Blake Johnson

Gameplay Developer · Unreal Engine 5

blakejohnson.art
blakejohnsonart@gmail.com
linkedin.com/in/blakejohnsonart
Los Angeles, CA · on-site, hybrid or remote

SUMMARY

Unreal Engine 5 developer who prototypes fast. Solo-built the KAREN gameplay prototype and created all the gameplay, animation and shots in its reveal trailer (9.8M views on X, 45K Steam wishlists).

EXPERIENCE

Luma AI · Dream Lab — Creative Research + Builder — Jan 2026 – Present

- Solo-built a three.js 3D ecosystem inside Luma's AI product, using an agentic workflow with Claude.
- Designed and built a mass 3D asset generation pipeline: 40,000+ assets generated.

SAUCE NYC · KAREN — Unreal Developer → Technical Animator — Sep 2025 – Apr 2026

- Solo-built the original UE5 prototype: physical animation, world destruction, combat, item interaction.
- Created all gameplay, animation and shots in the reveal trailer: 9.8M views on X, 45K Steam wishlists.
- The reveal drew press from Polygon, CBS News and TMZ.
- Managed, organized and directed tasks for other developers as the team grew.

Persona AI (acquired by Luma AI) — Technical Animator — Nov 2024 – Jan 2026

- Built a high-realism physical animation system to ground LLM-driven, real-time AI avatars.
- Created and organized hundreds of complex data assets that drive avatar performance.
- Prototyped motion systems and additive layers for higher-fidelity motion.

Visual Concepts · NBA 2K — Gameplay Animator — Nov 2022 – Sep 2024

- Keyed and cleaned 4,000+ gameplay animations in Maya from ML "ProPlay" mocap for NBA 2K24 and 2K25.
- Worked with the tech team to streamline mocap implementation and department efficiency.

Together Labs · WithMe — Gameplay & Cinematic Animator — Mar 2022 – Oct 2022

- Produced 4 gameplay cinematics with designers, using UE Sequencer, Niagara and Maya.
- Animated 60+ gameplay and cosmetic animations, hand-keyed and from mocap.

PROJECTS

Flagfall — Solo developer — In development

- Real-time strategy game in a custom engine, built agentically end to end.

SKILLS

Engines & real-time	Unreal Engine 5 · Blueprints · Physical animation · Animation Blueprints · Control Rig · Sequencer · Niagara · MetaHuman
3D & animation	Maya · MotionBuilder · Hand-key & mocap · Rigging · Substance Painter
Creative tech & AI	Generative 3D pipelines · Video-to-video gen AI · Agentic engineering (Claude Code) · three.js · GLSL · TypeScript · Git
Pipeline & tools	Perforce · Texturing & materials · After Effects · Photoshop

EDUCATION

DigiPen Institute of Technology — BFA, Digital Art & Animation — 2018 – 2022