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Animate OPEN: Digitalis online Jury Prize winner: James Lowne



Image: © James Lowne

Animate Projects - the champion of experimental animation – announces its first online exhibition from an open submission.

Works by 11 UK-based artists are online now at animateprojects.org, selected from more than 200 works submitted. The Jury focused on the 'Digitalis' theme - considering how works explored digital technology and ideas of the 'digital', and their appropriateness to online exhibition and engagement.

The artists are: AL and AL, Tony Comley, Phil Coy, Kristian de la Riva, Joe Hardy, Max Hattler, James Lowne, Rob Munday, Noriko Okaku, Edwin Rostron, and David Theobald.

The Jury awarded a prize of £1000 to James Lowne for his film *Someone behind the door* knocks at irregular intervals. Jury member Gary Thomas, and Animate Projects' Director said, "It is a film that directly addresses the strangeness of the digital - it defies the pursuit of shiny perfection, and revels in the failings of its own digitally crafted construction. It's also beautifully, cinematically composed and engaging." Joe Hardy and Kristian de la Riva were awarded Special Mentions.

The public can vote for an Audience Award (£300) from 13 July until the beginning of August online at animateprojects.org. An exhibition guide by writer Emma Geliot accompanies the exhibition.

The Animate OPEN is part of Digitalis, a strand of activities throughout 2011 that also includes: Digitalis Commissions: four new works for online exhibition (supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation); Digitalis Dialogue: a screening and panel event, a free publication featuring critical writing and information about the commissioned and exhibited works, and a discussion event.

The Animate OPEN Jury was: Francesca Gavin, writer, curator and Visual Arts Editor at Dazed & Confused; Rebecca Shatwell, Director, AV Festival; Gary Thomas, Director, Animate Projects; and artist and music video director, David Wilson.

The Animate OPEN is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

The Animate OPEN exhibition will be online from 13 July at http://www.animateprojects.org/films/by_project/digitalis/animate_open

The public can vote for their favourite film online at http://www.animateprojects.org/films/by_project/digitalis/animate_open

The Animate OPEN exhibition guide can be read here: http://www.animateprojects.org/writing/essays/e_geliot

Digitalis

Digitalis is a provocative strand that sets out to explore, question, subvert or confound our expectations of art and 'the digital', and intended as a focus on and further debate around the potential of the digital space as a site for artistic production. Animation is at the forefront of digital innovation, in creative and scientific fields, and Digitalis offers a pause for thought about what the impact of digital might mean.

The strand includes: Animate OPEN: Digitalis, an online exhibition of up to ten existing works; Digitalis Commissions: four new works for online exhibition, supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation; Digitalis Dialogue: a screening and panel event, a free publication featuring critical writing and information about the commissioned and exhibited works, and a discussion event.

Sebastian Buerkner was specially commissioned to produce an artwork for Digitalis. The work will be available to purchase as a limited-edition print from the Animate Projects Shop from the end of July.

About the Animate OPEN: Digitalis works and artists

James Lowne - Someone behind the door knocks at irregular intervals

Julia spends the day at the leisure centre where she slips into a sombre reverie. As her thoughts continue she becomes aware of the possibility that perhaps she never came here at all. The film suggests ideas of non-activity and meditation, memory and perception. It explores the relationship between contemplation and the act of looking.

James Lowne graduated in Fine Art from St Martin's in 2000. He then worked in post-production and animation in Soho where he learnt editing, computer animation and 3D rendering. Alongside his commercial work he makes music videos and continues to draw and write extensively. Visit <http://www.jameslowne.com>

AL and AL - I killed thousands of people last night and these are all the weapons I used, and Pink Triangles, from the 3D Anaglyph Avatar series

In Pink Triangles - 3D a biped performs inside a simulation of the motion tracking studio. The captured and translated human gestures and movement of the biped is cut with the biped running through a shower of pink triangles.

In I killed thousands... a series of animated weapons are labelled with their value as though in an arms dealer's showroom, or is it just a computer game waiting for the player to buy their munitions?

AL and AL began working together at St. Martin's School of Art in 1999. Commissions include Film London, Animate Projects, Channel 4 and the Royal Society. In 2009 they curated exhibitions at Metal, Edge Hill Station in Liverpool and MuHKA Antwerp, and won the Liverpool Art Prize. In 2010 they collaborated with composer Philip Glass and physicist Brian Greene on Icarus at the Edge of Time, which premiered at the World Science Festival, New York. Visit <http://www.ALandAL.co.uk>

Tony Comley – 'VERSE

A love triangle between God, the Earth and Mankind. Progeny of the 2010 Animator in Residence scheme at the University of Wales.

Tony Comely studied animation at the Royal College of Art. As an animator, he has made windows gurgle for the Barbican, etchings cry for BBC2 and cardboard melt for Warp Records. He is a director with Sherbet through which he won a British Animation Award and he recently toured Britain teaching animation to children for the Tate Gallery/Aardman project, The Itch of the Golden Nit, part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Visit <http://www.tonycomley.com>

Phil Coy – eleven seconds of paradise two thousand and ten (2010)

In 2000 Coy made an internet search for 'paradise' and downloaded 275 thumbnail images. He put the images together as single frames with a frame rate of 25 frames per second so they became equivalent to 'eleven seconds of paradise'. In 2010 he was curious to see how paradise had changed so made another search and remade the work.

Phil Coy studied at Liverpool John Moores University, Ecole des Beaux arts de Nantes, and has an MA from The Slade School of Fine Art. Recent presentations include Whitechapel Art gallery, South London Gallery, Volt/ USF gallery Bergen, Norway, Artprox Cinema, New York and at The Russian Club Gallery, London. In 2010 he was a recipient of a London Artists' Film and Video Award. Visit <http://www.philcoy.info>

Kristian de la Riva - CUT

In CUT a lone male character attempts to cut away various body parts using ever more extreme methods to do so. A distorted ode to relationships lost is hinted at within the work but the field of reference is expanded to incorporate the pain and humour implicit in an individual's day to day thoughts and routines.

Kristian de la Riva studied Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University and has an MA from Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design. Exhibitions include Palais Paradiso, Amsterdam, Obsession/Repetitive Gesture, Old Police Station, London, and New Contemporaries 2010, at A Foundation, Liverpool and Bloomberg, London.

Joe Hardy - Cassette Tape: Side A

A TCM-848 plays a found cassette tape of an organist practising. Snippets of speech, shuffling and someone washing up in the kitchen all add to the atmosphere. The film is simultaneously nostalgic and mundane. The speed of the spooling tape and ratio of the counter are both reproduced faithfully.

Joe Hardy studied Time Based Art at Sheffield Hallam University and has been making short films and developing his artistic practise for several years, while simultaneously recording and touring in a band, Amusement Parks On Fire. In August 2011 his interactive projection work Range will be shown at Ron Arad's Curtain Call in the Roundhouse, London. Visit <http://www.egb7.com>

Max Hattler - 1923 aka Heaven + 1925 aka Hell

The two animation loops directed by Max Hattler are inspired by the work of French outsider artist Augustin Lesage. The films are based on Lesage's paintings 'A symbolic Composition of the Spiritual World' from 1923 and 1925. Both films were created during 5 days in February 2010 with student animators and CG artists at The Animation Workshop in Viborg, Denmark.

Max Hattler studied at Goldsmiths and the Royal College of Art, graduating with an MA (RCA) in Animation in 2005. To date his award winning moving-image works have shown at exhibitions and film festivals worldwide, winning awards at 700IS; Eksjo; KLIK; LSFF; moves; Videofestival Bochum, and others. Max is also active in the field of audiovisual performance and has worked with a wide range of music acts including Basement Jaxx, Jemapur, and The Egg. Max currently teaches animation at Goldsmiths, while studying towards a Professional Doctorate in Fine Art at UEL. Visit <http://www.maxhattler.com>

Rob Munday - Teddy Goldblatt

In a post-apocalyptic world a lemon called Teddy finds his legs.

Rob Munday is a filmmaker and writer living in London. He has had films shown in festivals around the world including The BFI London Film Festival and South By South West in Austin, Texas. He also writes film reviews for <http://www.smellofnapalm.com>

Noriko Okaku - Allegory of Mrs. Triangle

Allegory of Mrs. Triangle is an animated portrait of an imaginary character, Mrs. Triangle. The video is concerned with the complexity of one persona and the different aspects of personality.

Noriko was educated at Chelsea College of Art and Design, and the Royal College of Art, completing an MA (RCA) in Animation in 2005. In her art practice, she employs the methods of animation, installation and audio-visual performance. Noriko won Best Audiovisual Performance, International Videofestival Bochum, Germany in 2010 and Beck's Futures Student Prize, ICA, London in 2003. Visit <http://www.norioka.net>

Edwin Rostron - Visions of the Invertebrate

The film concerns liminal states, marginal spaces, and the fringes of reality. In these places everyday objects take on peculiar, unknown qualities, shapes merge and recombine in a state of constant fluidity and strangers impart cryptic knowledge that we sense is somehow deeply important. The film is a collaboration between artist and animator Edwin Rostron and musician William Goddard AKA Supreme Vagabond Craftsman.

Edwin Rostron is an artist currently based in London. He graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2008. His animations have been shown at festivals such as onedotzero, Pictoplasma and the Australian International Animation Festival. Visit <http://www.edwinrostron.com>

David Theobald - Workers' Playtime

Workers' Playtime is a contemporary reboot of the morale raising BBC radio show of the same name which was broadcast from the factory floor throughout the 1940s and 1950s.

David Theobald is a video artist. Recently, his main works have been animations structured from rendered objects, photographs or scanned images, blending these together to create a familiar yet alien environment. These may be structured as conventional films or as continuous loops with no discernible beginning or end. Recent exhibitions include Tenderflix 2011, Re: Animate at the Oriel Davies Gallery, Wales, ev+a in Limerick, Ireland, and the Cube Open 2010. David curated the exhibition Modern Times at the Vegas Gallery and was also winner of the Open West 2011. David is also an Associate Lecturer at Wimbledon College of Art, part of University of the Arts. Visit <http://www.davidtheobald.com>

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects champions experiments and creative risk taking in animation across a broad spectrum of practice. It is the only UK organisation dedicated to commissioning and exhibiting innovative animation online and on digital platforms. Since 2008, animateprojects.org has received over 800,000 visitors and has an international reputation as a place to encounter outstanding work by British artists.

Recent projects include: Primitive by Apichatpong Weerasethakul; Slow Action by Ben Rivers; Figment by Hiraki Sawa and Rough Machine commissions for iTunes and APEngine.org.

Animate Projects is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Experiments in animation - <http://www.animateprojects.org>

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