

Dingning Cao

📍 Cambridge, MA ✉ dcao2028@mit.edu ☎ 571-519-4359 📁 Portfolio 🔗 LinkedIn

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sept 2024 – May 2028

BS in Art and Design, Computer Science

- GPA: 5.0
- Designer for MIT Class of 2028 Brass Rat, MITIT Art Director, HackMIT Marketing, Reality Hack Art Director, Infinite Magazine

Milton Academy

Sept 2020 – June 2024

- Head of Art and a Social Conscience Club, Editor-in-Chief of Magus Mabus, Discipline Committee Rep...

Skills

Programming: Python, C# (Unity), JavaScript, HTML/CSS, React, Java

Design & Modeling: Figma, Adobe Suite, Procreate, Blender, Maya, Rhino

Other: Fluent in English and Mandarin; Visual Arts: Oil, Acrylic

Research

MIT Researcher (with Antonio Torralba & Yael Vinker)

CSAIL

- Co-first author of *Doodle Agent: Exploring Freeform Visual Generation with Multimodal LLMs* (ICCV AI4VA Workshop), a drawing agent for open-ended visual creation using LLMs and structured prompting
- Built browser-based sketch interface for *SketchAgent: Language-Driven Sequential Sketch Generation* [🔗](#), enabling collaborative LLM-human drawing

MIT Researcher (with Jiaji Li & Stefanie Mueller)

CSAIL – HCIE Group [🔗](#)

- Created 4 applications of rigid-soft hybrid bending structures with embedded sensing for tangible interaction in the digital world
- Accepted to *UIST 2025 Posters Track* [🔗](#)

Unity Developer, Designer

MIT LEAP Group [🔗](#)

- Developed XR manufacturing simulations in Unity; created reusable components and redesigned course UIs

Projects & Experience

Game Development Projects

- [Threadspace](#) [🔗](#) (GMTK 2025): Top 1% popular + rated game built in Godot; led programming and art in a 2-person team
- [Pizzapocalypse!](#) [🔗](#): 2D isometric zombie delivery game built in Unity; handled level design, visuals, and gameplay; published on iOS

Creative Web Applications

React, JS, Figma

- **Dreamscape** (WebLab 5th Place): Generative dream journal web app with custom UI
- **Mr. Li-Po**: Interactive site that transforms sketches into poems using large language models

Ablecademy – Designer, Developer

iOS App

- Created a mobile/iPad app to assist children with Down syndrome and their families.

Awards

- USA Computing Olympiad Gold Division — Jan 2024
- VEX Robotics Regional Skills Champion & Design Award (World #12) — Feb 2024
- Scholastic Art & Writing: National Silver Medal, 4x Gold Key — 2022–2024