MISH MLAKAR

they / them

CREATIVE DIRECTOR & PRODUCT DESIGNER
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EXPERIENCE

Traackr

DESIGN LEAD (2016 – 2018; 2025 - Current)

Designed the award-winning Advanced Influencer Search feature (Gold, 2019 Influencer Marketing Awards), helping evolve Traackr into a full enterprise platform. Led UX across discovery, campaign management, and reporting. Conducted user research with clients like L'Oréal and USAA to align design decisions with both user needs and business goals.

Anthropic

PRODUCT DESIGNER (2025)

Designed a secure in-house performance review tool, improving clarity and usability across feedback and cycle management. Collaborated cross-functionally to define the MVP, streamline admin workflows, and enhance the reviewer experience.

Madrona

CREATIVE DIRECTOR (2025)

At Madrona, I directed brand and creative initiatives across event branding, marketing and motion. My work included a high-visibility animated 3D billboard featured in Times Square.

Unusual Ventures

CREATIVE DIRECTOR (2024 – 2025)

I led brand and creative direction at Unusual Ventures and developed a design foundation that captured the firm's values and brand voice. I worked hands-on with portfolio companies to shape investor decks, build brand systems, and design web experiences.

Tigris Data

DESIGN LEAD (2024 – 2025)

At Tigris Data, I led design across brand, web, and product, shaping the experience for developers and AI teams. I built an intuitive file management experience, reworked complex AWS-native settings into clear workflows, and developed a design system to drive design consistency in a fast-paced, rapidly evolving product team.

Plato

FOUNDING DESIGNER (2022 – 2023)

Led design for Plato, a flexible tool for database management and automation. I shaped the brand, product design system, automation logic, and core interaction patterns that helped users do more with their data.

Render

FOUNDING DESIGNER (2018 – 2021)

As the first designer at Render, I established the company's design foundation across brand, product, and web. My work focused on translating complex cloud infrastructure into clear, approachable experiences and building a scalable design system that continues to guide Render's identity today.

Wedy

PRODUCT DESIGNER (2018 – 2019)

Brought in as the first designer to help Wedy's founders go from concept to a build-ready prototype. I shaped the early brand and UX for a mobile-first wedding planning app connecting couples and vendors. I championed an iterative, research-driven process that helped the team refine their product–market fit and lay the groundwork for long-term success.

2025

Award-winning designer with a track record of turning complex ideas into products and brands people love. They partner with early-stage founders to define product vision, reach PMF, and support business growth.

SPECIALTIES

BRAND STRATEGY & IDENTITY
I craft brand systems that communicate voice, values, and visual impact. Tools & Methods: Brand workshops, research, personas, logo design, color systems, typography, illustration, animation, Adobe Suite, Figma, Firefly Boards

USER-CENTERED DESIGN
I design with empathy, grounding my work in research, prototyping, and continuous user feedback. Tools & Methods: User interviews, usability testing, Dovetail, Figma, Framer, Principle, Adobe Creative Suite

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
I help teams unlock solutions through collaboration, research, rapid iteration, and strategic experimentation. Methods: Whiteboard sessions, user persona and other UX workshops, sketching, prototyping, user testing

PROJECT & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT
I shape product strategy and keep cross-functional teams aligned from MVP to launch. Tools & Methods: Defining scope, roadmap planning, Linear, GitHub, stakeholder alignment

FRONT-END DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTION DESIGN
I build websites and interactive experiences that push creative boundaries. Tools & Methods: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, WebGL, Webflow, Wordpress, After Effects, Lottie, Spline, Rive

EDUCATION

HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN
IDEO Course, San Francisco, 2019

MSC DESIGN AND DIGITAL MEDIA
The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 2014

BA TEXTILE & GRAPHIC DESIGN
The University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2013

RECOGNITION

TC Disrupt Startup Battlefield Winner, 2019

Best Influencer Discovery Tool at the Influencer Marketing Awards, 2019

Plato **launches on Product Hunt**, 2023

Render website is featured on a list of **49 beautiful websites for inspiration**, 2020

Render crowned **TC Disrupt Startup Battlefield Winner**, 2019

Traackr wins **Best Influencer Discovery Tool** at the Influencer Marketing Awards, 2019

Best Web Design award by Edinburgh City Council during the Smart Data Hack, 2014