

A short animation film

“KAK BHAGAU”

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Final year degree project, an 2009-10'

GUIDED BY

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IIT BOMBAY
IDC,2010

Dedicated to
My family and to all my Teachers

DECLARATION

I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where others' ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any idea/data/fact/source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.



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Date: 31/12/2010

Approval sheet

The Animation Design Project II "KAK BHAGAU" (A Short Animation film) is approved for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the post graduate degree of 'Master of Design' in Animation

Guide:

Prof. Sumant Rao



Internal Examiner:



External Examiner:

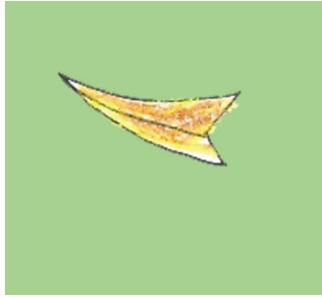
MANISHA

Chairperson:

Shant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The Idea of the project is to explore “the unnatural world of spirits and its effect to the human being”. Spirit here means the “Supernatural being” that comes to life to pass an important message of love and care. Spirit exists in our literature in the fictional world and the non –fictional. And so is divided into two categories of thoughts and its belief systems. Through my film I am not conveying any message of its existence or non-existence but it showcases how the fluidity of thoughts of a person takes him to an unnatural world by the spirit of his own wife who conveys him a message of love for their only child.

INTRODUCTION

What is a Spirit?

Spirit is a vast topic to understand, read and write about, what now I came to know about spirit is more than what I knew in general. Spirit is not necessarily an unsatisfied soul, a demon, a ghost, a bad form of energy but it may also exist within us as unconscious form in own self as a subdued form of energy and it is not necessary to be negative. It is not always that spirits exist in the world to harm you but its existence may help you to understand some critical events which one may be ignored unconsciously and affects their lives.

During my research I read about Carl Jung's theories of Archetypes which he discussed in his phenomenal study of "Interpretation of dreams."¹ Jung described: archetypal events: birth, death, separation from parents, initiation, marriage, the union of opposites etc., archetypal figures: great mother, father, child, God, devil, trickster, hero, wise old man, etc., and archetypal motifs: the Apocalypse, the Deluge, the Creation, etc.

Jung outlined five main archetypes;

- 1- **Self**, the regulating center of the psyche and facilitator of individuation
- 2- **Shadow**, the opposite of the ego image, often containing qualities that the ego does not identify with but possesses nonetheless
- 3- **Anima**, the feminine image in a man's psyche; **or**
- 4- **Animus**, the masculine image in a woman's psyche
- 5- **Persona**, how we present to the world, usually protects the Ego from negative images (acts like a mask)

These archetypes exist primarily as energy. In a personal exploration of the Self, archetypes play an important role in the process of individuation.

Study on Joseph Campbell:

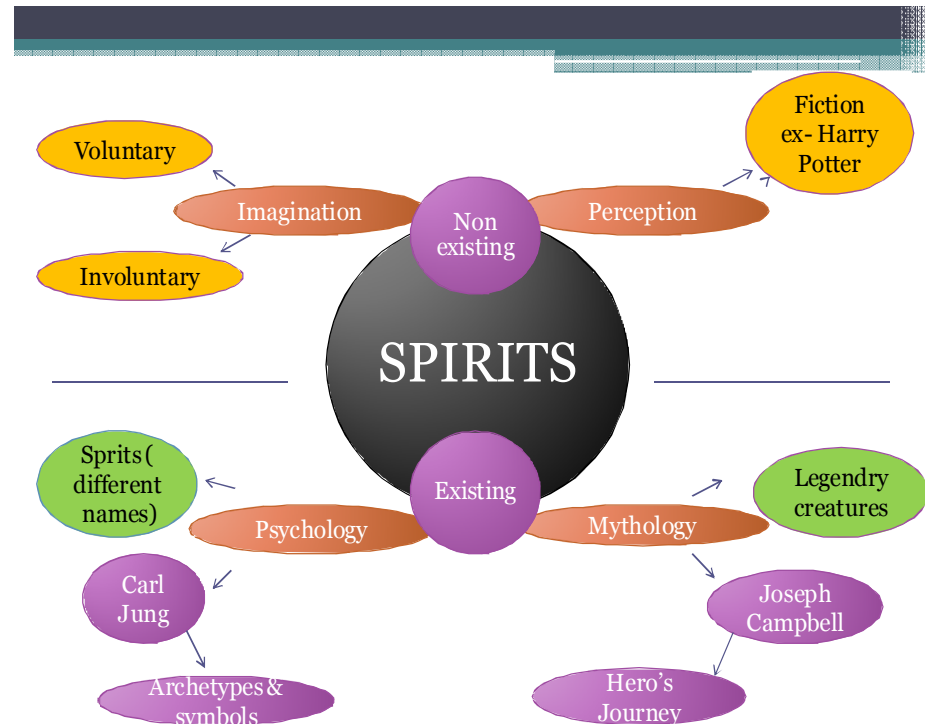
Joseph Campbell readings helped in laying out the story. His studies explore the theory that important myths from around the world which have survived for thousands of years all share a fundamental structure, which Campbell called the monomyth. **“The Hero with a Thousand Faces”²**. Campbell summarized the monomyth.

“A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.”

MIND MAP



Mind map(1) on the general knowledge about spirits in common .



Mind map (2) after the research done.

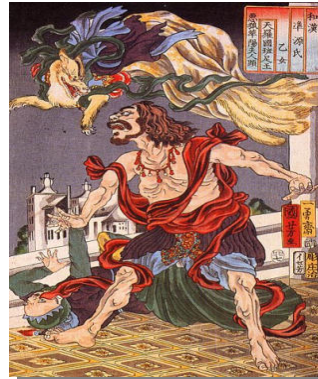
*The arrows only indicate the relationship with that of Spirits they don't have any contextual relationship . This mind map also helps me to know my area of research.

Legendary Creatures :

They appear in tales of wonder, fantasy, legends ' and mythologies of all cultures. Some appear in the tales of many cultures, others are specific, peculiar even, to a particular culture. Some are beautiful, good fortune and happiness; others are dangerous, evil, and have to be battled and defeated by heroes. Whatever their nature, these creatures of myth and legend are certainly wondrous.



Jatayu in Ramayana



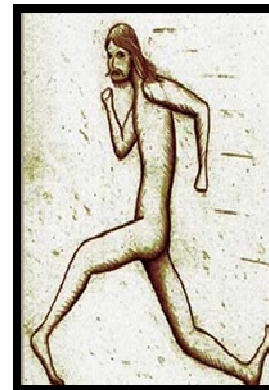
Prince Hanzoku terrorized by a ninetailed fox



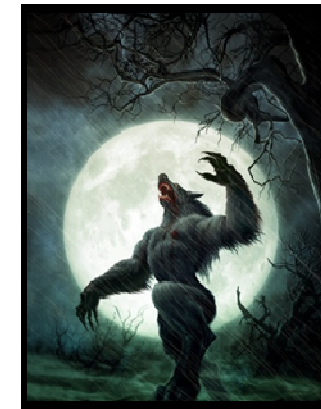
Legendary Cang Jie



Rakshasha



Abarimon



Werewolf

EXPLORATION

Spirits world is full of fantasy elements . I liked the freedom of showcasing it as abstract form or may be material form .I started to weave stories which where sometimes were logical sometimes illogical. I started finding the clues of spirit in our existing world.

Rituals

- Shraddhs (Ritualisation of letting go of the spirit of a deceased person)
- Dogs sniffing dead to see if spirit has left the body
- Vaastu Shanti

Architectural Motifs

Household Gods, Demigods & Demons

Others:

- Good luck dolls
- Voodoo dolls
- Matka or Kohla to keep bad spirits out
- Medicine men & Baba ji's

It may be the thought process related that the word “matka” influenced me a lot. Based on this, I suddenly got the idea of a story related to a “scarecrow”. The potential of the image inspired me enough to weave a story having a scarecrow character as a spirit.

Reading books :

- The tales of enchatment

Watching films like :

- Pollo by Juan Andres Castaneda (3d animation)
- Ratatouille
- Casper the friendly ghost(2d animation series)
- The sixth sense (live action)
- Garuda(Annecy 2008)
- Such great heights by Ryan Shaw(2d animation)

Initial Ideation

STORY 1 -

Abstract animation of good and bad spirits and their struggle for supremacy over the protagonist.

STORY 2 -

The Master dies leaving his dog without anyone to take care of him. So his spirit lingers behind until he can find a suitable new master. The story explores the relationship between the dog and the spirit of his dead master.

STORY 3 -

A man loses his wife and in his grief, neglects his little son. A scarecrow befriends and takes the boy away. The father chases after the scarecrow and rescues his child. He wakes up from this dream and realizes it's true meaning. I liked the last idea the most and thought of going with it because it into making the movie interesting with scarecrow character as a spirit and so developed my rough script based on it. Storyboarding followed and was an iterative process as script was fine tuned. Some modifications were done in the film at the later stage after taking into consideration various suggestions and feedback by the guide and faculty |

EXECUTION

A) STORYBOARD AND SCRIPT



shot-1-long shot to zoom of kitchen



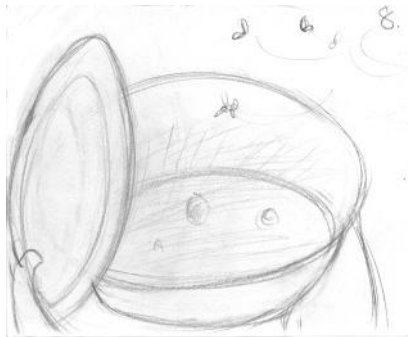
S2 -Child comes in



S3 – He checks for food



S4- He is hopeful to find something



S5- He opens the lid



S6-He finds nothing and is sad



S7- Child goes away



S8-Goes away from kitchen



S9-He saw his father



S10-He goes to his father for food



S11- Father is smoking hooka.



S12-Father neglects the child.



S13-His father doesn't give any response.



S14 -Child is sad



S15- He goes away.



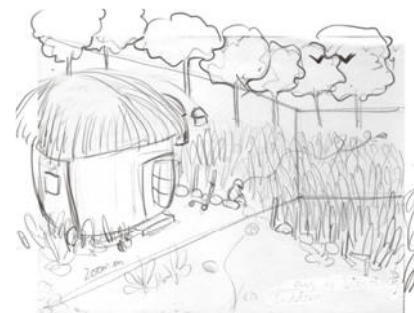
S16 -Father from back.



S17- Cut to pic of child's dead mother.



S18 Child goes out



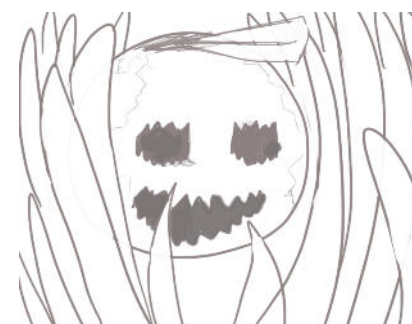
S19 -Child out in the field



S20-Child sitting on rock



S21-A paper plane comes S22- Paper plane touches his head. S23- He was the paper planes in bushes s24- Goes onto fields



S25- He peeped into the big grasses S25 Peeped in curiosity s26 – A scarecrow saw him s27 Scarecrow peeped in also



S28 Scarecrow befriends child s29 Child expects sweets s30Mid shot s30 The kid is happy



S31scarecrow takes away the boy



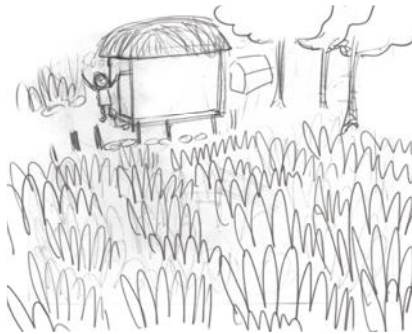
S32-Scarecrow runs away



s33-Father heard his child's scream



s34-Father comes out



S35- He also waves for rescue.



S36-Father chases scarecrow



S37 He falls down



S38-Child saw this and cries



S39 The kid bites scarecrow



S40 The chases from one cliff to other.



S41-Reaction in split screen



S42-Chasing



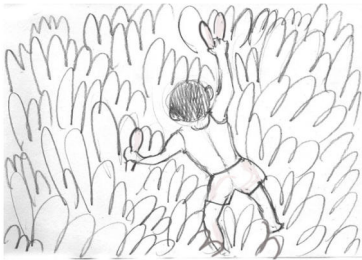
S43- scarecrow flew away



S44-Father is scared ,have to climb a big mountain



S45- He climbs



S46-He climbs up



S47- Climbs up



S48- Reaches up at last



S49-He saw no one up there



S50-Father heard something behind a tree



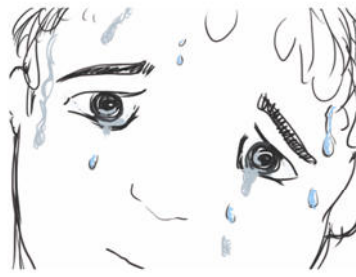
S51-Father saw scarecrow and child



S52 Father is shocked to see



S53- It was his wife



S54-Father opens his eyes

S55-He was sweating all over

S56 he hugs his child who was behind him asking for food



S57- The paper planes comes and the scarecrow smiles—“THE END”

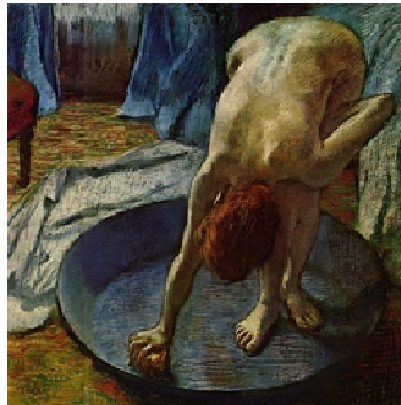
B) CONCEPT ART

I was interested to work with dry pastels as a medium, though colouring frame by frame was a tedious process but it came as a treat to colour the animations by hand. The main idea was to achieve the feeling of liveliness in the animation with the textural qualities of the medium. The inspirational movie for this technique was “La Maison en Petits Cube” by Kunio Kato.

During my research I find many of the great artist and modern notable artists who have worked extensively in pastels include Edgar Degas, Edvard Munch, and Fernando Botero, Wolf Kahn, R. B. Kitaj.



Dry pastel by- Gigi liverant

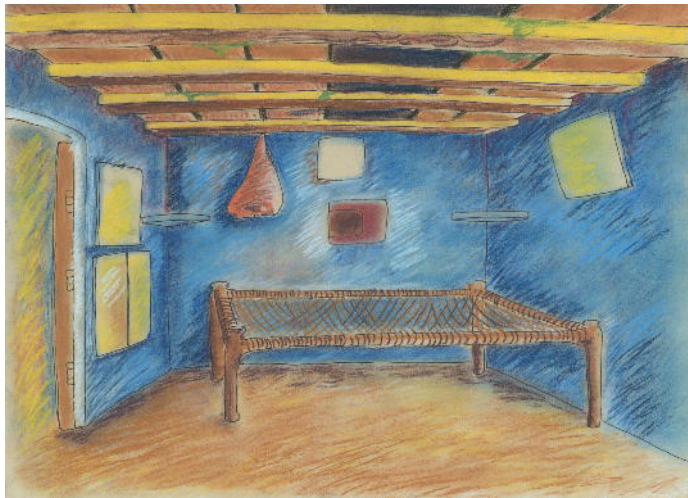


Dry pastel Edger degas “ Woman In the bath tub”



Dry Pastel “Kak Bhagau”— village

C) STYLE AND CHARACTER EXPLORATION



1



2

Image 1 & 2 are my earlier backgrounds, when I just started with it but then found out that instead of colouring so much in one background use the colour of the background paper. After changing the colour of the background paper of darker tone it is easy to made and complimentary to the technique of the dry pastels textured and quick to draw like image 3 & 4 below.



3

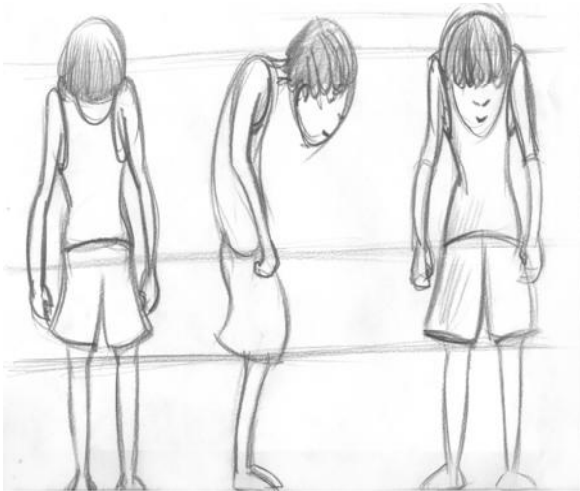


4

Character Design of Child



Character Design of Father



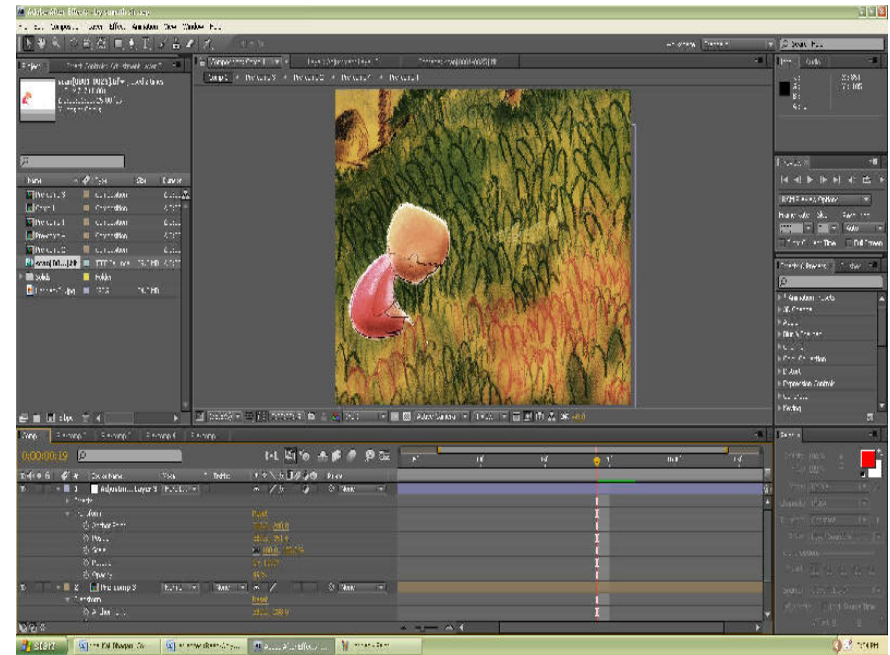
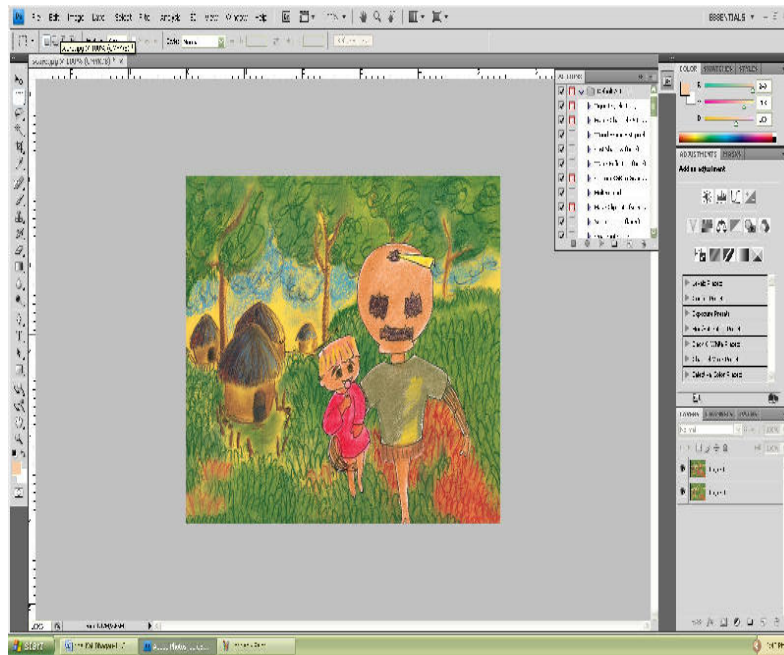
Character design of scare crow





FINAL APPROACH

After the initial story board was in place, it was time to start lining up the story board and make a rough animatic with scratch sound. With the idea of dry pastel technique I started to work on my animation and done the line test, for to check the animation is right or not. As my style wads already decided, I cleaned up the frames and outlined them with black ink . For the background I chose the colour which has majorly being in the background. Then colouring them with dry pastels frame by frame is executed carefully so that the colour doesn't spread outside the outlined area. Further scanning the frames and backgrounds at higher quality and resolution as tiff images . Clean up of the images was a needful thing done again so that the animation is clean and not looked as a cut images. The composition part is done in After Effects and Photoshop, which was a rigorous process. I completed the animation "Sequence by Sequence" so that I also have the fluidity what kind of animation is going on and what acting is required for the character



The two software which are majorly used and use of flash also for animation.

Sound Design

In the animatic I chose the free sounds available in internet and found many interesting sounds. Majorly looking for forest sound or jungle environment sounds like cricket noise, air blowing etc. I also searched for kid's walk etc. Since there are no dialogues, I have to find one complete track music for the film which I found out from one of the sites.

References:

Books and Internet:-

- 1' Carl Jung" Interpretation of Dreams ",
<http://www.yourdreamteam.0catch.com/>
<http://www.mythsdreamssymbols.com/personality.html>
- 2' Joseph Campbell" Hero of Thousand Faces", http://www.biology-online.org/8/7_sigmund_freud.htm

Films , video and Images from internet:-

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<http://www.mythsdreamssymbols.com/personality.html>
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- Image -- <http://www.jeff-macnelly.com/pegasus.htm>
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- Pollo film-- <http://vimeo.com/user1827485>
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- The six sense-- written by M. Night Shyamalan
<http://www.mnight.com/sixthsense>
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- Image- <http://www.gigiliverant.com/index.html>
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- image- <http://www.werewolves.com/do-werewolves-really-heal-that-fast/> October 20th, 2009 Werewolves.com is proudly hosted by TigerTech
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