

Panel C1

Auditorium

Education and Animation III

Ang Qing Sheng

A painting-inspired approach to develop exploration in 3D Computer Graphics Visual Design



It has been observed that students of the 3D Animation programme at LASALLE College of the Arts tend to produce work that lacks stylistic exploration. This could be due to the conventional approach taught to students - one that involves texturing (colouring) each object individually before lighting them together in a virtual scene. When colouring each isolated object without regard to the overall visual-spatial design (Gardner, 2004), students tend to let the software dictate the visual style of their work. Taking inspiration from Woon Lam Ng's (2016) painting approach, this research proposes the departure from the conventional approach so that lighting precedes texturing. Students will firstly place objects in the scene and consider compositional elements such as tone and shape in relation to the whole before colouring them. The proposed approach aims to emphasize the overall picture-plane design so as to encourage conscious experimentation with visual style. 17 students from the final year BA(Hons) Animation Art programme were mentored with the proposed approach over a period of 4 weeks. Still images from the students' work before, during and after intervention were qualitatively analyzed based on selected design criteria, and results showed that 2 out of 6 groups displayed evidence of stylistic exploration. Further feedback collected from students through a questionnaire and an observation journal provided insights to the challenges of the new approach, one of which was time constraints. The report concludes with possible areas of improvement to the proposed workflow and scope for expansion of the method employed.

Biography

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Qing Sheng is currently a postgraduate student of the LASALLE MA Arts Pedagogy & Practice programme, an independent animation filmmaker in Singapore and teaches in the Animation programme at LASALLE College of the Arts. He graduated from the School of Art, Design & Media at Nanyang Technological University with a first-class honours degree in 2013. He has received support from both LASALLE Research Project Funding and National Arts Council (Singapore) to produce animated short films, one of which is *5 Shades of Solitude* for *Utter 2015* as part of the Singapore Writer's Festival, and the other is *Lak Boh Ki*, the world's first Hainanese animated short that premiered locally at Singapore Chinese Film Festival and internationally at DOK Leipzig in 2016. His research interest lies in Southeast Asian culture in Animation as well as pedagogy in visual design.