

AnimateTV 2009: four new films for broadcast and online

Airing on Channel 4 in November

Screening at Tate Modern in early December



Images: Amnesia, Cordelia Swann; For Cultural Purposes Only, Sarah Wood, photograph © Ruanne Abou-Rahme

“Before words, before rhythm, a mark is the simplest thing we can make to change our reality. I’m thinking of the power of making a mark and how dangerous, and powerful, this is when the mark gathers significance,” Sarah Wood.

This year’s AnimateTV programme features new works by four outstanding British filmmakers that explore the world through animation, using a variety of techniques to create alternate realities.

Amnesia by **Cordelia Swann** is a fusion of footage taken on a mobile phone with high definition landscape shots, to create a seductive but disorientating narrative and a wry take on daytime television and classic Hollywood movies.

For Cultural Purposes Only by **Sarah Wood** is an experimental film essay investigating the cultural importance of cinema. Palestinian filmmakers describe scenes of important films, once held in the Palestinian film archive that were

destroyed in the siege of Beirut in 1982, that are then re-drawn by illustrator Woodrow Phoenix.

Tad's Nest by **Petra Freeman** presents a darkly evocative fairytale exploring the memory of sensation. This distinctive work is painted on glass then layered digitally, accompanied by the dramatic, mystical yet tactile sounds of Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina.

Unicycle Film by **Thomas Hicks** combines stop-frame animation using actors in a carefully choreographed performance on unicycles, scrolling hand painted backgrounds and hand-drawn flipbooks, to create a fantastical film that makes transparent the processes involved.

The AnimateTV programme will be broadcast on Channel 4 in November, where the artists will each give an insight into their films. The films will then be shown on animateprojects.org in December, alongside contextualising information - artist interviews, test footage and background materials.

Notes to editors:

For more information about the films, visit animateprojects.org.

AnimateTV is an Arts Council England and Channel 4 funded scheme that has been running since 1991. Award-winning AnimateTV films include *Cowboys* by Phil Mulloy, *Rabbit* by Run Wrake, *Who I Am* and *What I Want* by David Shrigley and Chris Shepherd and *Magnetic Movie* by Semiconductor.

About the artists:

Cordelia Swann - Amnesia

Amnesia opens with the heroine waking up in a beach house in Malibu to find that her husband is Pierce Brosnan. He hands her a camera phone in the hope that its images will help her piece together her past life... With allusions to made-for-TV movies and classic Hollywood films, especially *Rebecca*, the voiceover story of *Amnesia* will unravel - exploiting the innate possibilities that exist in dreams, memory and implausible plots of daytime television.

Born in San Francisco and brought up in Manhattan, Cordelia has lived the greater part of her life in London, working as an artist and film curator since 1979. Her filmography includes *A Call to Arms*, featuring Tilda Swinton (1989), *Out West* (1992) and *Desert Rose* (1996).

Sarah Wood - For Cultural Purposes Only

An experimental film essay investigating the cultural importance of cinema. Interviewees describe from memory key moments from films once held in the Palestinian film archive, destroyed in the siege of Beirut in 1982. The scenes are re-drawn from memory, and interspersed with the story of the archive. The archive's loss is measured through the complexity of the reconstruction process.

Sarah is an artist filmmaker and film curator. She has curated for organisations including LUX, The Photographers' Gallery and Cambridge Film Festival and has been the Artists' Film Development Officer at the Independent Cinema Office. Her most recent films are *I Want to Be a Secretary* (2007), which won the Best Film prize at the London Short Film Festival, *Surrender* (2005), *Manifesto for Love* (2003) and *Living Space* (2003).

Illustrator Woodrow Phoenix will be supplying the illustrations in the film. His work includes the strips *The Sumo Family*, published in the *Independent on Sunday*, and *The Liberty Cat*, for Japan's *Morning* magazine. He has also published two books: *Rumble Strip*, exploring the psychology of the relationship between people and cars, and *Plastic Culture: How Japanese Toys Conquered the World*.

Petra Freeman - Tad's Nest

Childhood memories of a secret place are the starting point for a story that evokes the innocent and the sinister. In *Tad's Nest*, Petra integrates her characteristic oil painting on glass technique with digital images. *Tad's Nest* explores Petra's synaesthesia, she says, 'Often, spoken and written works cannot define a state of being. I am interested in how we can hold on to a memory over many years. Not only visual memories, but memories of sensation.'

Petra graduated with an MA in Illustration, Royal College of Art in 1990 and has been working as an artist ever since. Her filmography includes *The Mill* (1992) and *Jumping Joan* (1994). Her work has shown at numerous exhibitions and screenings, including the National Portrait Gallery, London, the Edinburgh Film Festival and Annecy Animation Festival, France.

Thomas Hicks - Unicycle Film

Two unicyclists carry out a strangely choreographed performance captured in stop motion. Their movements at times mirror each other, at times work together, like one machine, like a heartbeat or a lungs breath. Thomas says of the project, 'I want to mix very traditional animation processes and very theatrical live action with small elements of subtle computer animation - carefully composited to create a richly dark universe.'

Thomas studied illustration and animation at Kingston University. In 2005 he entered a Creative Review/Warp Records commission to make a music video for the band Gravenhurst, and has since created album artwork and directed further videos for the band. This project develops his creative collaboration with the band's singer/songwriter, Nick Talbot. Thomas lives in Kingston, and works as a freelance music video and commercials director through Passion Pictures.

About Animate Projects:

Animate Projects commissions artists to make work that explores the relationship between contemporary art and animation, for broadcast, gallery, cinema and digital exhibition. Over 100 groundbreaking films can be viewed on animateprojects.org, alongside interviews with artists, essays and other background material. Our recent projects include Primitive, a multi-platform project by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, and Jane and Louise Wilson's Unfolding the Aryan Papers, a response to the holdings of The Stanley Kubrick Archives. In September, we will be launching Engine, a new online space for critical debate and discussion across the broad range of moving image and digital creativity, supported by UK Film Council.

Animate Projects is funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and by Channel 4. Visit us at animateprojects.org

Further press information, preview copies, images and interview requests:

Abigail Addison

abigail@animateprojects.org

+44 (0)207 407 3944 / +44 (0)7789 689603

