

Maria Bort

Graphic and Presentation Designer, Illustrator

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Graphic designer, illustrator and author with a background in hand drawing, typography and visual storytelling. Experience spans presentation team leadership, branding, editorial design and marketing communications. Work ranges from executive presentations and annual reports to custom typefaces and illustrated books.

Design experience

Current

Independent practice, SETTERS agency collaboration

Senior Freelance Graphic Designer and Illustrator

Design and lay out presentations, books and other print and digital materials.

Support a digital agency and international clients across healthcare and beauty.

Create illustrations for a Canadian publishing house.

Dec 2025 – Oct 2026

Slaughter and May

Senior Creative Worker

Created pitch and client presentations for partners and practice groups across the firm, translating complex legal content into clear visual narratives. Also designed social media assets and print and digital communications.

Nov 2024 – Jan 2025

Rothschild & Co

Presentation Design Team Lead

Led the presentation design team, delivering pitch books, client and deal materials for investment banking, wealth and asset management and senior leadership.

Combined team leadership with hands-on design under tight deadlines.

Feb 2022 – Oct 2024

Young Living Essential Oils

Middle Graphic Designer in Marketing / Senior Presentation Designer

Created graphics across marketing channels, including emails, conference assets and presentations. Designed product materials with attention to visual hierarchy, layout and consistency across formats.

Apr 2021 – Jan 2022

Presium

Middle Presentation Designer

Designed presentations and educational infographics, organising information through typography, composition and visual explanations.

May 2017 – Mar 2021

Terminal Design

Intern to Middle Graphic Designer

Built a foundation in agency design through branding, visual identities, annual report layouts and custom typefaces. Contributed to award-winning team projects recognised at White Square, MarCom, Red Dot and Red Apple.

Selected professional work is confidential and cannot be publicly displayed under NDA and client confidentiality requirements.

Selected companies and brands

Audi | Rothschild & Co | Slaughter and May | Charlotte Tilbury |
Young Living Essential Oils | House of Anansi Press | SETTERS | SkyEng |
Gazprom | Nornickel | SCF

Across in-house roles, agency projects and freelance commissions.

Illustration and writing

Write and illustrate original picturebooks, developing stories, texts and visual concepts. Currently collaborate with a Canadian publisher on several books as illustrator and, on selected projects, author.

Commercial illustration for brands and publishers, including annual reports, branding and packaging, book covers and marketing campaigns.

Training and teaching

Saint Petersburg University of Technology and Design | 2016–2020
Marketing design and illustration.

Royal Drawing School | 2023
Short courses in etching, life drawing, theatre and opera life drawing, and drawing the city at night.

Taught drawing courses combined with museum tours. Attend design conferences as a delegate.

Awards and exhibitions

ILLUSTRATION AWARDS AND SELECTIONS	2026	Paper Bird / Thames & Hudson Illustration Award — shortlisted
	2026	dPICTUS 7th Unpublished Picturebook Showcase — selected by the publisher jury
	2025	iJungle Illustration Awards — Merit Award, Self-Promotion
	2025	Albus Corvus Cover Competition — shortlisted
	2025	Exactly.AI × ArtLabAgency Illustration Competition — 2nd Place
EXHIBITIONS AND BOOK FAIRS	2026	Bologna Children’s Book Fair — exhibitor in the dPICTUS showcase
	2025	Bologna Children’s Book Fair — group exhibitor
	2024	Exactly.AI Generative Art Exhibition, London — participant
EARLIER DESIGN AWARDS AND SHORTLISTS	Received as part of an agency team.	
	2020	White Square — Gold, Branding and Packaging
	2019	MarCom — Platinum, Illustrations for Annual Report
	2019	Red Dot — shortlisted, Branding
	2018	Red Apple — shortlisted, Branding

Skills and tools

Hand drawing and illustration | Visual concepts | Typography and type design | Branding |
Editorial layout | Presentations | Infographics | Social media | Print and digital design |
Vector illustration | Short-form animation | AI-assisted visuals

CORE TOOLS	Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Figma, PowerPoint, Google Slides
ADDITIONAL	FontLab, Blender, After Effects
LANGUAGES	English — professional working proficiency; Russian — native or bilingual