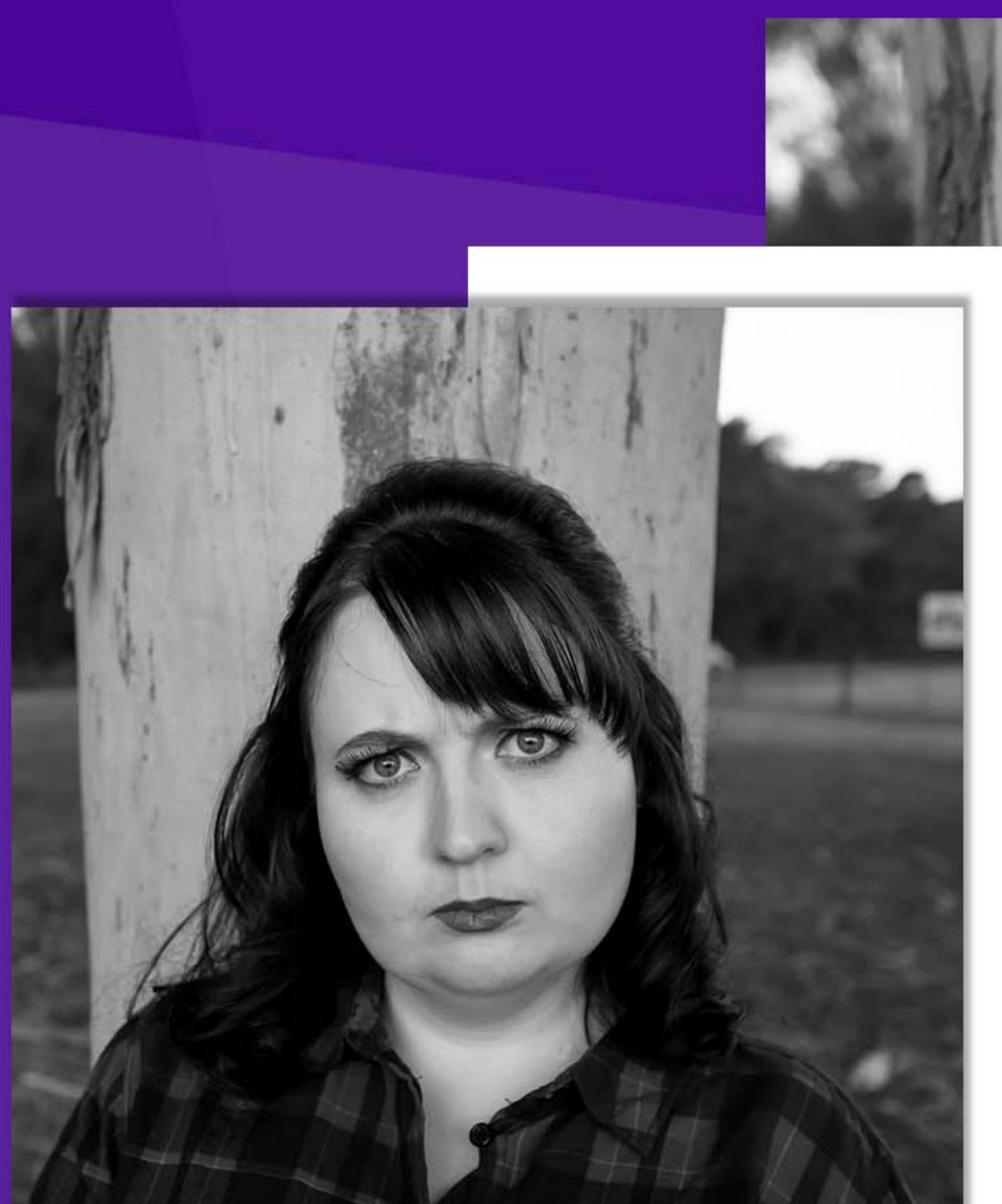


DESIGN PORTFOLIO

Claudia Johnson





To Whom It May Concern

I would like to introduce myself and express to you my interest in this job opportunity.

I am a self-taught Graphic Designer from South Africa. I arrived in Germany in February 2021. My goal and deciding factor for making such a big move was for a better life for myself and my husband, with a better work life balance, and an opportunity for growth.

I know that I am under-qualified when it comes to qualifications, such as having a degree. It was my intention to work towards a bachelor's degree and I had passed my first year of studies, however things did not go as planned. Time and cost became a problem, and I could not afford to continue my studies. A couple months after my first year of study, I was diagnosed with a genetic condition that has affected my vision. This diagnosis threw everything off track for me, especially with regards to what direction I should take for my future. I thought that design was no longer an option for me and tried to find another direction, and yet, I have found that my path always leads me back to design related work. It has taken me some years to realise that design is in my blood and will always be something that I want to do and makes me happy. My vision impairment may make things more difficult, but it does not stop me. I still design, despite it.

I realise that my work experience seems a bit "choppy" or "undedicated". However, this is all due to me trying to get back on my path after being completely thrown off by my diagnosis. I am ready to get back on my path and stay where I feel I belong, in design.

My main working experience in design software, has been in CorelDraw and Photoshop. I know that here in Germany, Adobe is the software of choice. Therefore, I have purchased multiple courses from a well-known site, Udemy, for InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop (as a refresher and for advancement). I have also purchased a course through Udemy for a Web Development Bootcamp.

I am currently working in retail; however, this was mainly to get a foot in the door in the job market here in Germany. Retail is not intended to be long term, especially as it is affecting me physically in a negative way.

I am aware that a lot of people think that hiring a designer with a visual impairment doesn't make sense, but I work harder to make up for it. I learn very quickly, especially when it comes to software. I have taught myself other software, such as Filmora, PowerPoint, and I even taught myself Google Ads. I may not be at a professional level with these yet, but with some guidance and further experience, I am certain that I can conquer these and many more.

These are some of my skills and attributes: I have experience in MS Office; more-than-basic IT skills; experience and knowledge in the print industry. I always try to do more than what was expected. I go the extra mile. I can work in a team and can also work alone. If I don't know how to do something, I will research and learn how to do it. I work hard. I have skills in photography and photo editing.

I am also a pretty good baker and enjoy providing the people around me with the things that I bake.

I know this cover letter may be long, but I felt the need to explain my poor CV. I appreciate the time taken to read this and I hope for your consideration.

Thank you
Claudia Johnson

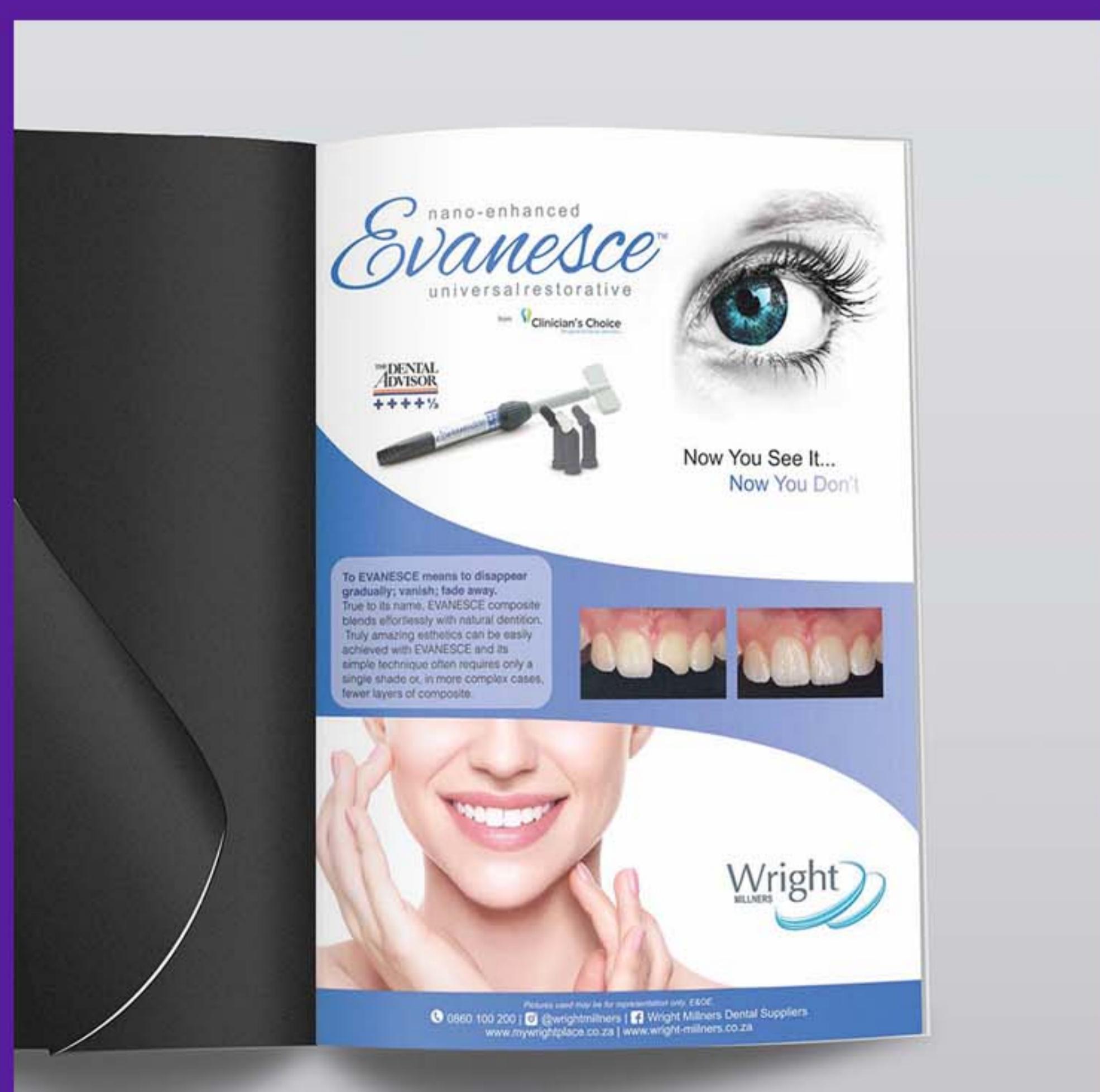
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INTERESTING FACT:

In November 2021, I was invited by Hyper Island, to give a presentation on what it is like to be a visually impaired graphic designer and my view on accessibility.



LOGO DESIGN



PHOTOGRAPHY

