

# **My Shadow**

by Robert Louis Stevenson

a film by Neha Kulkarni

## Introduction

When I read the poem 'My Shadow' by Robert Louis Stevenson. I liked it very much, as it reflected my own thoughts as well. I thought it could be represented effectively through animation.

I studied the subject by doing some of my own research and observations. I also studied the subject through Internet live action videos, images, animation films, hand art tutorial etc.

In the process I also studied my own shadow, light and time, so that I could observe and present the play of shadows.

## Exploration

While the final film story was created based on the poem 'My Shadow' by R. L. Stevenson several explorations were done prior to that.

### The Shadow

In this exploration the story is about a boy who is 10-12yrs old.

He is at a fair with his friends. His friends are laughing/smiling at each other after he leaves for home. (Because his friend has tied a balloon to his pants)

The boy walks towards his house which is far away...

All along the road, through the bridge, small hill ,meadow, etc he is unaware of the balloon..

The Sun travels overhead and the character's shadow changes casting a strange shadow.

The boy gets a little scared when he looks at the shadow.

Then forgetting his fear he tries to walk step forward and step back with the shadows..

He enjoys this play with the shadows.... Shadows change at different periods of time (on wall, road, jump, run etc... shadow effect)

Suddenly it disappears and he wonders where it went. He feels lonely.

This is because clouds cover the sun. He looks up and sees the balloon.

He smiles:)

## Final topic chosen

### "My Shadow"

The poem by Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow—  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an India-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

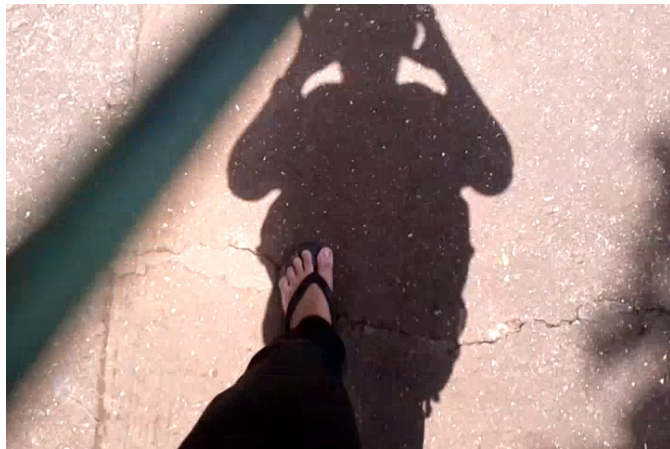
He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.



# Research

## Study of Shadows



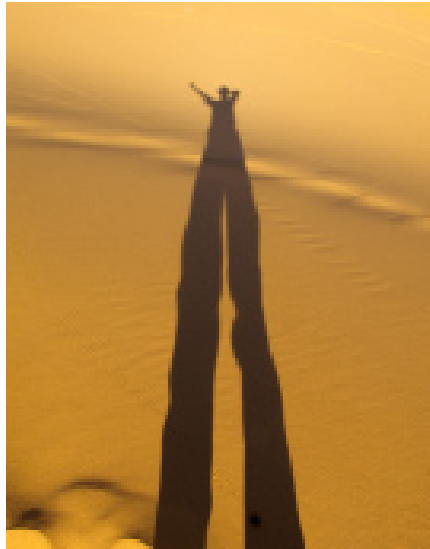
My study of Shadows comprised observations, quick sketching and photographing

A shadow is an area where direct light from a light source cannot reach due to obstruction by an object. It occupies all of the space behind an opaque object with light in front of it. The cross section of a shadow is a two-dimensional silhouette, or reverse projection of the object blocking the light. The sun causes many objects to have shadows and at certain times of the day, when the sun is at certain heights, the lengths of shadows change.

Whenever light gets absorbed by that object, we see nothing but black color. Hence shadow is always black. It is made up of nothing but group of or array of absorbed light.

My appearance of shadows is determined by the nature, sizes, time, numbers, space and light received by the shadow.

I shot my own shadow video with my mobile to understand the movement and Shape of shadows.

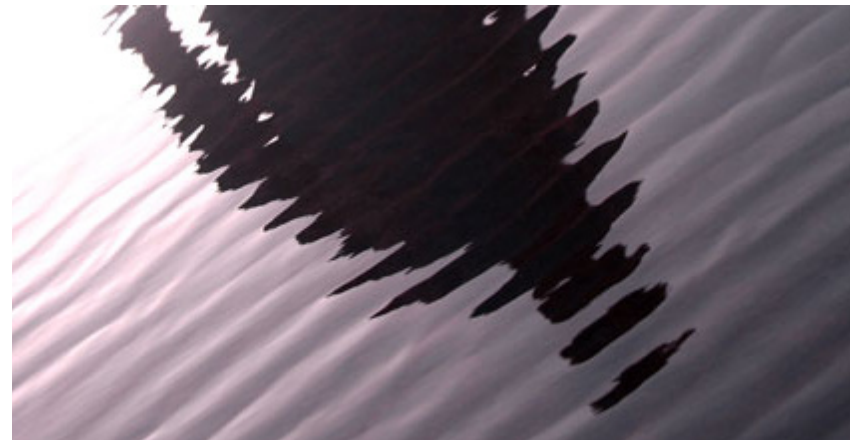
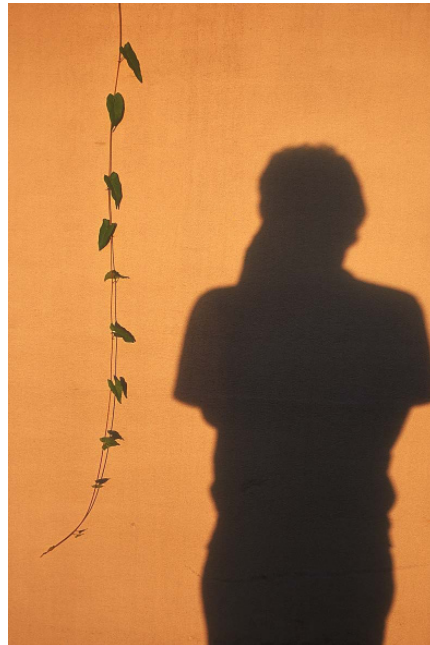


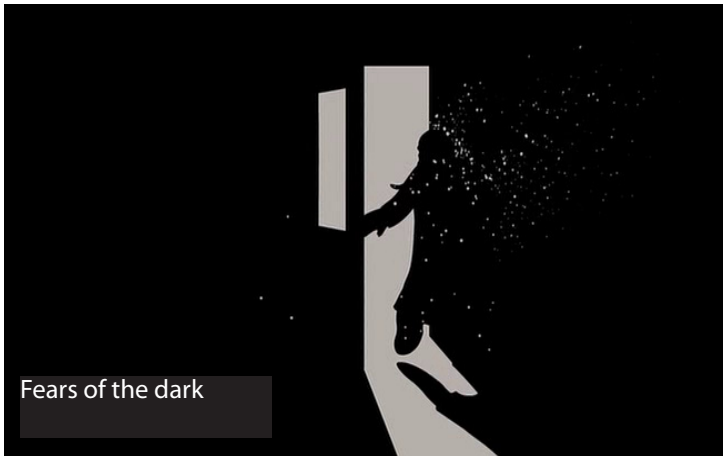
Where is shadow showing

- Floor
- Water
- Wall
- Desert
- 3d object
- Puppet art
- Hand/body art

Feeling about shadow

- Fun/joyful
- Emotion
- Horror
- Art
- Safe/unsafe
- Release
- Resolution
- Inspiration
- Creativity
- Peace





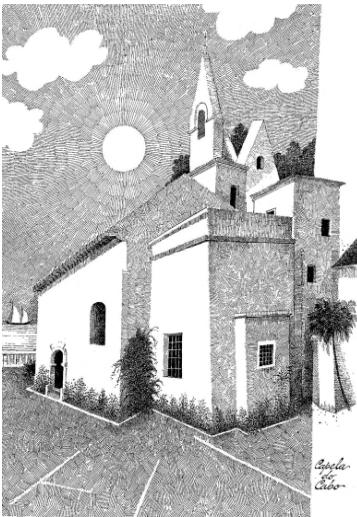
## Color Concept

Reference-

Inspirations:

Goan cartoonist Mario Miranda's style-  
Fears of the dark (animation film)

Mario miranda's style



## Why the poem?

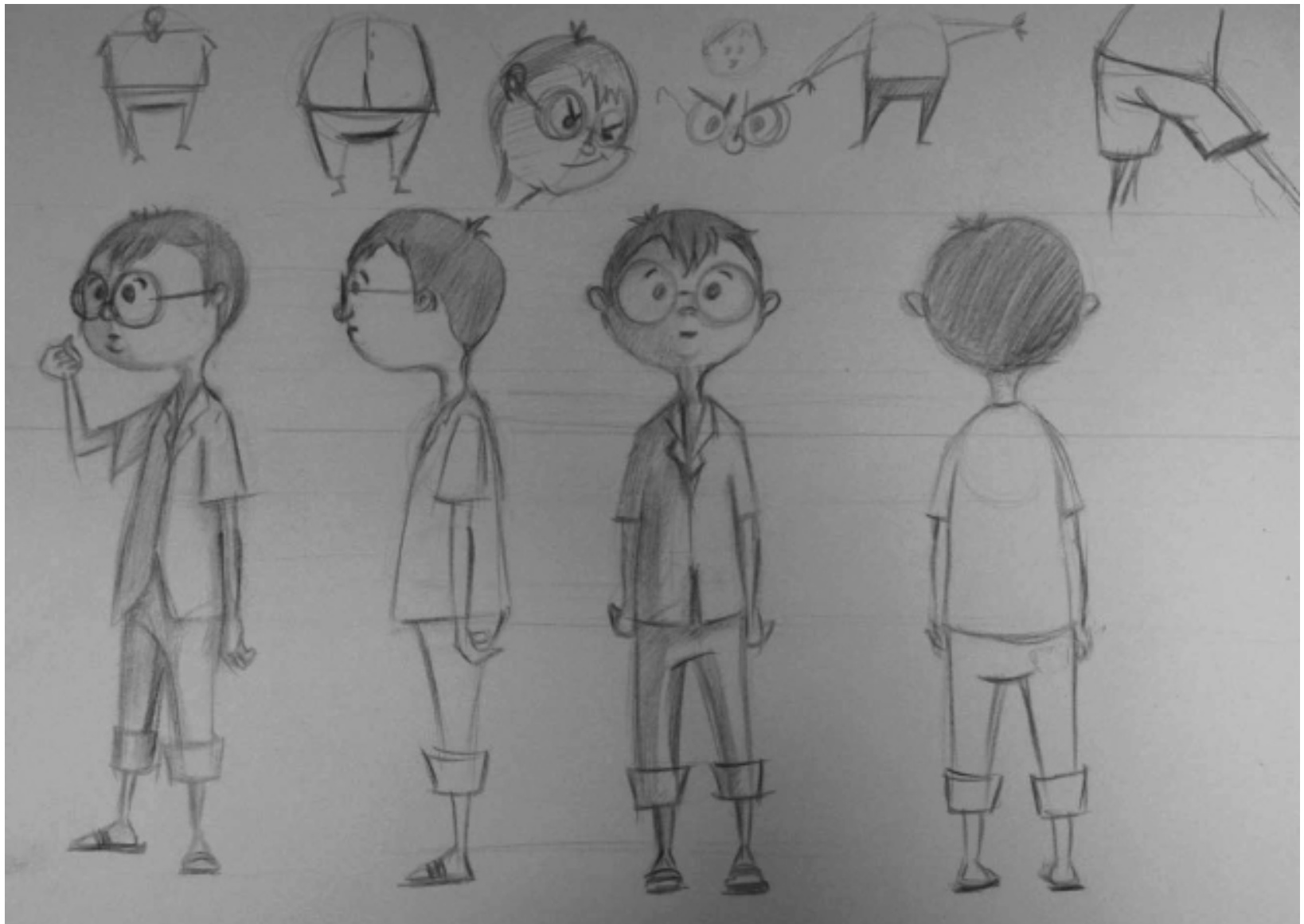
The poem is about shadow. Shadow of the object should be the point of focus.  
That is why i have used less colors to keep the shadow a prominent feature.

# **Character Design**

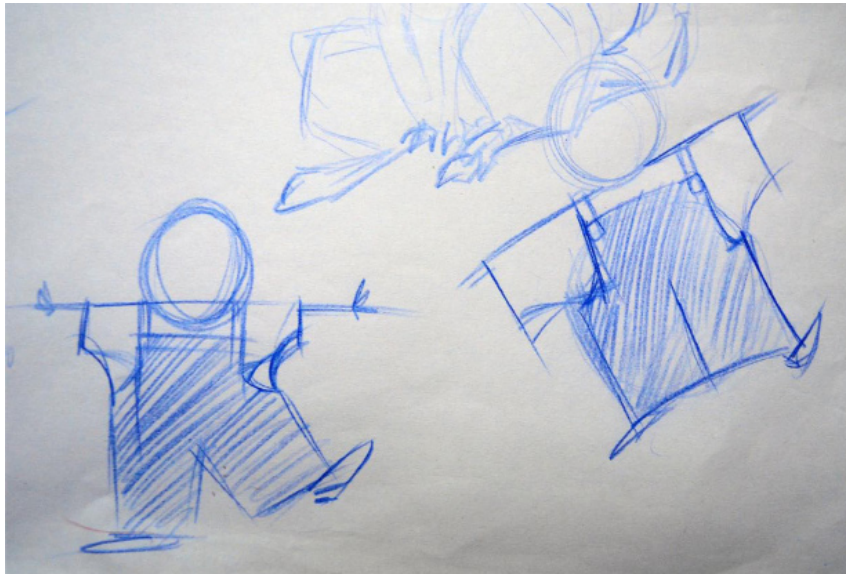










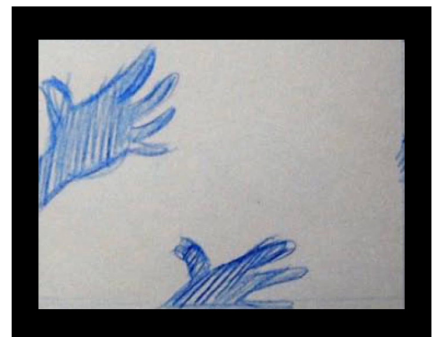
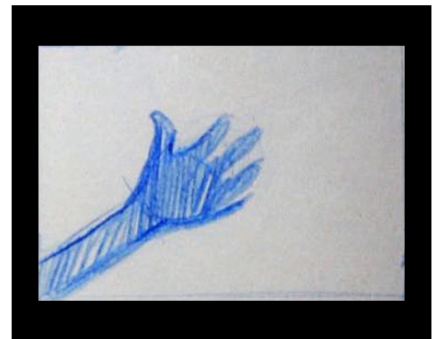


I have tried to fix the style.

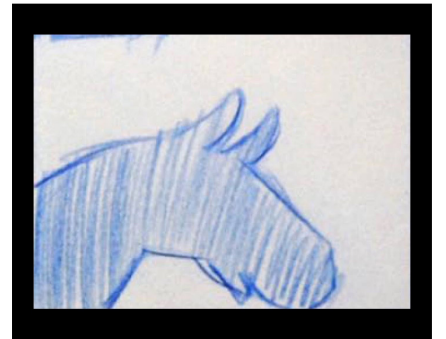
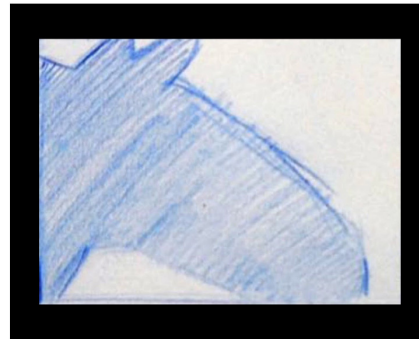
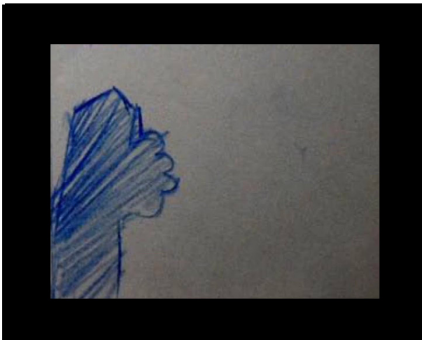
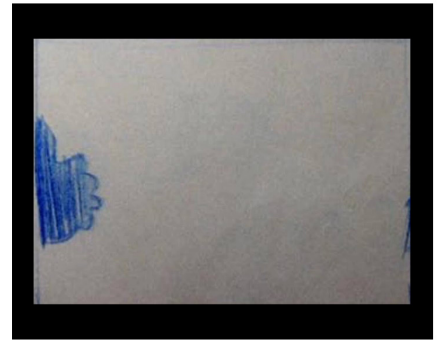
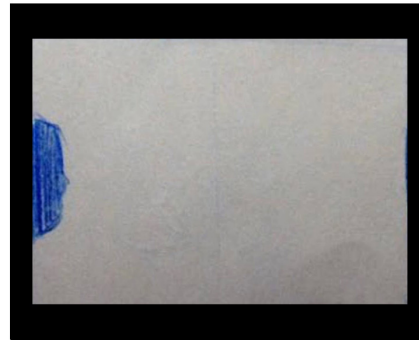
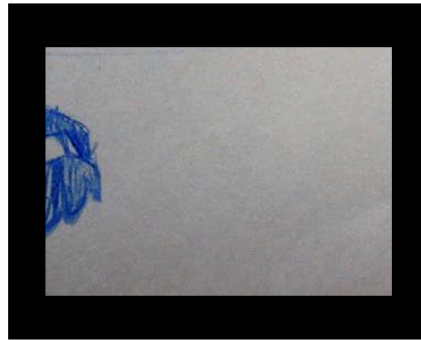
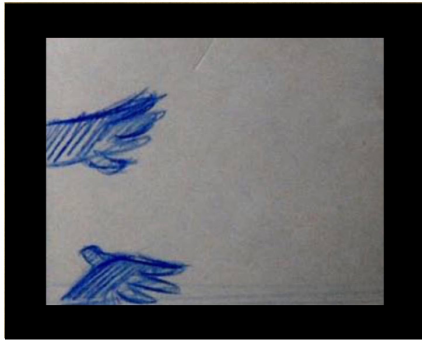


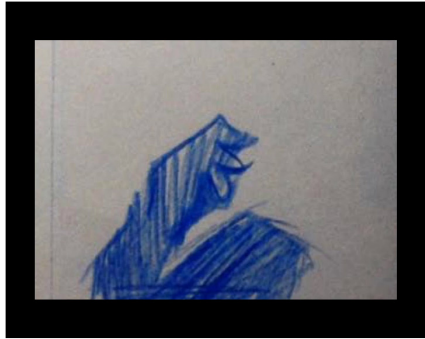
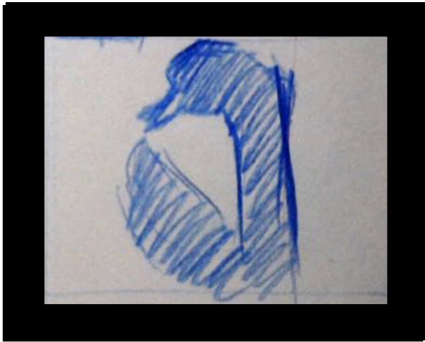
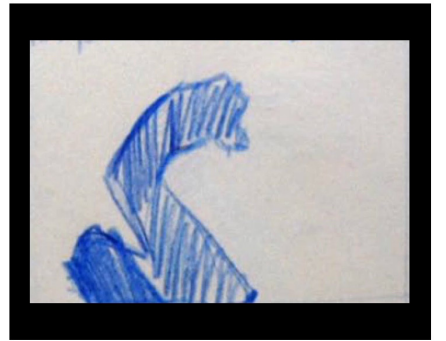
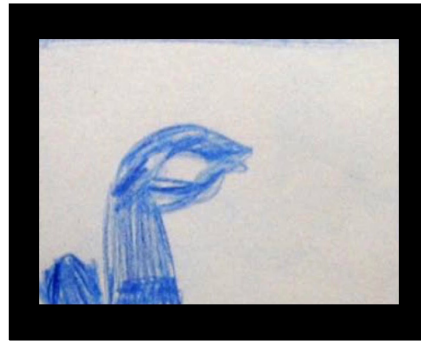
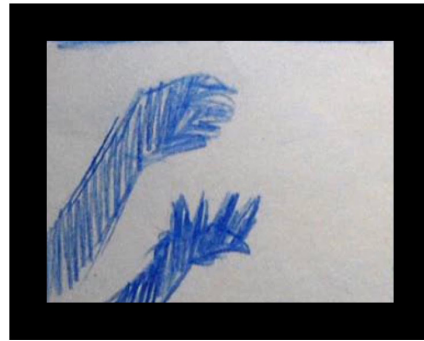
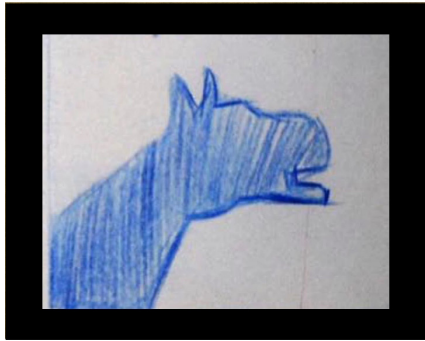
## **Story Board**

I represented it roughly and used them in animatic with sound.

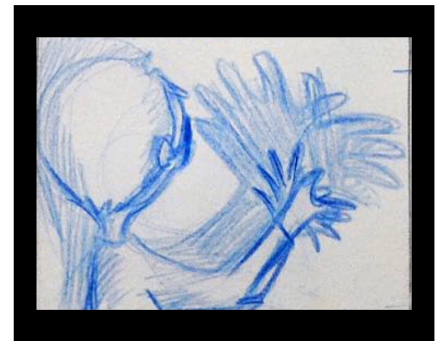
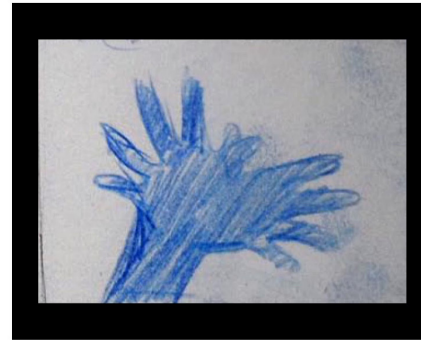
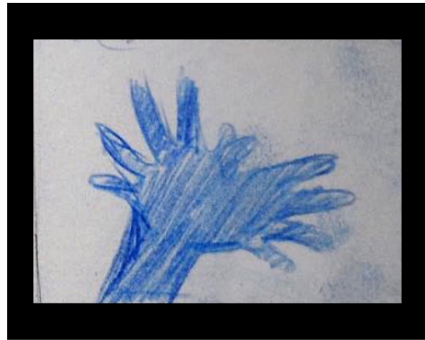


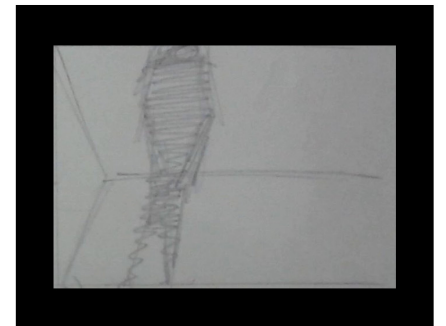
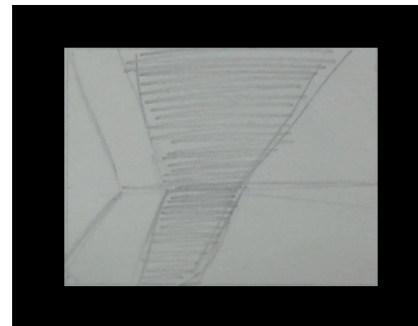
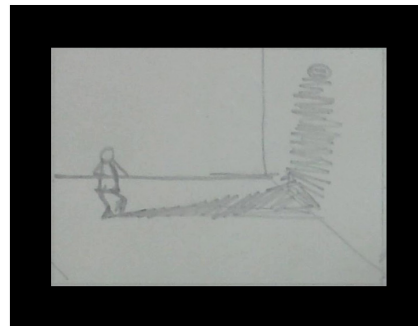
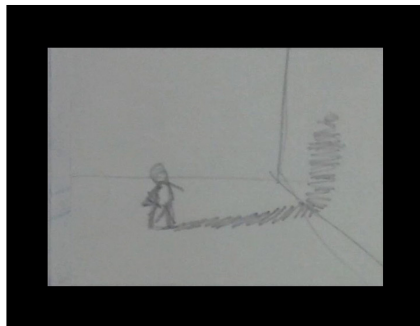
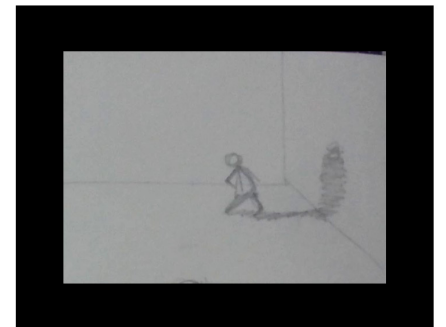
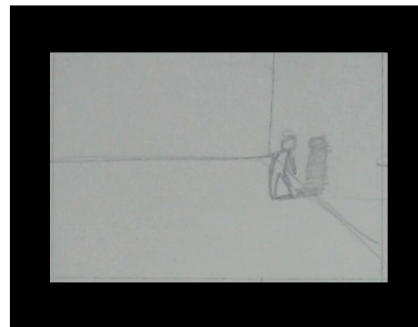
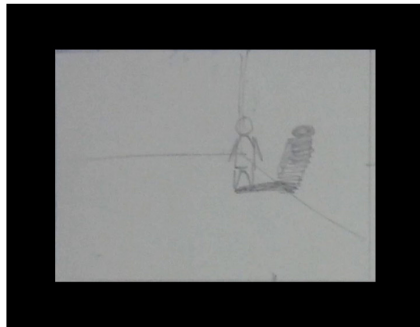
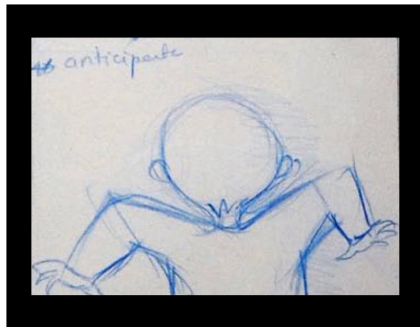


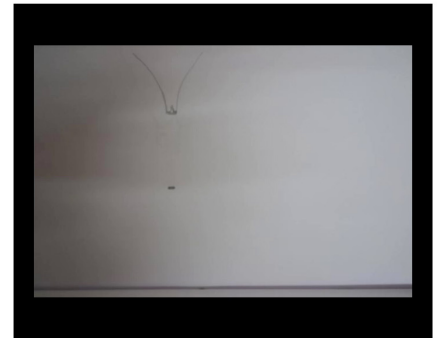
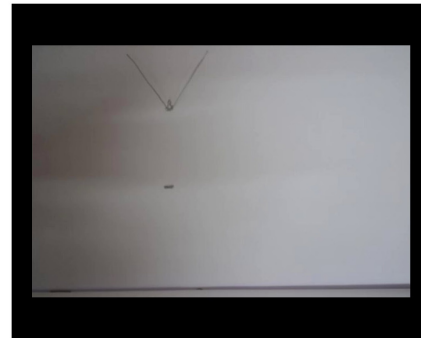
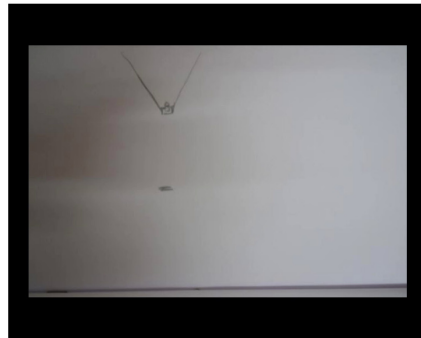
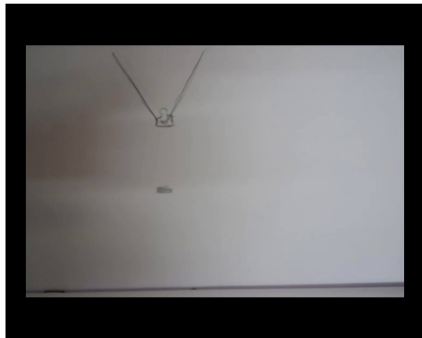
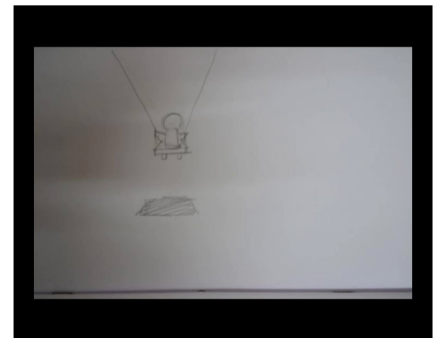
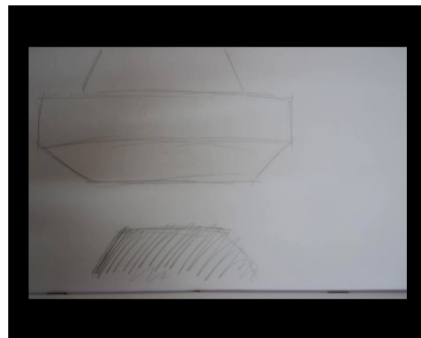
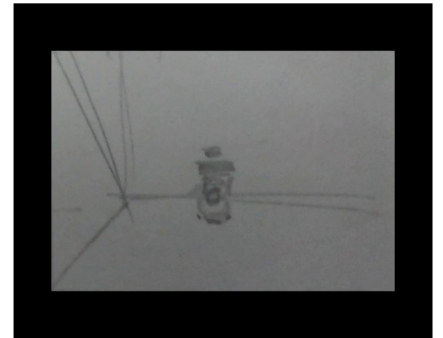
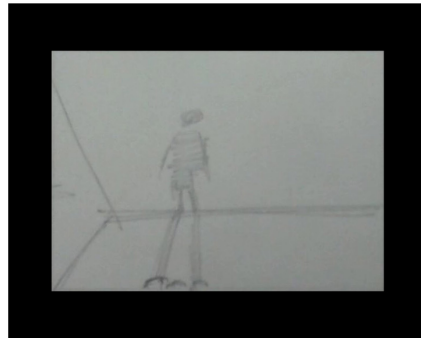
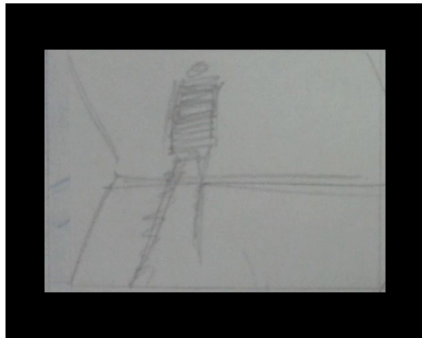




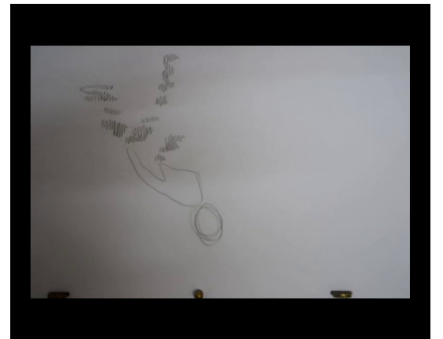
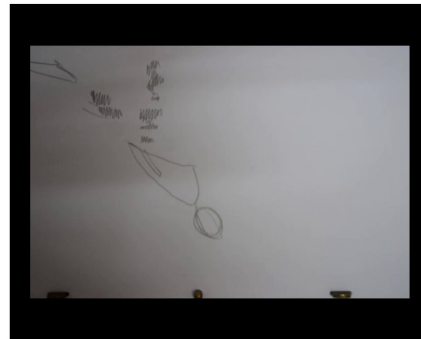
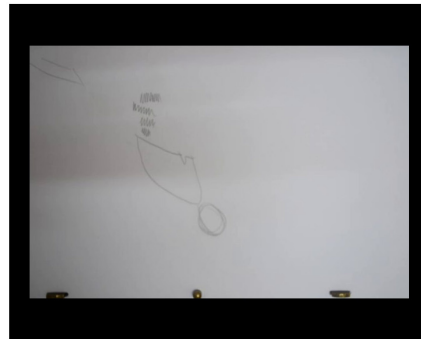
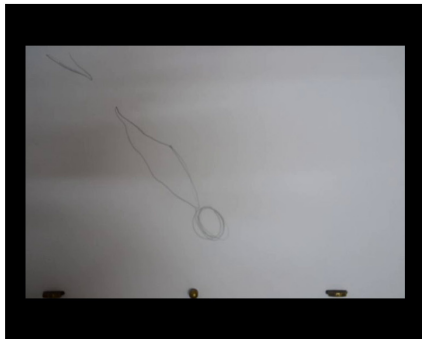
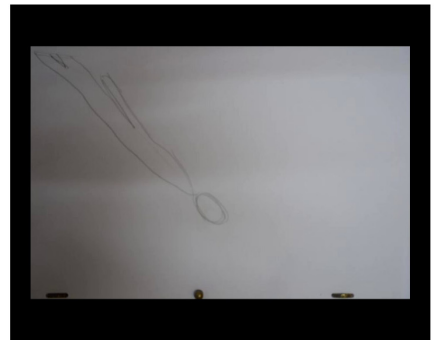
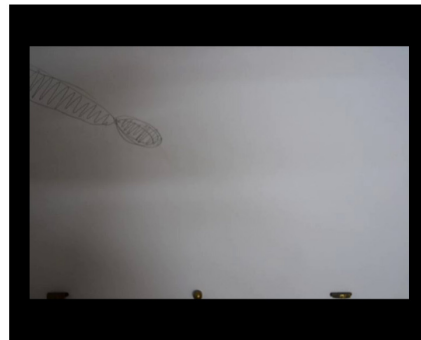
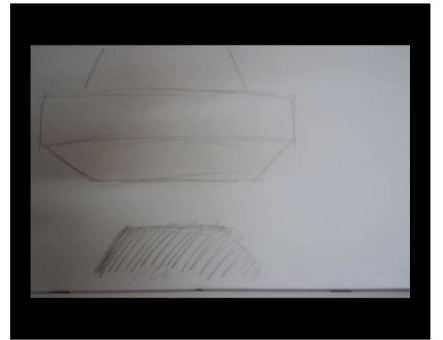
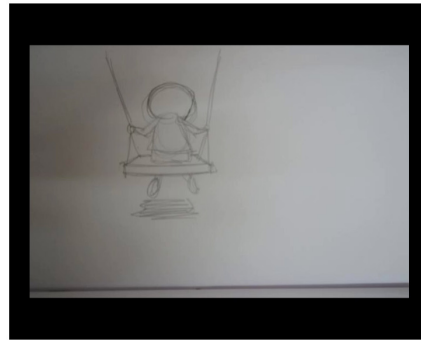


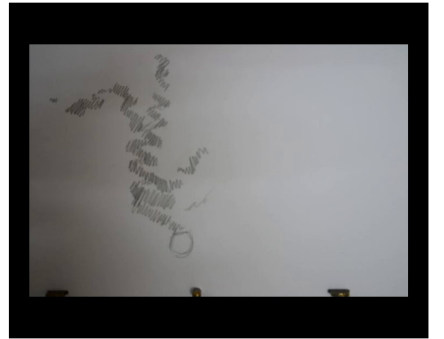
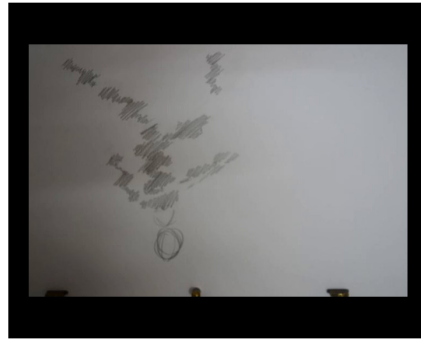
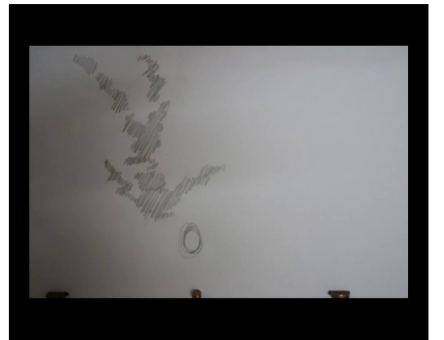
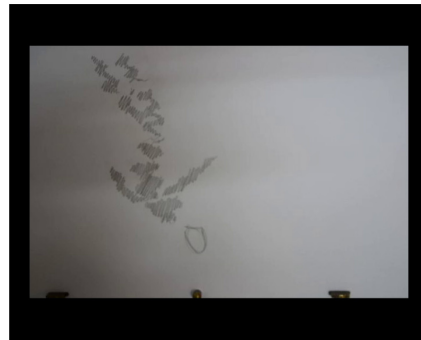
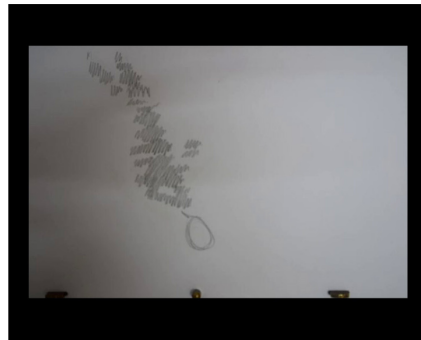
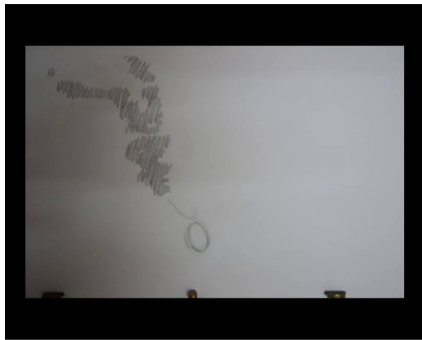
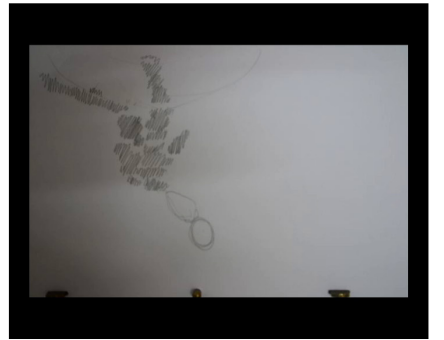
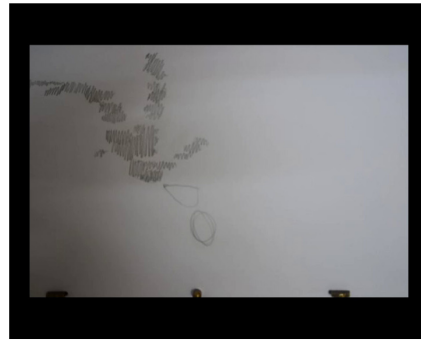
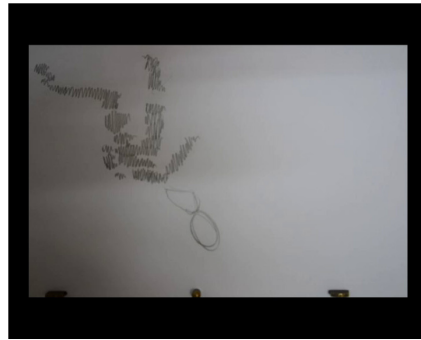
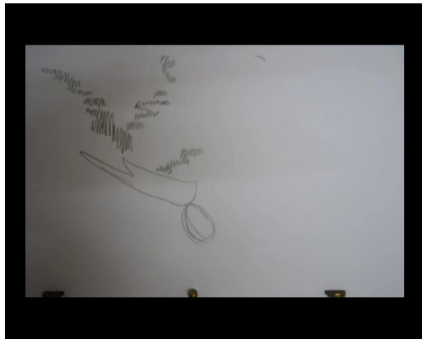


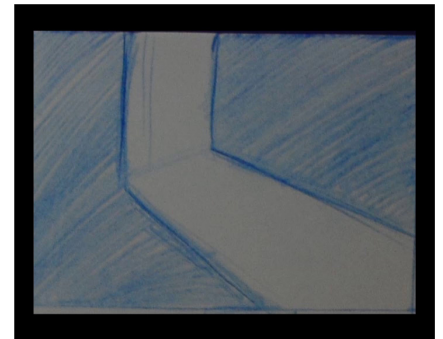
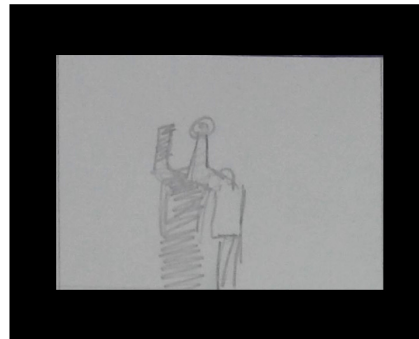
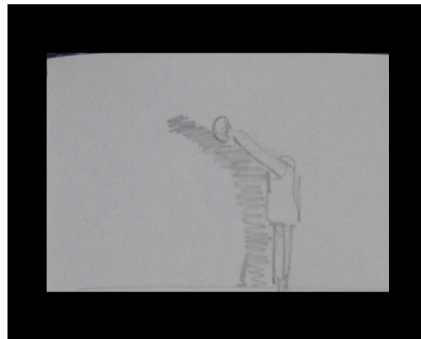
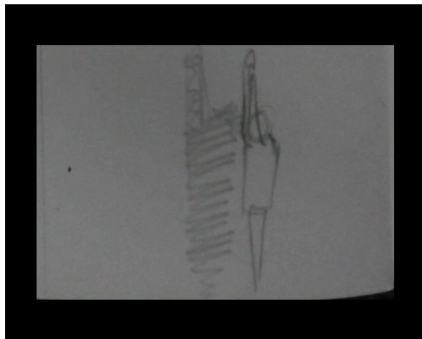
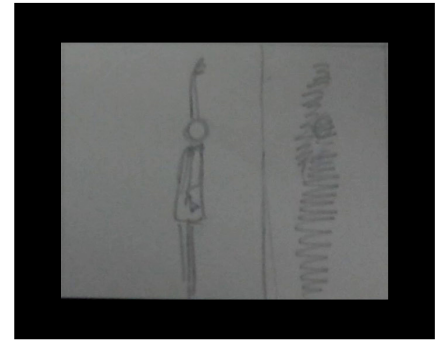
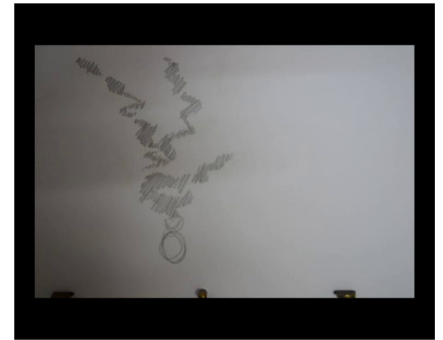
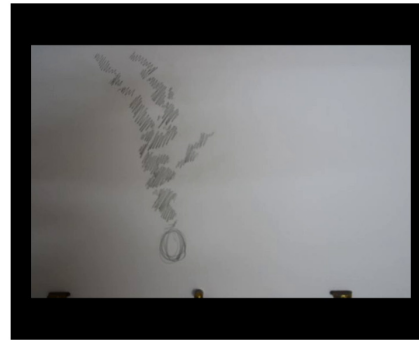
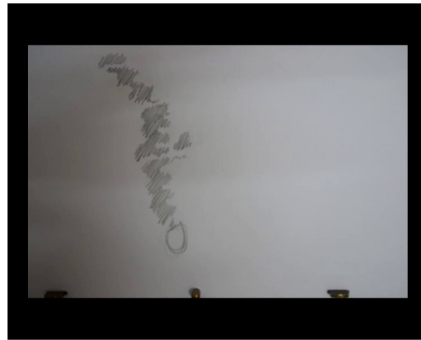
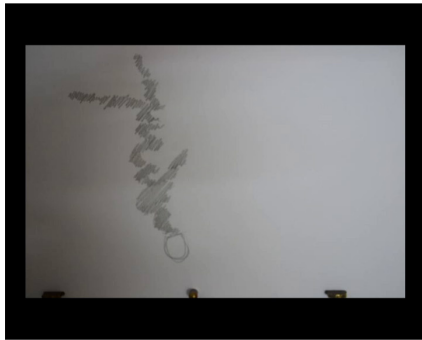


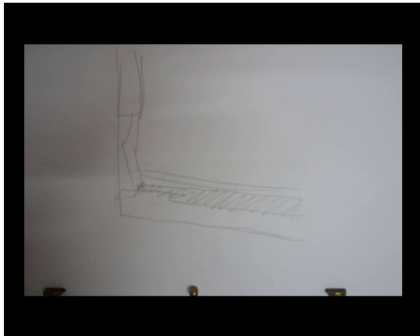
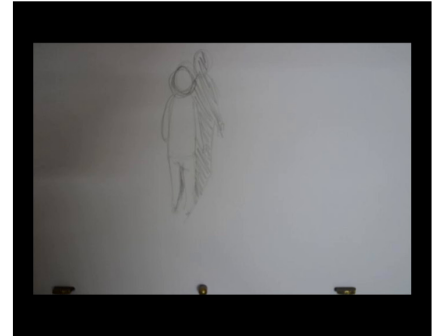
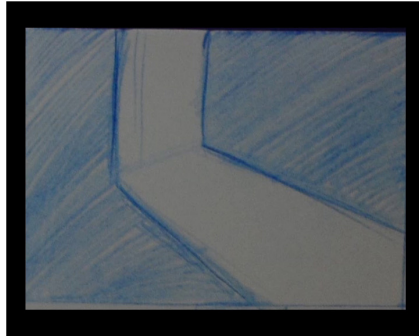
















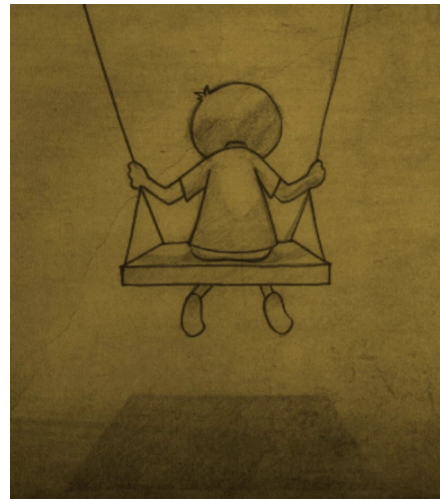
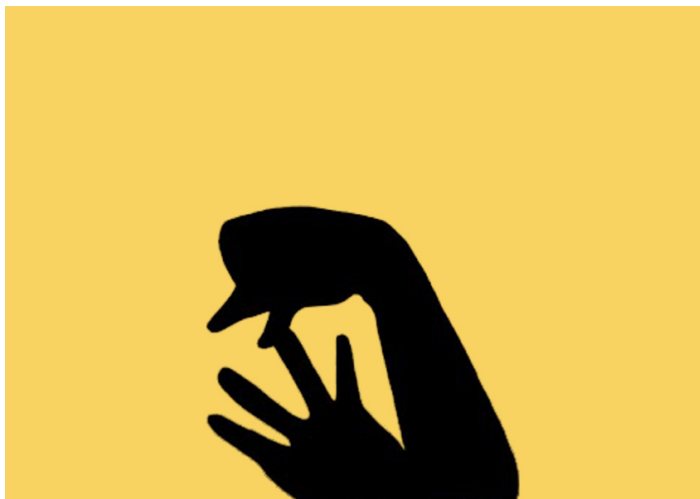


## **Styling of animation**



Look and feel

Texture or plane



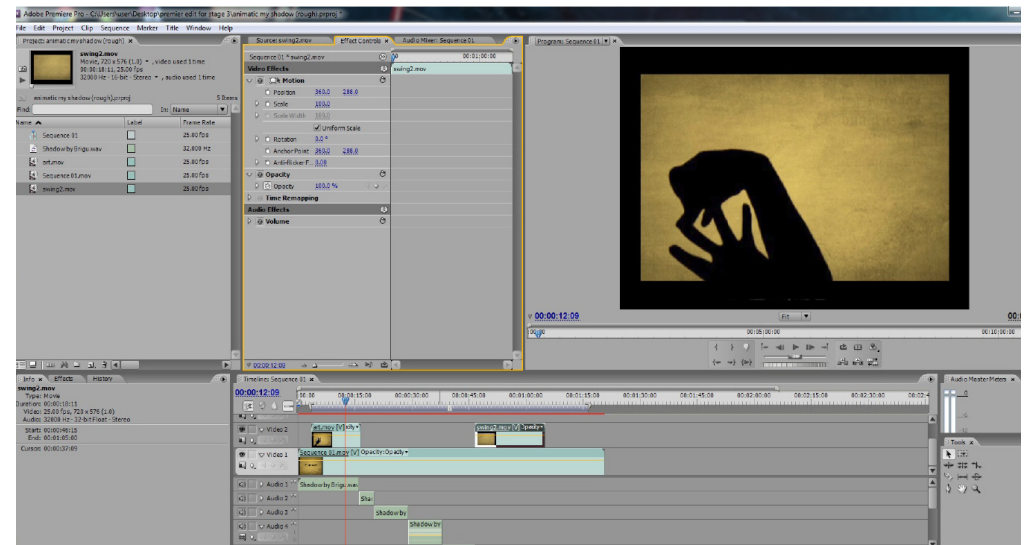


## Editing

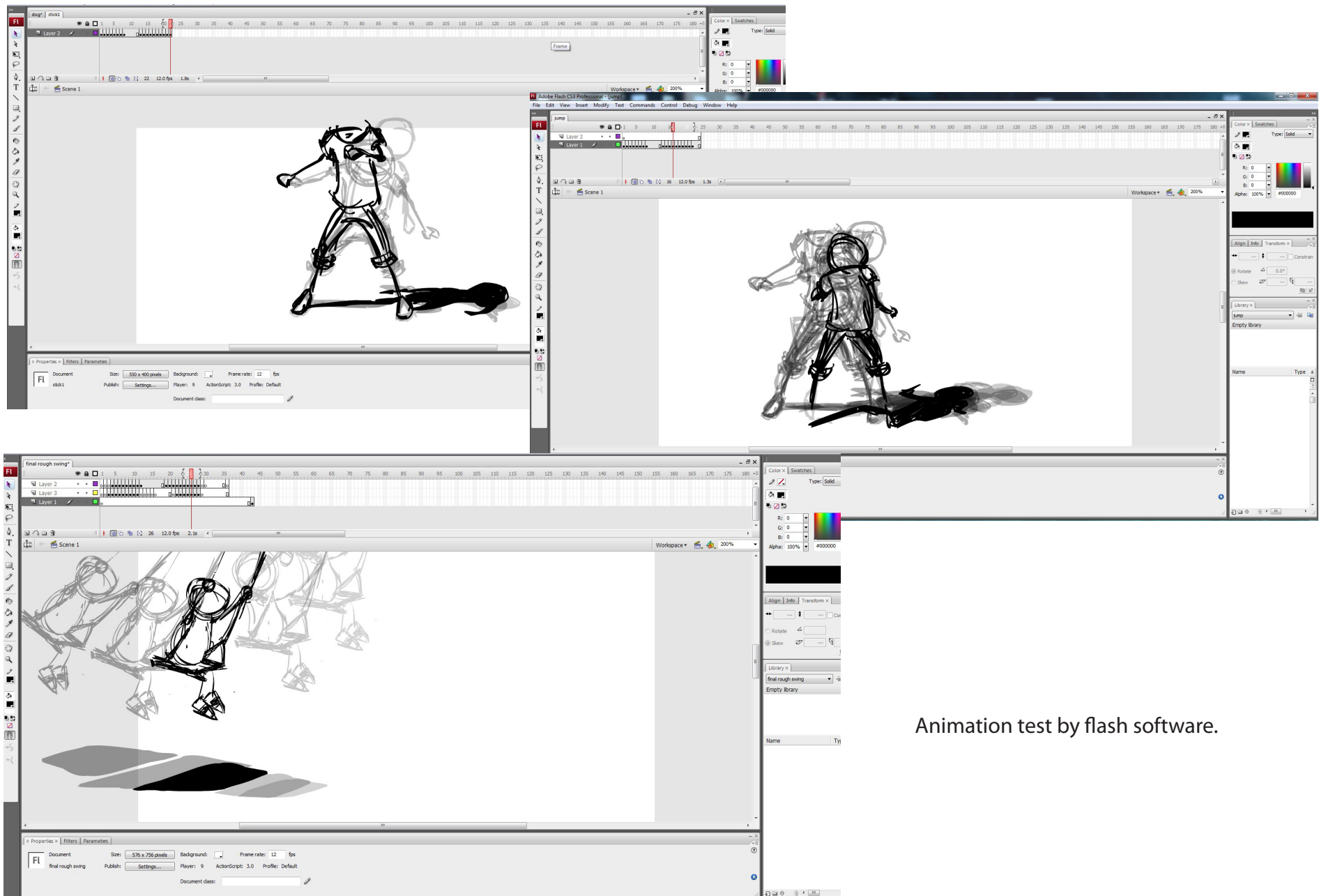
The completed shots were then imported in Adobe Premiere and put on the time line and placed in a sequence. Then very basic editing was done in order to match each shot with the sound that was created in the sound design process.

## Sound Design

Brigu sang the poem in his soft voice. Prof. C.P. Narayan helped me in giving sound to the poem.



## Work Process



Animation test by flash software.



I shot videos myself.

## Conclusion

"My shadow" conveys the poem of a shadow that is distracted from its purpose and its journey back to its intended destination aided by natural and divine occurrences through animation.

I have explored and experienced the perspective of shadow of three dimensional objects.