Nico Jan

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UX designer and creative technologist: user research, Figma, and front-end code, on the web and on macOS. Sole designer and developer of the platform a tutoring practice runs on and of three macOS apps. Teaching neurodivergent and multilingual learners since 2016.

Selected work · nicojan.com/work

Human platform

2025 – 2026 · case study

Sole designer and developer of the web app a tutoring practice runs on, used by 16 active families and 3 teachers. Admins, teachers, students, and parents each get their own view, with live classes and scheduling built in. One design system runs from the app and the bilingual WCAG 2.1 AA marketing site down to the lesson decks.

Chorus

2026 · case study

A macOS app that gathers twenty web services into one window, with unread counts, per-service notifications, and separate sessions for two accounts on one service. Sole design and build; open source, 42 releases, 36 GitHub stars, and outside contributors.

Quip

2026 · case study

A macOS menu-bar GIF picker in SwiftUI, where the design problem was confirming a copy that never appears on screen. Redesigned from usability feedback after launch; 20 notarized, self-updating releases. Open source.

WatchMeType

2025 · case study

A macOS app that types a draft into any window with a person's pauses and typos, questioning the revision histories schools use to detect AI. Sole concept, design, and build; 26 GitHub stars.

Useful Words

2025

A mobile-first bilingual reference for language learners stuck mid-sentence, taken from research and wireframes to the front end. Passes an automated WCAG 2.1 AA audit. Live at usefulwords.forhuman.ca.

Pocket Dystopia

2024

A web premise generator for fiction writers, designed, built, and usability-tested with five writers. Live at pocketdystopia.forhuman.ca.

Experience

Human Education Collective

Jan 2016 – Present

Founder, Designer & Educator

- Design and build the tools the practice runs on: the web platform, the marketing site, lesson decks, and print materials.
- Write learning materials matched to each learner's level and language.
- Teach neurodivergent and multilingual learners online; about 120 students since 2016, most staying three to four years.
- Prepare students for IELTS, TOEFL, SAT, and CELPIP; students have gone on to IB diplomas, competitive universities, and medical and master's programs.

Nico Jan Creative

2014 – 2015

Content Designer and Strategist

- Ran the North American launch of Aoni, a Hong Kong consumer brand, solo: forty posts over five months. Against the page's own baseline, the humour-led format beat the direct sell about eleven to one.
- Designed four ad campaigns for local businesses; a content and SEO strategy grew one client's traffic by over 300%.

Skills

UX and research: user interviews, usability testing, information architecture, user flows, wireframes, prototypes, interaction and content design, journey maps.

Accessibility: WCAG 2.1 AA design and review, accessible and neuro-affirming patterns.

Design systems: component libraries, design tokens, style guides, typography and layout for screen and print, developer handoff.

Build: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, Bootstrap; SwiftUI for macOS, with notarized, self-updating releases; Git.

AI tools: Claude Code, Codex, GitHub Copilot; custom MCP servers, one published as open source.

Tools: Figma; Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere Pro, After Effects).

Languages: English (expert), Mandarin (native).

Education

Emily Carr University of Art + Design

Aug 2026

- Certificate in UX Design.

Google (Coursera)

2025

- UX Design Professional Certificate.

University of British Columbia

- Bachelor of Education, Secondary, with an IB Diploma Programme teaching certificate and the Outstanding Practicum Award; coursework in the First Peoples Principles of Learning · Aug 2024
- Bachelor of Arts, English Literature and Language · May 2018

University of Cambridge

Oct 2017

- Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA).

Community

Pro-bono English tutoring for families facing financial hardship.