

ASHLEY GERST

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OBJECTIVE

Ambitious and crafty experimental / character animator seeking a challenging industry position where she can enhance and contribute her communicative and creative artistic talents.

EDUCATION

School of Visual Arts - New York City, NY
MFA in Computer Art - 3D Animation (2011)
Cleveland Institute of Art - Cleveland, OH
BFA in T.I.M.E. Digital Arts - 2D and 3D Animation (2007)

SKILLS

3D Animation
2D Animation
Stop Motion Animation
3D Character Rigging
3D Texturing
Fine Art + Craft Knowledge: Color Theory, Design, Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, Metalworking, Fiber Material Studies, Woodworking
Ball and Socket Armature Construction (for stop motion)
Interpersonal and Communication Skills
Ability to lead and manage large groups of people
Planning and coordinating large events
Curatorial capabilities with Film Festivals + Art Galleries
Strong writing skills

SOFTWARE

Adobe Creative Suite CS5: Photoshop, After effects, Illustrator, Flash, Premiere
Autodesk Maya 2012
Autodesk 3D Studio Max 2011
Cinema 4D
Blender
MotionBuilder
Nuke
Final Cut Pro
Stop Motion Pro
Ableton Live
Avid Pro Tools
Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint
Apple Keynote
Proficient with both Mac and PC platforms
Programming Languages: Unix (tsch + bash), MEL Script

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EXPERIENCE

Freelance Character Designer and 2D/3D Animator, GiftEm
(October 2011 - Present)

Created a solo commercial for GiftEm, an up-and-coming social network and shopping site. For preproduction, created storyboards, a final animatic, and designed characters and their environments in Photoshop and Illustrator. Animated the commercial using Flash, Maya 2012, and After Effects before editing the final in Premiere.

Freelance Motion Graphics Animator, Rooster
(September 2011 - Present)

Created various animated titles and graphics in After Effects to supplement video production for clients like Fast Magazine/Behance and One Young World; created and animated a neon sign bumper for the buy.xxx commercial airing on A&E and Bravo using Photoshop and After Effects.

Freelance 2D Animation, iNomadics
(August 2011 - October 2011)

Created 17 2D animations based on Beatrix Potter illustrations for a Read-Along iPad eBook application.

Freelance 3D Animation, Seth Gertsacov & Matthew Weinstein
(July 2011 - August 2011)

Worked under Seth Gertsacov to create three minutes of character animation featuring a dog and boy for Matthew Weinstein's gallery show that opened September 17, 2011

Freelance 3D Modeler, Animorphous, Inc.
(July 2011)

Created two political figures based on caricatured concept sketches. The characters were textured, rigged, and weight painted for future animated movement.

Freelance 3D Modeler and Animator, ID Creative
(June 2011 - August 2011)

Realized a character design in 3D as part of an advertisement for children's toys. The character had fur applied to it in Maya, and was textured, rigged, and positioned for still image advertisements.

Freelance Animator and Illustrator, iNomadics
(January 2010 - October 2010)

Modeled, animated, and textured several 3D Peter Rabbits for an interactive children's iPad game. The game follows the book 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit', where the iPad gamer drags the 3D Peter Rabbit through the garden in search of his lost jacket. Three different Peter Rabbits were made for this game, one with a jacket and two without. Different looping movement cycles were made for each one: walking on hind legs, hopping on all fours, and an idle loop while waiting for user interaction.

Animation Instructor, Progressive Arts Alliance Non-Profit Organization
(May 2009 - August 2009)

Taught stop-motion animation to high school and middle school students in weekly workshops across Northeastern Ohio

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Continuing Education Instructor, Cleveland Institute of Art
(May 2007 - July 2009)

Taught several animation and digital art courses including:

*After Effects: Taught Adobe After Effects to college students

*Animation Application for the Classroom: Taught a workshop intended to give high school art teachers a taste of animation for their curriculum

*Pre-College Animation Professor: Co-instructed a Pre-College stop motion and 2D animation class to graduating high school students looking to expand their knowledge in the medium as well as their college application portfolios for future undergrad submission. The classes were taught by two professors and included organizing several acting classes, individual and group class animations, animation art/history lessons, and coordinating guest lectures from a variety of successful animators in the area.

*Clay Animation Instructor: Founded and taught clay animation classes to students aged 12-18, taught basic functions of clay animation including animation history, character design and animation, set construction, and editing.

Technical Assistant - T.I.M.E. / Digital Arts Department, Cleveland Institute of Art
(September 2007 - May 2009)

Administratively and technically maintained the T.I.M.E./Digital Arts Department by: performing lectures and demos on animation; creating DVDs of student and faculty work; assisting with student projects; curating and organizing student gallery shows and film festivals; greeting visiting artists and organizing, advertising, and setting up their lectures; technically maintaining the department through installing, fixing, and updating the computers, software and equipment, basic networking, and working with the IT staff with computer needs.

Clay Animation Instructor - Education Department, Cleveland Museum of Art
(April 2006 - July 2009)

Founded and taught clay animation classes to ages 9-18, also machined five stop-motion ball-and-socket armatures (character skeletons) specific to the class.

Scientific Illustrator / Graphic Designer, Cleveland Museum of Natural History
(June 2007 - May 2008)

Created Illustrations depicting scientific information for the Discovery Center, the children's area of the museum. Also constructed a wood dinosaur-shaped book for parents, to help them understand their children's fascination with dinosaurs.

SELECTED FILM FESTIVALS

2011 - School of Visual Arts MFA Thesis Show

2009 - Tucson Slow Food and Film Festival (Tucson, AZ)

Dam Short Film Festival (Boulder City, NV)

Crossroads Film Festival (Jackson, MS)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

2011 - Paula Rhodes Memorial Award, honoring Masters students who have shown excellence

2002 - Presidential Scholarship Award