

PROJECT 2: Place & Space / Multi-Layers

Stills from Lotte Reininger, Anthony Lucas, and Martha Colburn

The ability to deconstruct a movement and reassemble it in a new or convincing way is the animator's territory. Many artists have realized their visions using animation as a means to externalize their inner thoughts and unique points of view. Animation gives the viewer the opportunity to gaze at a frozen moment of thought and to experience another person's rhythms.

—Christine Panushka, USC, 1997

INTRODUCTION

In addition to being the “art of movement” Animation is often talked about as a field of deconstructing movement—of human movement in particular. In cinema visual effect artists simulate motion to play with the laws of physics. With your partner(s) come up with a process that uses the idea of **deconstruction** while emphasizing fluidity of movement, rhythm, background and foreground, and on-screen composition.

IN-CLASS PROJECT

You will work collaboratively using rigid material such as torn paper, acetate or tracing paper, newspaper, cut photographs (or other images) to make a motion collage with “paper puppets” within an environment. Deconstruct motion within your imaginary space. Consider timing through layers and the relationship between background & foreground (think Colburn and Lucas).

Create a 250-300 frame animation with your choice of “rigid” medium. Try to at least shoot 1 frame per minute. Keep an eye on the composition of each image. This animation will play at 15fps.

PROMPT (choose one):

- Simulating motion in space—cosmic flight
- Shifts in scale (giant worms, spiders, or tiny people)
- Explosions or Implosions

ARTISTS:

1. Nicolas Brault, DVD6031
2. Lotte Reininger, DVD620
3. Anthony Lucas, 2005 Academy Award Shorts, DVD 6196
4. Brent Green -- <http://www.site.nervousfilms.com/> (stop-motion collage)
5. Drew Pavelchak, Cartune Xprez (stop motion with paper)
6. Martha Colburn <http://www.marthacolburn.com/> (stop-motion collage)
7. Bret Simon-Counterfeit Film ResFest2 DVD 6940 (stop motion with copier and paper)
8. Virgil Widdrich, ResFest2 DVD 6940 (DVD 6939-6941) (stop-motion collage)
9. Larry Jordan and Harry Smith (Heaven & Earth Picture Show) http://www.ubu.com/film/smith_harry.html