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The Rough Machines have been assembled



Images (L-R): Chris Newby; Katerina Athanasopoulou; Edwin Rostron; Bill Balaskas; and Jordan Baseman.

We are delighted to announce that our five Rough Machine commissions have now been fabricated and will premiere online this November. One film will be posted on AP Engine each week from 2 November. All five films will be available to download free from iTunes from early December.

The Rough Machines are: an ethereal animation by Edwin Rostron inspired by the Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) audio recordings of Raymond Cass; a re-imagining of a disused gasworks as a dystopian microcosm by Katerina Athanasopoulou; the uses and abuses of the human tongue are examined by Chris Newby in an anarchic animation; Bill Balaskas challenges digital perfection by physically degrading a celebratory image; and Jordan Baseman offers up two contrasting hand processed films that capture the essence of the fair on Brighton Pier.

The AP Engine Rough Machines commissions are supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and UK Film Council.

Notes to editors:

APEngine.org is an online magazine that develops discussion and debate across the broad range of moving image practices. Visit APEngine.org

About the Rough Machine Commissions

The five films were selected from an open call, where ideas were invited from UK-based artists, animators and filmmakers for films that encapsulated the spirit of APEngine and would be inventive, arresting and engagingly provocative work; specifically shorts that could be viewed as an antidote to digital perfection.

Visit [Animate Projects' iTunes Channel](#) to download the Rough Machines films from December.

About the commissionees:

Katerina Athanasopoulou has a Masters in Animation from the Royal College of Art. Her practice revolves around personal filmmaking, animation/special effects and teaching. Her short films, which have been widely screened internationally, mix together animation and live action with deep layering and a love for texture. Visit kineticat.co.uk

Beauty and brutality within an industrial dystopia - Katerina's Rough Machine collages live action footage of a disused gasworks with still images and videos of working machines, accompanied by an exquisite soundtrack of Gregorian chanting.

Bill Balaskas was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, and lives and works in London. His video and installation work has been shown widely internationally. He studied at the University for the Creative Arts, Maidstone, and graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2010. Visit billbalaskas.com

Bill's Rough Machine explores our desire for digital perfection when documenting special events in our lives. Using an Apple iPhone to capture that special moment, he then applied filters to fix the digital noise of both image and sound, which conversely has created an imperfect work.

Jordan Baseman studied at the Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, US, and at Goldsmiths College, London. Baseman is currently Reader in Time Based Media at Wimbledon College of Art, University of the Arts, London. He is a lecturer at the Royal College of Art Sculpture School and the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, University of Oxford. Visit jordanbaseman.co.uk

Jordan has created two Rough Machines: Super-Whip - a colourful and frenetic depiction of the Super-Waltzer ride on Brighton Pier; and Galaxy - a somber, black and white film that portrays the stark architecture of Brighton's Horror Hotel and the end of the pier Galaxy ride. The films were shot on 16mm using stop-frame animation techniques that was then hand-processed, then digitised.

Chris Newby is based in London. Born in Leeds, he studied at Leeds Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art. He began making films in the 1980s, winning many festival awards, and has made two features, Anchoress and Madagascar Skin.

Chris's Rough Machine celebrates the uses and abuses of the human tongue. By creating a densely layered animation, Chris has created a film that is both sinister and poetic in its exploration of taste and touch.

Edwin Rostron is an artist who makes animations and comics. He studied Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University and Animation at the Royal College of Art. His films have been shown around the world. Visit edwinrostron.com

Edwin's Rough Machine is inspired by the Electronic Voice Phenomenon tape recordings of Raymond Cass, one of the UK's foremost researchers into EVP. Through a series of fragmentary scenes rendered in pencil and watercolour animation Edwin explores the hidden realms of the unconscious mind.

About Animate Projects:

Animate Projects explores animation and its concepts in contemporary art practice. Our programme operates at the intersection of the contemporary visual arts, animation, film and design. We seek to offer artists a particular and supportive space to create new work and we enable a UK and international audience to engage with it via broadcast, gallery, cinema and online, and through critical debate.

Our recent projects include: Primitive, a multi-platform project by Apichatpong Weerasethakul; Shudder, new works for gallery and online by artists Edwina Ashton, Ann Course and Barry Doupé; and Magic Lantern, a residency project featuring Finnish artist Jani Ruscica.

Animate Projects is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. AP Engine is supported by the UK Film Council's Publications Fund. Visit us at animateprojects.org

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