

# Nikos Stephou

Graphic Designer  
Art Director  
Multidisciplinary Artist

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Cover Letter & CV for  
RiseUP job application

Graphic Designer

To whom it may concern,

While taking the time to write this cover letter for the position of Graphic Designer at your organisation, RiseUP, I realised this is the first time I apply for a full time job since I moved back to Cyprus a year and a half ago. After spending eight years abroad, in Amsterdam and Berlin, I use my time back on our island to distance myself from the academic environment so as to enhance my technical and practical skills as well as knowledge as a freelance designer. Although I was lucky enough to have worked on projects that I found deeply intriguing and economically sufficient, I feel the urge to be in an environment as creative as the one of RiseUP, may it be for its artistic and intellectual team members or my profound interest to observe the coexistence of disciplines.

At my school, Gerrit Rietveld Academie (GRA) in Amsterdam, I was trained to approach any type of visual problem conceptually. I have not been taught any type of software there, neither did it matter which discipline I used to explore my visual approach and research. What mattered was the cultivation of my voice as a designer and that my problem solving skills had gone through a deeply experimental phase in order to widen the spectrum of my creative capacity. Given that GRA has a half-eon long history in applied arts, I had the chance to experiment with maker spaces, printing and technology workshops. All the software I include in the following list I learned them myself, outside the academic boundaries of GRA. With this, I intend to highlight my dedication to continuous learning as well as my ability to adapt to new technologies and acquire new technical and practical skills.

In my skills palette, I find one of the most prominent tools to be my entrepreneurship in organising and managing from scratch seven music festivals. Since 2011, I have been the founding member of the teams of XORKO and Honest Electronics. In my works there, I was in charge of implementing human resources, assigning tasks to talented individuals whether that be constructors or artists, managing the budget and fully managing and creating the visual communication such as the online promotion, posters and all visual aspects of a festival. Through all these experiences, I have learnt to be a well-mannered team member who listens and acknowledges to the needs and beliefs of others. I know how to distance my ego from any type of project only benefits my like and rather prioritize the achievement of the team's goals and, importantly, enjoy the working atmosphere. Likewise, I intend to work towards the best of the RiseUP team goals as it will offer me the opportunity to learn and develop new practicums in turn.

I feel truly enthusiastic knowing that my experience and knowledge fits the occasion of this job opportunity. I hope that, with these few words, I managed to outline my hard working and dedicated personality and all the other qualities that surround my design practice. I can easily envision myself in the description of the position. For all of the above reasons, I must say I do not feel threatened by any possible technical shortcomings as I am a fast learner and familiar with the creative nature of your expectations.

*About my availability; I have few ongoing projects that are already in a well progressed place and are expected to be finished by mid-July and shouldn't interfere with a full-time job.*

**Education:**

2011 — 2013 Art & Design Foundation  
Gerrit Rietveld Academie

2013 — 2017 BA Graphic Design  
Gerrit Rietveld Academie

**Selected Freelance Employment:**

2020 — The River Speaks (*ongoing*)  
UX & UI design for the historical experience app about the Pedieos river.  
*Funded by Silvia Ioannou Foundation and Harokopio University of Athens*

2020 — Formworks (*ongoing*)  
Book Design for critical curatorial project organized by Thkio Ppalies Artists-Led Space  
*Funded by Cultural Services, Ministry of Education*

2019 — Images & Views of Alternative Cinema Festival  
Visual Communication Material (Physical Posters & Social Media), Physical Catalogue Design  
*Funded by Cultural Services, Ministry of Education*

2019 — Sickie & Code  
Branding & Visual Communication for Series of Events for Maker Space and Exhibition,  
*Organised and funded by the University of Nicosia Research Foundation and the Lakatamia Municipality*

2018 — Modus Operandi  
An archive of 56 local young artists, Catalogue Design, Website Design, Informative Publications Design.  
Cyprus Visual Artists Association  
*Funded by Cultural Services, Ministry of Education*

2017 — Thkio Ppalies Artist's Lead Space  
Series of audiovisual events with Pantelis Diamantides, Nikos Stephou and Panayotis Mina  
Posters, Catalogue Booklets Design, Participant with personal multidisciplinary performance.  
*Funded by Cultural Services, Ministry of Education*

2016-20 — Honest Electronics  
Local Electronic music record label  
Management, Budgeting, Branding, Packaging, Artwork design and Visual Communication

2016-20 — The Gathering Festival  
Management, Personal Relations, Artists & Repertoire, Human Resources, Budgeting, Branding, Artwork design and Visual Communication.

2011-13 — XORKO Collective & Festival  
Management, Personal Relations, Artists & Repertoire, Human Resources, Budgeting, Branding, Artwork design and Visual Communication.

**Internships:**

2019 — King Kong Magazine  
Design of complete 400 pages issue #9, UK

2015 — 'People of Cyprus' by Cyprus Puzzle  
Illustrations for four infographic animated videos.

**Technical Knowledge:**

5 stars = Perfect  
1 star = Beginner

**Image**

Adobe Illustrator \*\*\*\*\*  
Adobe Photoshop \*\*\*\*\*  
Adobe InDesign \*\*\*\*\*  
Adobe InCopy \*\*\*\*\*

**UX / UI**

Adobe XD \*\*\*\*\*  
Adobe Spark \*\*\*\*\*  
Sketch Up \*\*  
HTML/CSS \*\*\*  
Javascript \*  
+SF Symbols  
+Sublime Text  
+Github

**3D**

Blender \*\*  
Rhino \*

**Graphics Motion/Animation**

Adobe Animate \*\*\*  
Adobe After Effects \*\*  
Aseprite \*\*\*\*\*

**Sound**

Ableton Live \*\*\*\*\*  
Logic Pro \*\*\*\*\*  
Audacity \*\*\*\*\*

**Workshop Courses:**

- ABC of HTTP by Experimental Jetsky
- Offset & Letterpress Printing by Joos Wiersinga,
- Silkscreen Printing by Naigel Vermeulen & Christina Hallström
- CadCam Workshop (Lasercut, 3D Print)

**Personal Accomplishments:****Multidisciplinary**

2019 — 'Rockery' Piece for 'Pentadaktylos Contemporaries' exhibition at Leventios Municipal Gallery, Nicosia. (Digital Illustrations, Javascript)  
2017 — 'Orbital' multidisciplinary performance at Thkio Ppalies Artists-Run Space

**Sound**

2020 — 'Danger' album out on Honest Electronics  
2015 — 'Aqua Spells' album out on Speaker Footage