smart center [Digital Canvas Academy] in partnership with the Animation School, where I would help fill this gap and make for more skilled students going into the industry, by teaching digital drawing for Animation , Games, Comics etc during school holidays.



## Likes :

- Coffee. I am addicted.
- My "fixie" (stylish road bicycle).
- Jazz and groovy music.
- Drawing and sketching.
- Expanding my network of likeminded people in arts and business.

## Why I love teaching:

- Meeting the students and seeing their abilities.
- Sharing my knowledge and experiences.
- Seeing the growth in the students and their work.
- The amazing atmosphere that 's created by people who are passionate about the same things.

## Main Motivation :

Mentorship and transferring knowledge and skills to the next person.

## Campus :

Mainly Cape Town Campus at The Animation School, CT.





# Meet Your Mentor:

[ Aimee ]



[ Aimee ]



1. I went to an Afrikaans, very sport-centered, school (I call it a Rugby school) but was lucky enough to have visual arts from grade 10. And this is where my passion for making art started. I always felt however that our arts program was very limiting and that there was so much more that we could be learning.



2. I had every intention to study animation but did not have the finances. Luckily I received a bursary from UJ to study MultiMedia Design thanks to my 7 distinctions in Matric (Tumelo forced me to add the last part). Multimedia Design taught me a lot and gave me knowledge and experience in many different things, but also meant that I wasn't "specialized" in anything. After 3 years, completing my studies through only external bursaries, I graduated with a national diploma and a very uncertain future.



3. Instead of immediately looking for a job in a company, I decided to better my skills and try to specialize - choosing illustration and fine art. To keep me afloat I started doing commissioned artworks and designs for random people. I really enjoyed doing this and turned it into an actual business which serves as my main income to this day. In between working and practicing I did the course through DCA and met the wonderful Tumelo!



4. Shortly after meeting, a great friendship and partnership started, rooting from a shared passion of art and constant improvement despite adversity. I started teaching the Joburg classes, at The Animation School - after some training of course.



5. To this day I still own my own business called "Up In The Ayres", where I create custom art and design pieces for clients - like this infograph, for example. But I am also currently busy with a collection of portraits that I aim to publish at the end of this year in book form. You can find my body of work by searching for "Up In The Ayres".



6. Apart from running my business, I also teach the Digital Drawing Course through Digital Canvas Academy every school holiday. We are also working on a mentorship program where I would get to work with people one-on-one to help them with their work in the hopes of jumpstarting their career in art - something that I always wished I had as a young aspiring artist.

## Likes :

- Sweets! And baked goods. (Sugar in general)
- Animals; obsessed with my dogs and with goldfish.
- Bingeing on music and movies. yay, popcorn!
- Drawing and painting.
- Stories in many different forms.

## Why I love teaching:

- Working with and learning about new / different people and their stories.
- Helping students realise that they can do and make anything through hard work.
- I love being able to give young, talented creatives opportunities and knowledge that I wish I had earlier in life.

## Main Motivation :

a Passion for - and creating a space for art and creativity.

## Campus :

Mainly Johannesburg Campus at The National School of Arts.

