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Rough Machines: Five new films for online and iTunes

Animate Projects is pleased to announce five new commissions for Rough Machines, by Katerina Athanasopoulou, Bill Balaskas, Jordan Baseman, Chris Newby, and Edwin Rostron. The makers have just over a month to craft their rough machines. The short films will premiere online at AP Engine, Animate Projects' online magazine, and will be available through iTunes, from November.

Ideas were invited from artists, animators and filmmakers for films that encapsulated the spirit of AP Engine and would be inventive, arresting and engagingly provocative work; specifically shorts that could be viewed as an antidote to digital perfection.

The AP Engine 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
Visit [Animate Projects' iTunes Channel](#) for a selection of commissioned films.

About the commissionees:

Katerina Athanasopoulou was born in Athens and studied painting at the School of Fine Arts in Thessaloniki, moving to London to study animation at the Royal College of Art. Her films, employing a richly layered, textured method that “brings the handmade into digital filmmaking” have been widely screened internationally. Visit kineticat.co.uk

Katerina's Rough Machine will be “A carnivorous, cruel feast of metal and synthetic flesh, a cycle of birth and destruction combining a constructivist aesthetic with hand drawn details.” She will combine live action footage of real machines, 3D and hand drawn animation with a soundtrack of industrial sounds with baroque notes.

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 will be exploring what happens to ‘perfect’ moments when we start removing their layers of supposed digital perfection. Using an Apple iPhone, he will manipulate both image and sound to expose the untenability of the idea of ‘digital perfection,’.

Jordan Baseman studied at Temple University, Philadelphia, in the USA, and Goldsmiths College, London; he lives in Brighton. Visit jordanbaseman.co.uk

Jordan will be creating a hallucinatory, visually abstracted work. The film will use in-camera, animation recording methods and basic colour hand-processing techniques, combined with an electronic soundtrack to evoke the illuminated Pleasure Pier in Brighton.

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' Rough Machines film sees the tongue as a scabrous machine “that lashes, whips, cusses and cuts.” He will use animated montage in a basic, but poetic way, “photographing as many tongues as I can get my hands on... and then being quite brutal with the images.”

Edwin Rostron makes animations and comics. He studied at Sheffield Hallam University and the Royal College of Art, and his films have been shown around the world. Visit edwinrostron.com

Edwin's film for Rough Machines will be hand drawn animation, a series of understated images in pencil and watercolour, hovering in the unsettling territory between abstract and representational, ethereal and everyday, at once disturbing and somehow funny. A voiceover talks about Electronic Voice Phenomenon - recordings purported to be messages from the dead heard in radio frequencies and background noise.

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

Further press information:

Abigail Addison at Animate Projects

abigail@animateprojects.org

+44 (0)207 407 3944 or +44 (0)778 968 6903