MARIA JOSE ESQUIVEL

STORYBOARD & BACKGROUND ARTIST

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COURSE PROJECTS

The Gravedigger • *Storyboarding for Animation*

Fall 2022 • ArtCenter College of Design
Developed story and background art for a gothic horror story set in the pacific northwest
- Produced concept art, character sketches, and expression sheets using Photoshop
- Storyboarded and pitched a 5-7 minute introductory scene using Storyboard Pro
- Employed effective staging, camera movement, and character acting to maximize impact
- Highlighted emotional beats, atmospheric lighting, and composition to maintain suspense

Agricola • *Background Ptg for Animation + Independant Project*

Spring-Fall 2022 • ArtCenter College of Design
Created visdev materials for a 2D animated adventure series inspired by Costa Rican history using Photoshop and Procreate
- Developed and conceptualized sketches, silhouettes, and the render of 3 main characters
- Designed buildings, environments, and 4 final renders for both exterior and interior, backgrounds
- Researched and compiled reference material and literature to inform story and design strategies

Wind & Wicker • *Visual Development*

Summer 2022 • ArtCenter College of Design
Adapted a Russian fairy tale for 2D animation based on the style of "Klaus" using Photoshop
- Produced and edited sketches, designs, patterning, line work, expression sheets, and final renders for 5 props, 5 characters, and 3 environments
- Conceptualized and painted backgrounds and isometric views for interior and exterior environments
- Adhered to correct file-naming and document management requirements
- Coordinated design strategies, thematic cohesion, and artistic integrity throughout

EXPERIENCE

Incredible Ant • *Wildseed Studios*

Storyboard Artist
January-April 2019 • Remote
Storyboarded and pitched 4 episodes of an animated comedy and action-adventure series using Storyboard Pro
- Delivered character driven boards with comedic payoff meet director's storytelling objectives
- Created dynamic action sequences and high emotional stakes through gesture drawing and cinematic staging
- Cleaned up and polished rough boards based on director's feedback for final delivery
- Maintained clear and open communication over different time zones to address issues and meet weekly deadlines

Caracol Cruzando • *Pamela Chavez (Lobo Studios)*

Background & Storyboard Artist
July-December 2017 + June-August 2016 • Los Angeles, CA
Produced layouts, concept art, and backgrounds for a 15 minute animated short
- Improved pacing and expressiveness through storyboard revisions using dynamic composition and drawing skills
- Generated time and cost-effective solutions for production issues
- Researched efficient design strategies through close collaboration with the director

Permadeath • *White Snake Projects*

Team Leader + Visual Development Artist & Story Artist
Winter 2017 • Rhode Island School of Design
Headed a team of 5 in the visual development of a video game-themed opera using Photoshop
- Conceptualized and rendered atmospheric environments, characters, and props according to story and style objectives
- Storyboarded and pitched dramatized musical sequences emphasizing character acting and emotional impact
- Managed tasks and delegated roles to ensure overall cohesive style and quality

EDUCATION

ArtCenter College of Design
Bachelor's of Fine Arts (with Honors)
Illustration Entertainment Art
2022 • Pasadena, CA

Rhode Island School of Design
Bachelor's of Fine Arts (with Honors)
Illustration
2017 • Providence, RI

Brown University
Medieval Studies and English
2012-2014 • Providence, RI

SKILLS

Design & Communication
Storyboarding
Layout
Environment Design
Visual Development
Character Design
Drawing
Verbal & Written Communication
Collaborative Work
Time Management
Project Management

Software
Storyboard Pro
Photoshop & Illustrator
Procreate
Wacom Tablet
Traditional Media

Languages
Spanish (native fluency)
Japanese (intermediate)

Historic Knowledge
Viking history & culture
Anglo-Saxon history & culture
Old English Language

RECOGNITION

Society of Illustrators Student Scholarship Competition 2022

ACCD Student Gallery 2022