

Kite Diary

(Project- II)

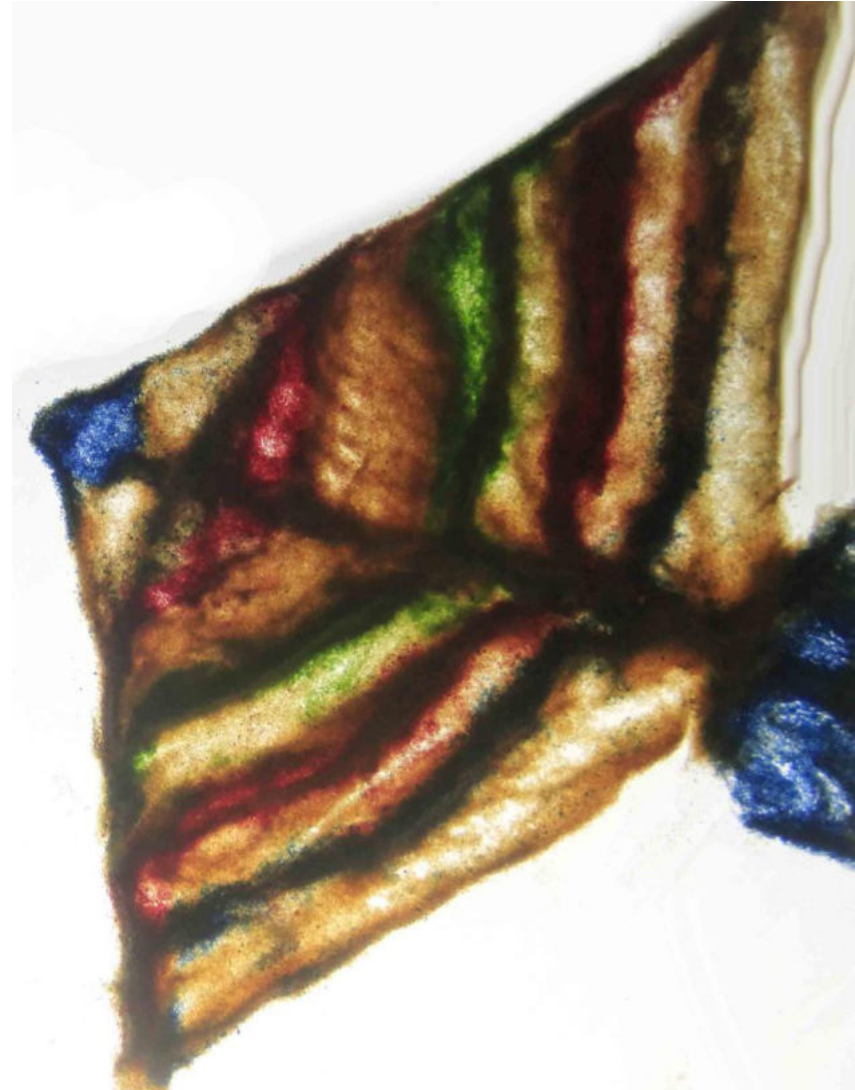
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Animation (2012- 2014)

IDC ,IIT Bombay

Project guide – Prof. Phani Tetali



Approval Sheet

The Animation Project 2 entitled “Kite Diary ”, by Manisha Swarnkar (Roll number, 126340002) is approved, in partial fulfilment of requirements of the Masters of Design degree in Animation in Industrial Design Centre of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

.....**Project Guide**

.....**External Examiner**

.....**Internal Examiner**

.....**Chair Person**

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 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.

Signature.....

Name of the Student.....

Roll Number.....

Date.....

Place

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to my guide Prof. Phani Tetali for enlighten me with his vast experience and wise advises from time to time and always encouraging me to belief in my skills and go ahead with it. His valuable suggestions, inputs, technical feedbacks helped me to shape up my project in a right direction.

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Abstract

Every Individual has their own set of belief with which they live. We all share a common set of Belief in God. We have not seen God nor confronted the almighty .But still in some way or the other, most of us believe that they exist, take care of us in their own way.

Similarly, we write diaries either to connect with ourselves or with God or with our closed ones and share our life's special moments. Here a kid who is unconditionally in love with his mother, connects with her through kites.

Introduction

We often lose our close ones in journey of our life .Every year a lot of people lose their loved ones and the biggest challenge one has to face is to get use to continue living without them. When a child lose their parents at an early age, coping up with the loss in their growing years become a constant struggle and it leaves a very deep wound for the rest of their lives. They become, grief-stricken, feel vulnerable, insecure and sometimes the situation becomes even worse.

Here is an approach to give such children a hope and make them believe that no matter whether their close ones exist physically or not, they exist as a divine energy and are always listening to them and bless them, which can psychologically develop a great strength within such children.

This short film is mainly a narrative poetry, recited from a kid's perspective who tries to connect with his late mother through the means of kite .

Research

Children psychology

To understand the main character of this film, a 7 year old kid, research was done about the psychology of children who are grown-up in normal family with their parents and those who either don't have their mother or father and are taken care by their other guardians, or are orphan. For orphans, mostly the situation is miserable.

The main focus were on the children 5-12 year old. According to the case study of the psychology of normal children versus orphans, there is a huge difference in emotional and social development.

Kites

Kites may be flown for art, Leisure or other practical uses. They work on aerodynamic principle, depending on the shape and material used

Materials used to design a kite - paper, silk fabric, Bamboo.

Invention: Kites, also known as tethered aircraft is believed to be invented in china. Also it is known that since early times, South Sea Islands people have used for fishing. A bait is attached to the tail of the kite together with a sort of net to catch the fish.

Stories

Kite flying predates some of our earliest written histories, and much of the earliest information about kites is found in folklore. One of these early stories is about a famous Chinese general, Han Hsin. In approximately 200 B.C., he was the commander of a rebel army attempting to overthrow a tyrannical Emperor. Because his troops were a small group and because they were not well armed, he planned a surprise attack.

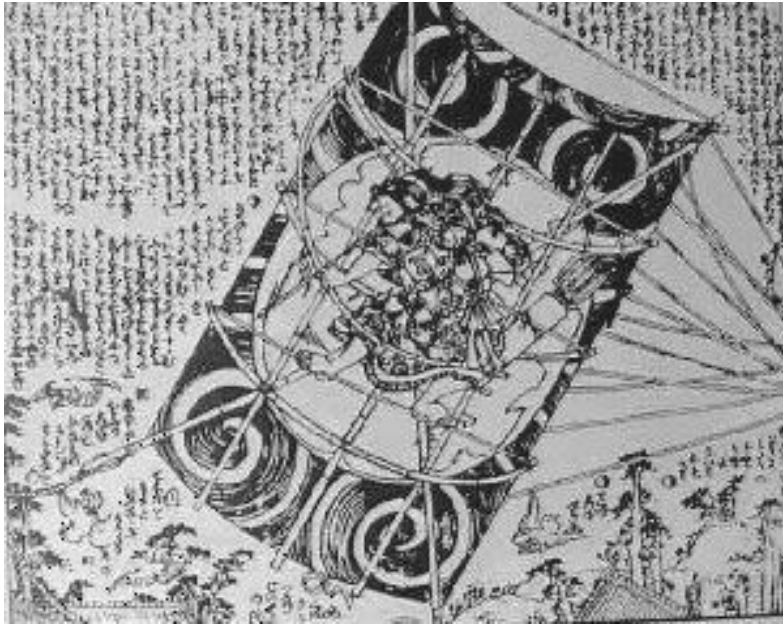


Figure 1 - Chinese Kites during war time

Han ordered his men to build a kite and to fly it directly over the Emperor's palace. When the kite was over the palace, the string was marked. Later, Han measured the string in order to determine just how long a tunnel would be needed to bring the rebel forces within the walls of the palace. The story tells us that the rebels dug by night until they finally crept into the undefended courtyard. Their plan brought victory, and the evil Emperor was overthrown. A new Emperor took the throne, and this new rule marked the beginning of the Western Han Dynasty that would rule the Chinese empire for the next two hundred years.

Several versions of this story exist. A favourite with children is one that tells of Han Hsin's unusually small size. In this version, Han Hsin asked his men to tie him to a kite and fly him over the enemy camp at night. The soldiers below saw the frightening object over their heads and heard a loud voice commanding them to return to their families. The voice told them they were needed at home, and they would surely die if they stayed inside the palace walls. The next day, many of the soldiers fled and Han Hsin and his troops easily defeated the few who remained.

Historians theorize that kites came to Japan during the sixth to the eighth century from China and Korea. Early Japanese kites probably were flown for religious purposes. Here the basic rectangle of the Chinese kite took on many new forms. Cranes, dragons, fish, and turtles appeared. These new representations symbolized prosperity, good luck, or fertility. Some brought good fortune and others frightened away evil spirits. Japan, like China, has many stories about kites being used to carry or lift humans either for military purposes or for



Figure 2A bat and peach kite - Symbol of Good luck and long life

personal gain. One favorite story is about a samurai warrior who broke the law of the Emperor. He was punished by being exiled with his son to a small island. Because he did not want his son to spend his life on a deserted island, the warrior built a large kite. He tied his son to the kite and then lifted him from the island to the mainland.

A more recent story, from the early sixteenth century, tells of a famous robber Kakinoki Kinsuke who, while being lifted on a kite, tried to steal scales from golden dolphins on top of the towers of a castle. Although he seems to have been successful in dislodging a few of the scales and landing safely, he was later arrested and punished for his thievery by being boiled in oil with the rest of his family. Much of our understanding of the earliest Japanese kites is at best guesswork. We can piece together clues from folktale and legends, but the only fact we are truly sure about is that there is no known documentation of exactly when kites were first used by the Japanese.

Kites Flying in India

In India, kite flying is also known as Patang Baazi. It is the most popular cultural sport in some special occasions such as Makar sankranti, Basant Panchami, Raksha Bandhan, Independence day. The history of kite started from Mahabharat days. Kite flying has contributed to the composite culture and harmony of India. It has also promoted national Integration.

Basant Panchami heralds both the approach of the harvest and the end of winter. This spring festival is celebrated by flying kites, mainly of yellow colour, which represents the ripening mustard in the fields.

In Gujarat and other western states the change in the direction of winds on Makar Sankranti is marked by thousands of colourful kites of all patterns and dimensions.

According to Indian History, Lord Krishna used to fly kites with his gopis and also used by Mughal rulers

Festivals and Celebrations in Japan

The word for "kite" first appeared in a Japanese book--a dictionary compiled in A.D. 981. At that time kites were called "paper hawks." Historians think that kites may have been a part of religious festivals introduced to Japan by Buddhist priests from China and Korea. As late as the seventeenth century, kites were still associated primarily with religious purposes and secondarily with secular activities.

Kites in Japan beginning with the eighteenth century were often flown in hopes of ensuring a good harvest. Buddhists also believed that the flight of a kite could predict the success or failure of crops, and kites were flown in the fall as thanksgiving for a plentiful harvest. In some areas, stalks of rice might be tied to a kite as a symbol of thanks. Some religious groups sold kites at temples or shrines for use as charms against illness or bad luck. Kites were sometimes part of festivals and religious holidays. A New Year kite means much the same to a Japanese child as a birthday or Christmas present means to a Western child.

Until recently, a Boys' Festival was celebrated in many parts of Japan on May 5, the fifth day of the fifth month. If a male child was born during the past year, a large kite was flown in celebration, and all households with boy children flew brightly colored windsocks. The carp is the traditional representation on these windsocks because it is an especially hardy fish known to battle against incredible odds in order to move upstream to its spawning grounds. The carp symbolizes courage, strength, and the struggles each boy must encounter and overcome in order to experience success in his own life. Today the festival includes girls, and it is now called Children's Day (Kodomo-no hi).

Fighting Kites

Another activity grew out of festivals of kite flying - kite fighting. It seems to have been well established in China and Korea, but it was not taken up as quickly by the Japanese. However, in those communities where kite fighting caught on, the participants were exceptionally enthusiastic. Perhaps it offered a welcome escape from the formality of society and harsh living conditions in rural areas.

A fighter kite is usually small and highly manoeuvrable. Its string is partly coated with powdered glass, sharp sand, ground pottery, or even knife blades. The kite flyer attempts to bring down his opponent's kite by cutting its line. It takes skilful maneuvering to cross other kite lines to cut them. In Japan today, the Nagasaki fighters are the best known participants in this type of competition.

As a Symbol

Designs on most Chinese kites have a symbolic meaning or illustration from Chinese folklore or history. Tortoises, cranes and peaches signify long life, bats are a sign of good luck, butterflies and flowers represent harmony and a dragon design represents power and prosperity

They thought that by flying kites they would avoid bad luck and higher the kite was flown the more prosperous they would become .

Physical aspects : It is also regarded as a good and healthy pastime for people of all ages. They believe that looking up at a kite improves your eye sight and when tilting the head backwards the mouth opens slightly ridding the body of excess heat thus achieving a good Ying Yang balance in the body

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Kites used in 1232 A.D flew messages over Mongol Lines. Kites with whistles , colors were designed. Sophisticated kites were used to test weather conditions.

As a metaphor

(A kite maker's view)

I experience to build a better kite or how to fly a kite better. Nothing is really totally lost or wasted. Even when we lose something or fail at something in our lives there is always something to be gained – the lesson on how to become better. The commandments and laws of God are like the kite string. They lead us and guide us upward. Obedience to these laws gives us peace, hope, and direction

How it so perfectly resembles the balance of life. If there is no wind, the kite just sits on the ground, lifeless. When the wind is perfect, it hits the kite and creates just enough stress on the kite and string to make the kite dance in the sky. If there is suddenly too much wind buffeting the kite and too much stress on the string, the kite dives straight for the ground. The only thing that can keep it from crashing at that point is to totally release all the stress on the kite, let out all string. Let everything go and the kite will naturally right itself.

Similarities between the act of flying a kite and our human and spiritual journey toward resurrection. It also resembles our hope and desire to be caught by God's love and lifted to heights unimaginable.

Poetry

A research had been done to write a poem on kites. The most influenced poem is by Rabindranath Tagore

Paper Boats by Rabindranath Tagore

Day by day I float my paper boats one by one down the running stream.

In bid black letters I write my name on them and the name of the village where I live.

I hope that someone in some strange land will find them and know who I am.

I load my little boats with shiuli flower from our garden, and hope that these blooms of the dawn will be carried safely to land in the night.

I launch my paper boats and look up into the sky and see the little clouds setting thee white bulging sails.

I know not what playmate of mine in the sky sends them down the air to race with my boats!

When night comes I bury my face in my arms and dream that My
paper boats float on and on under the midnight stars.

The fairies of sleep are sailing in them, and the lading ins
their baskets full of dream

My paper boats float on and on under the midnight stars.
The fairies of sleep are sailing in them, and the lading ins
their baskets full of dreams

Ideation

When I saw short film ‘Paperman’, I noticed there were few scenes in which the paper planes were gathering at a place. I thought they may have some messages too, very touching messages may be of someone who has a deep affection with somebody. But who will write those messages to someone that too in a paper plane, whose destination is not fixed?

Maybe someone who believes that one day his/her message will reach to his/her dearest one.

Kids are very innocent, they believe easily on others, whatever they say. If someone tells them – “That star is your mother” They believe in it and live with it. They talk to them and keep sharing their life events, sorrows, joys.

I chose ‘kite’ as a medium here, as I wanted all of them to gather at a place (tree) instead of flying away here and there and remain untouched by others, there is no limit of where it may fly. The way we write in diaries, the kids use to draw on kites, showcasing all his life events. I chose drawing since it is the most powerful way to express the emotions.

Story Exploration

Concept-1

Story-

(A six year old kid is standing near a window ,looking up in the sky, her Grandmother {a very old lady} comes near to him and put her hand on his shoulder)He ask with a sad expression on his face - “where is he?”

Grandma Replies - “ He is on the topmost cloud”

(Kid becomes happy and look curiously at the sky)

(Scene Transforms)

The kid is playing cricket on the terrace, the ball goes up in the sky and while going up he notices a kite is flying high near the clouds. He thinks for a while run inside the house,takes a kite and scribbles something on .

Scene changes to a seashore(wide angle shot) , he enters the scene through left with a cycle on the back of which a kite is flying.He stops,take the kite and try to throw it upward a number of times but the kite failed to fly everytime.

He thinks for a while, somehow keeps the kite on the handle of cycle and pulls it according to the proper direction of wind.It started flying.

He flies it happily in the mid air until the thread of the spool finishes. He becomes sad as the kite did not reach the cloud, suddenly an idea came to his mind. He brings some more thread and ties it on the thread attached to the kite. He attached threads a couple of times, but again it failed to reach to the topmost cloud which was moving away. He finally cuts the thread imagining that the kite will reach the cloud with the winds. In an eye blink he closes his eyes and the scene changes (he is sleeping on his bed).

A heavy rainfall happens and with a stroke of Lightning the boy awakes. He goes near the window collect some raindrops on his hand (His expression changes from normal to sad) He goes to his grandma and ask "Is she crying?" (A pot was kept in a corner of room with a withered flowery plant. She takes water from kid's hand and pour it to the pot) Her grandma Replies "She is Blessing" (and the Flowers Blooms)

The scene changes to an Island where the kite sent by him along with several more kites, with different drawings, collages, messages, small crafts (as the camera pans) is visible. All the kites are seen well preserved on the tree branches or bushes all over the island.

The story was later modified in the **poetry**,

Final poetry

न जाने कैसी दुनिया तेरी ,बदरा के उस पार !

सूना न होगा मुझ बिन तेरे ममता का आँगन द्वार ?

खोज लिया एक ज़रिया मैंने,हमारे फ़ासले मिटाने !

छोटी सी पतंग आएगी तुझे मेरी दुनिया से वाकिफ़ कराने !!

इस चंचल मन के अनुभव,कोरे कागज़ मे बुनकर !

भेज रहा अपना संदेसा बड़ी उमंग से इसमे बाँधकर !!

चाँदनी रातो मे पत्तों से टकराती हवाए जब खिड़की से गुज़र आती है !

मानो लोरी सुनाते अपने कोमल हाथो से तू सर पर हाथ फेर जाती है !!

मुरझाई कली खिलाने ये बरसती बूँदें, मिट्टी की खूशबू के साथ तेरा पैगाम लाई है!

पर क्या भावुक होकर ये तेरे नयन के नीर गिर आए है ?

तू चिंता ना कर ,एक दिन मैं भी सारे धागो से छुटकर आज़ाद तेरी बगियाँ मे
उड़ आऊँगा !

पतंगो की तरह सुनहरे सपने देखते गोद मे तेरे सर रख सो जाऊँगा !!



Visual style and Exploration

Initially the Film was story based , there was no Narration so initially the technique decided was Hand Drawn 2D.

Later, since there were Time constraints and my most of the shots were in the form of loops,I felt, working in Adobe Flash software will be helpful to me.

But I was not satisfied with the plane 2D looks . I explored lots of visual styles in a Module conducted by Prof. Phani Tetali and arrived at the final one.

As the film is a narrative poetry ,which describes the whole story, so I felt that I can Experiment with the visuals. Stopmotion is used throughout in this film using Adobe premiere for compiling.

Medium – sand and colored Marble powder (White marble powder mixed with different natural colors)

Technique – The sand is spread over Layers of glass , lit from below. After modifying each frame the camera captures the image from the top.



Exploration was done about how sand as a material had been used previously, the texture , colours used and how it has been used to transform one visual into another interestingly. Few Short Films with which I am highly influenced is – ‘The Owl who married a Goose’ by Caroline Leaf , ChaiBreak- NID 2007, QUIEN ENGANA NO GANA (2005)

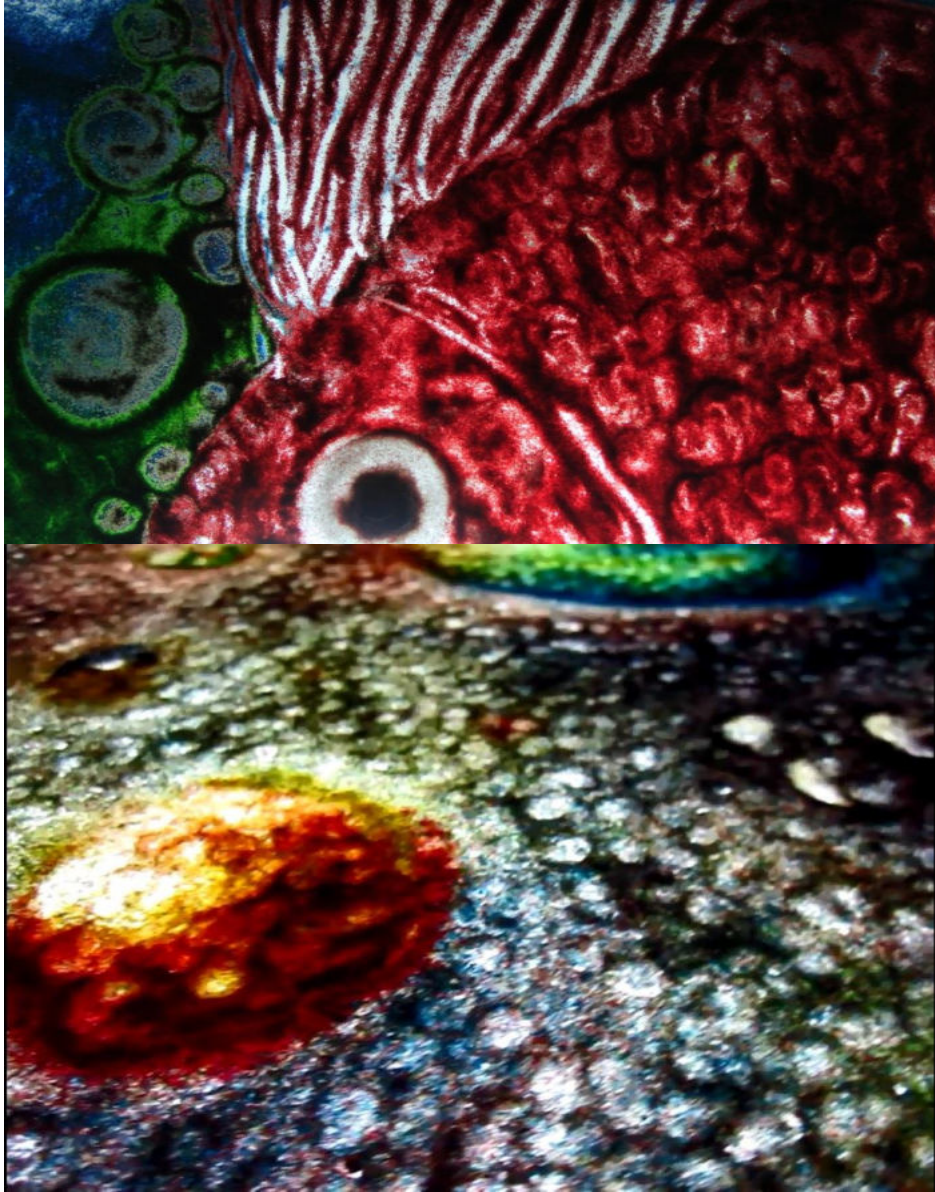


Visual Treatment

In Stop motion process, Sand was a friendly material for me , since I have been Doing sand art, I am known to the material. It allows us to Morph the visuals easily frame by frame, by which we can feel the fluidity in it.It inspired me to work more on the transitions from one visual to another. In the whole movie Visual Transitions plays very important role throughout.



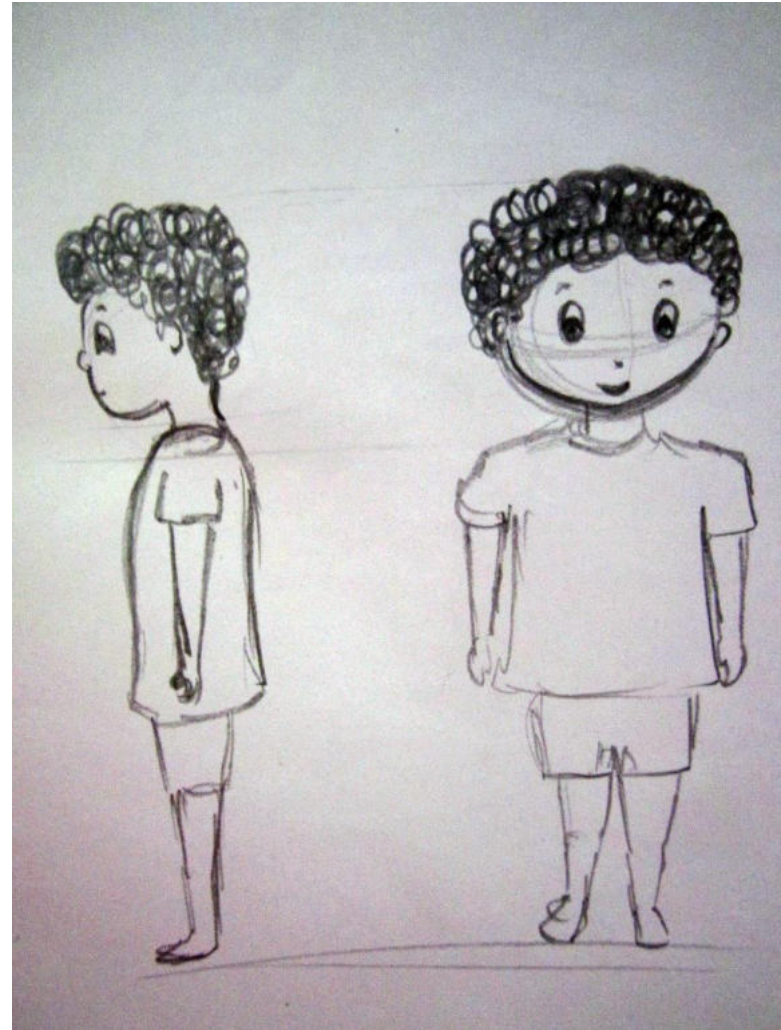
The choice of visual colors is not monochrome. A kid's world is adventurous, full of colors , hence, I chose the film to be made colourful,using colored sand.



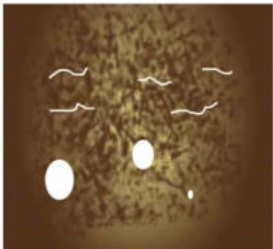


Character Exploration

The Designing of character is simple due to the choice of medium.



Storyboard



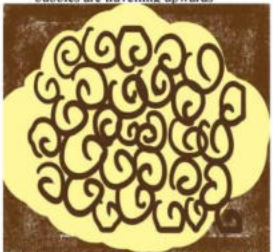
Dissolve to under water scene where bubbles are travelling upwards



Transforms to Moon, Cloud



Zoom in shot



Clouds cover the whole frame



Clouds Zoom out and Transform in t a kid's hair



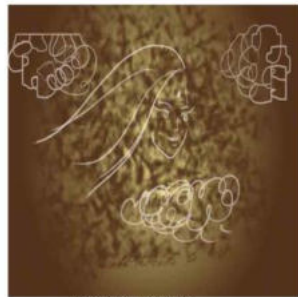
An Image of a kid watching through the window appears



An old women,(His Grandma) Appears



Scene Transforms to clouds



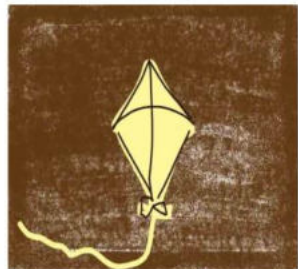
Transforms to a Lady



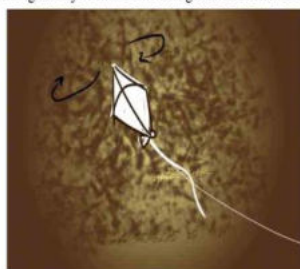
Through an Eye Blink Scenc changes to close shot of kid



Zoom out - A house appear



House Transforms to a kite



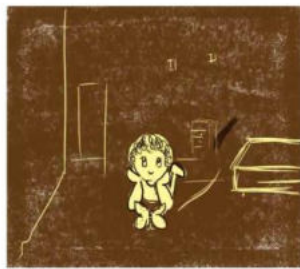
Kite flies in air



Transforms to a Butterfly



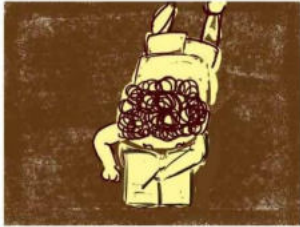
zoom out



Zoom out more - Butterfly sits near him



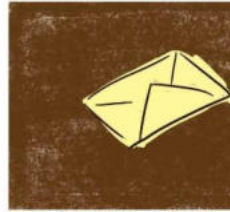
Shot from Top



Butterfly transforms to a note book



Camera zoom in to the notebook



transforms to a post card



Background Animates



Colourful background



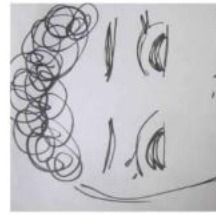
Cut to wide shot - (House appears i



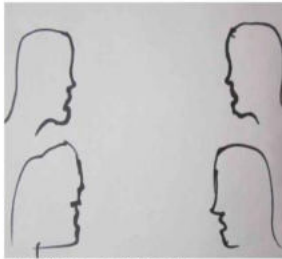
Camera Pans



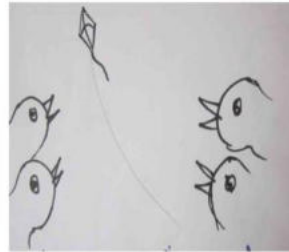
Zoom in - winds Transforms to Hand



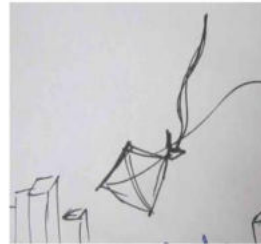
Close shot of Kid's Face



Scene Cut to - people Gossiping



People Transform to Birds



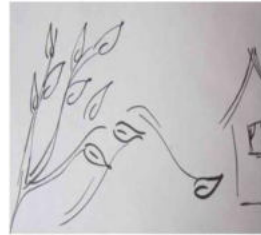
A Bird Flies and transform to a kite



Background Animates



Colourful background



Cut to wide shot - (House appears in the frame)



Camera Pans



Zoom in - winds Transforms to Hand



Close shot of Kid's Face



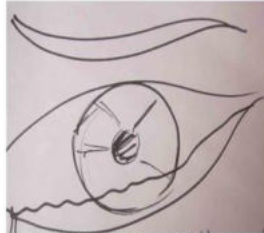
Zoom out



Transforms to a Flower with rain drops



Transform to Hands, with water poured in it



Transforms to An Eye full of tears



Transforms to a bunch of treads, cut and falling down



Cut to - Kite flying towards an Island



cut to - A kite settling down on a tree full of kites



The End

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