

EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES IN ANIMATION:

ROTOSCOPE

By Diego Akel



GENERAL

The workshop aim is to introduce the experimental animation technique of rotoscope for the fine arts students, through references of animated films around the world of filmmakers who blended fine art practices with rotoscope animation.

Today, rotoscope technique is becoming more and more common and utilized, due to several reasons, like easy access to equipment, spreading of films made with the technique and many others.

A rotoscope animation film can be made using a wide range of materials (including digital tools), always upon a real live-action image scene, taking advantage of the original movement, creating a new approach, that's have the real footage combined with animation. The workshop's idea is to present the technique and open the minds of the students to this new approach. At the end of the practices, there will be an collective film made of the animations scenes done by all students, that can be presented in a separate day, like an evening meeting.

WORKSHOP'S AIM

For art students from Bologna Fine Arts Academy.

METHODOLOGY

There'll presented materials from several authors from animation who work or have worked with rotoscope, including the work of italian animator Gianluigi Toccafondo. For the rotoscope practice, we'll use previous existent footage of antique films, all of them free to use and worked upon (public domain). As we move forward in the workshop, the exercises will be discussed and analyzed, and the students will be encouraged all the time to use their knowledge in fine arts to make their scenes, also utilizing their own preferred techniques. In all stages of the exercises, the instructor and the assistant will personally advise and understand each student's work, encouraging new possibilities along in the lessons. For the second day on, the students will be invited to bring their own materials for mix and use in their scenes. Other animated rotoscope films will be presented along the lessons as well.

WORKSHOP'S GOALS

- To present, to make understand and disseminate the practice of rotoscope technique, as well as their possibilities;
- Relate the fine arts practices of the students to the animation medium;
- Place the students in the actual historical moment in the animation panorama, knowing the very moment and the open possibilities to be made;
- Present some of the animation cinema from around the world, including some rare and less know materials;

- Make an animated film out of the students scenes, as workshop's result, film that can possible be their first animated work.

DURATION

3 hour per day, 4 days (12 hours total)

DAY BY DAY

Day 1: Introduction of the workshop; presentation of the instructor and his work. Introduction of the rotoscope technique. Exhibition of animated films of several reference authors from around the world. First practical exercise.

Day 2: Presentation of the previous day exercise, followed by a brief discussion and comments. Delivery of the scenes for each student. Ask for the students to bring their own materials for use in the workshop.

Day 3: Presentation and analysis of the previous day scene. Continuation of the practical exercises, through more film source materials.

(Possible, for another day) Evening event: Presentation of the final finished film.

CLASS

Up to 15 students.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Equipment and material needed:

- A room (with chairs, big tables (if possible), blank board and markers, and sufficient free space) that can be use for projection as wells as atelier;

- Video projector

- Sound system

- VGA cables and sound cables and related;

- Light kits (actually, two sets of common luminaires will work just fine);

- Electrical outlets and extensions;

- Tripod (basic type)

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- Black & white printings (photocopy quality will work just fine), about 300 sheets, A4 size, preferentially in thick weight paper.

- 5 packages of colored pencils (kits of 12 colors)
- 8 packages of oil pastel (kits of 12 colors)
- 5 packages of colored markers (12 colors colors)
- 6 packages of felt tips pens (hidrocolor), (kits of 12 colors)
- 5 packages of colored pencils (small packages with 8 to 12 colors)

(this one is optional, but it would be marvelous if possible, because is a little more expensive)
 - POSCA pens, about ten to fifteen different colors, in random tips types (any of them), that can be seen here in the website: <http://www.posca.com/uk>

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Diego Akel

Lives and works in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Born in 1983, Diego has studies on Philosophy, and works with illustration, fine arts, photography and animated film, and is one of the most well known experimental animators in Brazil, having been quoted in publications such as the renowned magazine *Filme Cultura* and the full-length documentary about brazilian animation, *Between Frames* (released in 2013). Since his first animated experiments in 1998, he continued to mix several fine art approaches to animation, resulting in a live laboratory in each new work. Since 2001 he give workshops, courses, lectures and speeches on fine art and animation, all over Brazil, having been in countless festivals, screenings and events since then. Since 2008 he also make comissioned works, having made several pieces, all characterized by a very unique authoral identity. His works are screening all over the world, and won several prizes. He also pursue to make all his work available through internet, utilizing the Creative Commons license to make it more and more accessible.

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