

DANIEL VELA

Art Student / Emerging Artist

Citrus Heights, CA

Contact Info:

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Objective

My current goal is to demonstrate my art-based array of both digital and traditional art skills and software knowledge throughout my sample work with the intention of applying to an art school with a renowned BFA Animation program (or similar), so that I might further develop my skills and knowledge to a point where I am comfortably, and professional, capable of applying such to my own projects, as well as client-based work within the industry of Animation.

I love creating bizarre characters that inhabit strange worlds, and so the wonderful tool that is animation provides me with a favorable method of visualizing such universes to share with others.

Skillsets

General Hardware Knowledge:

- PC / Windows
- Mac

Digital Software:

- Clip Studio Paint
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Animate
- Adobe Illustrator
- blender
- Autodesk Maya
- Substance Painter 3D

With Traditional Mediums:

- Charcoal
- Inks
- Watercolor
- Pastels
- Oils
- Pencils
- Markers
- Mixed-Medias

Related Experiences

Work:

Worked as a technician/designer for Sonoma-based artist Camille LaPointe Lyon's website.

Volunteering:

Assisted local Santa Rosa artists with setting up their stalls at popular art event LightBox Expo (2017).

Spent two years helping Sonoma artist Camillie LaPointe Lyons run a watercolor class at Rileystreet Art Supply, Santa Rosa.

Misc. Events / Achievements:

Won a middle-school art competition for best mascot drawing, which was then plastered onto souvenirs and merchandise for the school.

Has had works that have been featured multiple times/years in the Sonoma County fair's annual art exhibit.

Continually participates in Sierra College's annual (Spring) art exhibition.

Education / Workshops

Education

Completed 4 years of Santa Rosa High School's ArtQuest Program (Digital Arts & Visual Arts).

Completed all 4 years at Santa Rosa High School, graduated with a diploma.

Currently attending a third year at Sierra College, Rocklin, with the intention of transferring into a public/private school with an animation-oriented program (transfer to San Jose State University in progress).

Classes / Workshops:

Participated for two years (2017-2019) in comic/anatomy drawing classes at Rileystreet Art Supply, Santa Rosa.

Learned about watercolors for two years under artist Camille LaPointe Lyons in her watercolor class hosted at Rileystreet Art Supply.

Spent five weeks in December of 2022 learning how to sculpt through a class, hosted by a professional sculptor at ACAI Studios & Gallery, Citrus Heights.

Awards

Presented a National Honors Society of High school Scholars Award (2021).

Presented a Certificate of Best Art Collage, Text, and Image within ArtQuest's VFA class during senior year at Santa Rosa High School.

Placed on The President's Honor Roll at Santa Rosa High School (2021).

Placed on The President's Honor Roll at Sierra College (2023).

References

Camille LaPointe Lyons

Watercolor and Oil Paint Artist & Instructor

Sonoma, CA

- Phone: 415-246-1333
- Website: <http://www.camillelapointelyons.com/>

Charley Johnson

Vice President of Sales & Operations, Friedman's Home Improvement

Petaluma, CA

- Phone: 415-215-0886

The art I create lives and breathes as I do; be it a digital animation or rooted in earth-sourced materials like paper and charcoal, the work I create takes on its own personality, just as a human does over time. If the being houses a soul, so to do the individual stones that actively commune with one another to form a mountain – it is for these very human actions and characteristics, or lack thereof, that can be found either far in between or within the most mundane and complex of objects, of things that silently respire; that is why I draw – the human can speak, but the body itself, these stones that only when brought together form a mountain, are incapable of doing so, at least without assistance – I work to tell the stories that would otherwise remain untold.

It is in this role as an artist that I then also act as a translator, as when I gaze upon an object or subject, be it in motion or at a standstill, it is my goal to draw out the characteristics being conveyed to me through exaggerations in shapes, patterns, and details that either do or do not appear upon the current focus, at least within the “sane” reality. It is here that I do my best to translate the life and personality of the topic at hand onto paper, albeit with embellishment, for what is a good story without some “dramatizations”, whether it be on the more surrealistic and bizarre side of things or a call-back to the now ruined, almost forgotten ancients?

Of course, as every creative does, there will come times where I, the artist, must consider whether the current work truly captures the sought-after vision, especially when it regards my goal, which I have previously described. In this case, I must view my own work – not the aspect of it that is alive, but rather the new creation that springs forth from a page or screen, as being naturally connected to the land. As terrain gradually shuffles across centuries, so too does my work, albeit at a faster pace. When this does occur to me, I see it as not meaning that the art itself is a failure, but rather that the entity being “recorded” has thought it an inaccurate representation, and so changes need to be made, whether that be in medium, perspective, color, etc.

The Creative Professional

Emerging creative Daniel Vela is a fine artist with a knack for creating strange, bizarre worlds and characters inspired by ancient cultures and surrealist imagery. Daniel, having been longingly charmed by animated shows and movies (e.g. The Polar Express,) has recently invested all their focus towards 2D and 3D character design, modeling and animation; his work is a catalyst through which his own worlds and self-expression can manifest through.

Having completed all four years of Santa Rosa High School's ArtQuest Program (Digital Arts & Visual Arts, located in CA) Daniel had graduated with an award presented by the National Honors Society of High School Scholars, as well as being granted his diploma.

Daniel has since continued honing his digital and traditional art skills under the guidance of Sonoma-based watercolor artist Camille LaPointe Lyons, whom he also works for. He has also undertaken several two-three year Sculptural, Anatomy, and Figure-Drawing classes at both Rileystreet Art Supply (Santa Rosa) and ACAI Studios & Gallery (Citrus Heights, CA).

Currently, Daniel is attending his third year at Rocklin-based community college Sierra College. He is preparing to transfer into either a public or private art-school with a strong, animation-oriented program (e.g. BFA) as a means of furthering his education within his area of focus.

The Creative Casual

As both a lover and creator of the strange and bizarre, Daniel Vela is an emerging Character Designer / Concept Artist who integrates and recreates motifs found across ancient cultures through their own 2D and 3D Animations and Models.

Having graduated with his diploma and being presented with an award by the National Honors Society of High School Scholars upon completion of all four years of Santa Rosa High School's ArtQuest Program (Digital Arts & Visual Arts), Daniel continues to hone his foundational skills and knowledge for both digital and traditional

art(s) under the guidance of Sonoma-based watercolor artist Camille LaPointe Lyons, whom he works for as both an assistant and web-support.

Furthermore, while attending high school, Daniel has completed two-three years of Sculptural, Anatomy, and Figure-Drawing classes at Rileystreet Art Supply and ACAI Studios & Gallery.

Daniel is currently attending his third year at Sierra College, Rocklin, where he is gearing up to transfer into a public or private school that sports a strong, animation-oriented program, for the purpose of furthering his education within his area of focus, so that he might apply for internships and volunteering opportunities to kick-off his career.