

LOOPS & FORMS: Collaborative Abstract Animation



1. The Brief:

The workshop, consisting of a 2 to 3 hours long module, aspires to create a platform where the participants will connect, collaborate and inspire each other in the process of translating their experiences and observations into abstract forms and movements i.e. an Abstract Animation. The participants will use a limited variety of materials (primarily using drawing, colors and collage on paper) and exploring Automatic Animation process (quick and spontaneous) to explore the purest aspect (i.e. forms and rhythms) of the language of Animation.

The participants' own memories, observations, thoughts and reflections, will be explored and translated into abstract forms, colors and movements. The creative expressions of each of the participants will then be juxtaposed and woven together into a single coherent (or not-so-coherent) animation film in the end of the creative process.

2. Why abstraction?

When an animator comes to expressing her/his thoughts and feelings without referring to objects and events in the immediate world, abstraction not only stimulates active imagination and interpretation

in the viewers but also offers an opportunity to the animators to engage with pure forms and movements in their creative processes and thus explore the very essence of animation i.e. MOVEMENT. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience the medium of animation beyond its narrative-communicative function, and simply as a "creative adventure" in the pictorial realm.

3. Why Automatism?

Automatism in visual arts is a way to tap the energies of the unconscious beyond the conventional creative practices that are thoughtful, conscious and pre-planned. Animation, as a process based art, offers immense possibilities of visual automatism during its making. Animation doesn't depend on a pre-existing reality to come into existence (unlike live action cinema) but is purely a product of an artist's imagination. Animation has an ever expanding visual vocabulary that is always open to incorporate new techniques, materials and mediums.

The automatic, the bizarre, the unseen and the comic unfolds itself not only in the individual frames, created using all kinds of materials and tools from pencil to charcoal, oil paint, paper cutouts, clay, coloured pen etc., but also comes to life through gradual formal transformation in its juxtaposition with rest of the frames that combine together to create the final animated sequence.

4. Why collaborative creation?

Collaborative creation takes the whole idea of experimentation in animation one step forward. Participation of many people brings different ideas, intentions and observations together in a single creative process. People with different skill-sets exploring different mediums, methods and materials will bring richness and diversity in the process of exploring expressive-creative possibilities in the making of animation through abstraction. At the same time this juxtaposition of varieties in creative intentions and methods will lead to emergence of new forms of expression.

5. Who can participate

Practically anyone. No prior knowledge of drawing or animation is needed.

6. Number of participants

The maximum number of participants will be **20 (twenty)**.

7. Duration of the Workshop

2 to 3 hours. It will be a **one day workshop**.

8. The requirements

I am keeping the requirements of the workshop to a minimal. The material, equipment and space requirements for the workshop will be -

1. **Stationary** - 03 packs of A4 copier paper. 01 pack of A3 copier paper. Brushes, colored pencils, water color, oil pastels, charcoal sticks, palates, cutters, scissors, colored papers (basic colors i.e. red, blue, yellow, green and black).
2. **Equipments** - 01 DSLR Camera. 01 Repro Stand. 01 Scanner. 01 computer with Adobe Photoshop and Premier. (I believe all these equipments can be issued from NID Bengaluru AV lab. The scanner and computer I can use in IT Lab for compositing and editing). So, there is no need to hire any equipments from outside.
3. **Space** - One studio big enough to accommodate 20 participants with 5-6 tables and enough chairs.
4. **Volunteer** - I understand that this workshop will happen in the premises of NIMHANS. As I am not familiar with the facilities at the institute it would be great to have one volunteer (preferably from NIMHANS) who can help me organize the workshop.

If you need further details please feel free to write to me.

Thank you!

Warm regards

Ajay Kumar Tiwari

Faculty - Animation Film Design
National Institute of Design (NID)
Paldi, Ahmedabad - 380007, India

Email: ajay_t@nid.edu