

# Portfolio Project - Naoise Ryan

## Color palette and rationale

For the Portfolio I wanted to use a soft color palette that would blend into the background and not take away the users focus from the art pieces. I wanted this because the website's purpose is to show off my work not the website itself.

However, a bad color palette would stand out whereas a good one should blend into the back of a user's mind.

I was inspired by other portfolios which used soft colors like pink, light grey, light green and white and because my favorite color is orange, I decided to use a soft pastel like orange color.

## Font choices and justification

In a similar vein to my colors the font should also match the soft and inoffensive theme of the website. I decided early on that I would use a sans serif font because serifs give off a sharper and more official look but for my portfolio, I wanted it to be calmer and chill.

I decided to use League Spartan which was recommended to me by my UI Prototyping Lecturer which I liked because the simple and soft edges worked well with the color palette.

## Layout grid and structure

I decided in the planning of the site that I would have 3 categories (Art, animation and programming projects) and an about me section so I could show off all my interests and work.

I wanted to have each as a different page and with different layouts because I don't think you can make one design for so many different categories and do them all justice.

Art and Animation were the most similar and were inspired by photography and art sites layouts like Instagram, art station etc.

The Coding page design I came up with by myself, but I knew going into it that I wanted to display a name and a description for each piece alongside some kind of imagery.

Similarly, for the About Me I knew I wanted a picture of me, my name, a description and contact details.

I used flex layouts and boxes for all the pages except the art one where I used grid layouts. I used flex layouts because I am comfortable with creating them and the nature of the content being lots of different bits of content in boxes worked well with the flex layouts, although I used grids for the art because I wanted those to have a more strict layout than the other pieces and I wanted to try out grids because I don't use them as much as I should.

## Navigation design and user flow

For navigation, I had to go through a couple navbar ideas, but in the end, I wanted to use a side navbar like other portfolios I saw.

The big thing I wanted to get across for my website was that there is no central home page and that the 3 pages of content were all equally the home page, which is why I don't have explanations or descriptions at the start of them but just give you the content.

The reason is that because art, animation and coding are quite different it would be possible that someone looking at the portfolio would only be interested in one specific section, and they could ignore the other two while still getting a full experience but I would not hide the other sections in case the user decides that they might also have a peak at the other pages.

Another reason for the layout is also to make accessing the content easier, instead of forcing the user to navigate a maze of pages I can just throw them straight into the content and anything else is only one click away for them and labeled.

The user flow I imagine for the website is someone arriving interested in one of my category's art, coding or animation and being put onto that page where they scroll and have a look for a while, and then after that they either check out another section, look at the about me or close the web page.

## Accessibility considerations

To allow my site to be used by all people I decided to add alt text to my images so that screen readers could give context and I also tried to use good contrasting colors such as white on black or light colors with dark colors so that my text was easy to read.

## Semantic HTML usage and its benefits

I have been making full use of semantic HTML with the head and body tags, the nav on the side, one section on each page to define where all the content and projects will go and articles for each individual piece of work.

I find semantic HTML works really well with flex box's since it lets me contain everything in a category and style it how I designed it and keep things organized.

## Compliance with web development standards

I have been using the HTML and CSS validators to keep my website within W3C standards using headings, image descriptions, closing tags etc