

MING ZU

Location: Sendai, Japan

Email: mingzumwd@gmail.com

Portfolio: <http://catbox.world>

Source code: <https://github.com/nicetoolman/Personal-Portfolio-Website>

PROFILE

A cross-disciplinary creator transitioning from materials science research into the creative industry.

Strong in **visual problem-solving**, illustration, and building structured visual narratives.

Experienced in creating original content (CATBOX), designing logos, and developing my own portfolio website using **Next.js × Payload CMS × Figma**.

Passionate about **Creative × Tech**, world-building, and designing meaningful visual/interactive experiences.

SKILLS

Creative - Visual Storytelling · Graphic Design · Logo Design · Concept Making / Ideation · Structured Thinking

Research - Analytical thinking · Experimentation · Multilingual presentation

Technical - Figma · Procreate · Adobe PS/AI · Cursor-assisted development · HTML/CSS · basic React · Payload CMS

EDUCATION

Tohoku University — Doctoral Program in Materials Science

2022–present

Research theme: thermodynamic modeling of Co-based superalloys.

Currently shifting career direction into creative design.

LANGUAGES

- Chinese (Native)
- Japanese (Business level)
- English (Conversational; presentation, reading, writing fluent)

PROJECTS

Portfolio Website — Cursor + Next.js + Payload CMS (2025.10 – present)

Designed and developed a full portfolio website using a modern full-stack workflow.

Built modular blocks, CMS structure, responsive layouts, and content editing pipeline.

Role: UX planning, design, coding, CMS setup, deployment.

CATBOX — Personal Creative Project (2025.05 – present)

Daily experimental illustration project exploring emotion, world-building, and narrative drawing.

Grew into zines, small exhibitions, and a consistent visual art direction.

Role: Concept, illustration, visual direction, writing.

Aoba Walkers — Logo Design (2025.07)

Logo and visual identity for the outdoor activity group at Tohoku University.

Integrated local nature & humorous tone into a functional, reproducible design.

Role: Concept, illustration, logo design.

Sunny Anyway — Music Single Cover (2025.09)

Cover art for a jazz/hip-hop style independent music release.

Role: Illustration, composition, typography.

Tohoku Chinese Student Association — Logo Design (2025.08)

Formal logo used in presentations and official communication.

Role: Concept, vector design, visual direction.

Full works and ongoing projects available at: <http://catbox.world>