

Lauren Morande

ART 499 - Senior Project

Rotoscope Statement

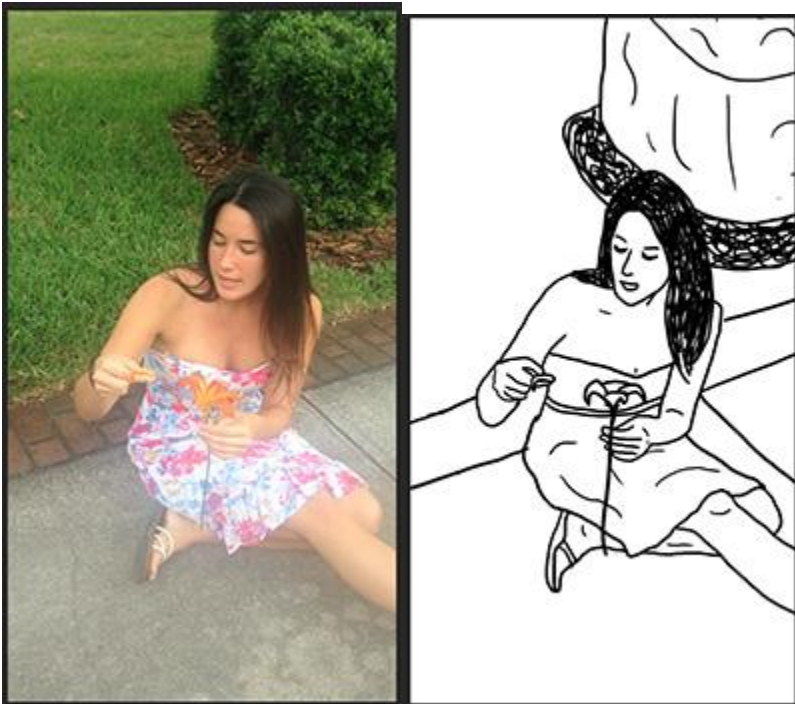
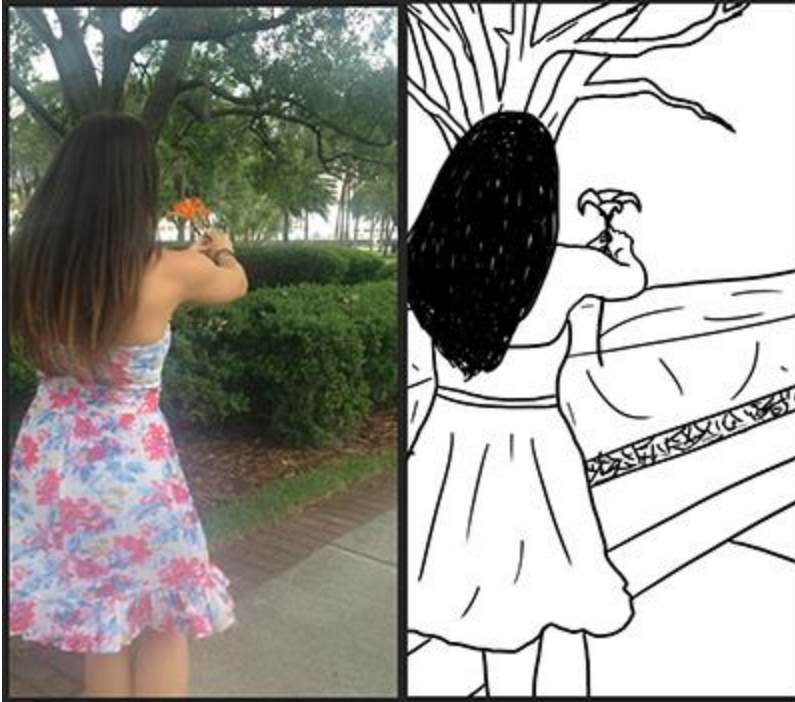
5/1/2015

Rotoscoping has been such a great interest in my animation and digital arts career. Since I transferred to the University of Tampa in August, 2013, my love for rotoscoping has been growing tremendously. I have seen this particular animation done in many commercials which helped spark my interest. When I planned my senior schedule last year, ART 499 was a requirement. I was excited to enroll in the class knowing I would be able to decide what my senior project would be. Right away, I knew I wanted to complete another rotoscope. As I started my research, I first went on to google and searched other projects. Formulating new ideas in my head, I came up with the perfect one!

My roommate, Kayla Johnson, has starred in many of my art projects this year. Without hesitating, I asked if she would like to be apart of my final one. Of course the answer was yes! Later that day, we walked over to Plant Park where I told her start skipping and leaping through the air acting like she was "in love". I picked a flower and placed it in the middle of a large bush where Kayla would later find it. As she was frolicking through the park, Kayla comes across the orange flower and happily plucks it from the bush. She then spun around and took a seat in the middle of the sidewalk. Kayla begins picking off each pedal repeating the saying "he loves me, he loves me not". When the final pedal was pulled, she realized he didn't love her. She was very upset and threw the naked stem into the pile of loose pedals.

The process of my senior rotoscope was simple. 1) Plan a story, 2) Record the story on a video camera, 3) Import video to frames in Photoshop, 4) Trace each frame. I started thinking of a concept when I researched previous successful rotoscopes. A few different ideas came to mind, but I ended up sticking with the pedal picking. Once Kayla and I walked into the park, I spotted the perfect place to shoot the video. There was a row of large bushes with a nice background. The tan sidewalk ran along the edge of the bushes where Kayla danced. After many laughs and many retakes, I finally recorded the video I have been dreaming of. Everything was perfect! Once that was complete, I then opened Photoshop: File -> Import -> Video Frames To Layers... "Limit To Every 2 Frames" and then Ok. When the video loads, make sure the timeline is visible to see the frames and the layers coordinate with them. If frame 1 is selected, layer 1 must have an "open eye". When everything is in sync, I was able to create a new layer over the background image and start tracing.





The screenshots above are showing a few of the before and after pictures from my project. The picture on the left is one frame of the total video and the picture on the right is the layer I drew on top. After drawing more that 300 new layers, I was able to delete the original video and

just play my drawings. Since I had so many frames to copy over, it was impossible for me to put in more detail than I did. I drew what was absolutely necessary to complete the story and tried to throw in a few extra details.

My favorite drawings were the ones shown above. I think I did a very good job tracing and copying the images perfectly. I worked very hard on this final project and am happy with the outcome. I learned a lot from being enrolled in this graduating course. I'll be the first to admit that I was looking for an "easy" way out. I thought since I was interested in rotoscoping and there wasn't much to it, I would be finished in a few days. I have never been so wrong. With this project, having the mindset that I would be done in days, only hurt me. I made many mistakes, but thankfully learned so much. My first big mistake was not taking advantage of the full semester to work on this project. I started it late leaving me stressed and uneasy. If I started the animation when I originally planned to, I would have easily been able to work on it for an hour a day and make each frame more detailed and perfect. Since I was scrambling to finish the assignment on time, I rushed through the frames, even leaving some out. Another mistake was working throughout the night. This ties back to time management. Working on this project at all hours was a mistake because I was honestly exhausted. I since realized that it would have made more sense to get the proper rest time, and wake up early to start back on the project. After staying awake all night, I would look back at my progress only to find a disaster. My drawings were messy, some frames didn't match with the correct layers, and brush strokes were all different sizes. I ended up losing valuable time when I lost sleep.

Completing this assignment was far from easy. However, I am happy and very proud to submit my work. Yes, I had my fair share of issues, but I pulled it all together and learned more than I ever thought I would. Rotoscoping is still, and will always be, a great passion of mine. I

plan on pursuing a possible career in the field. I hope others will learn from my mistakes, and have their animations shine! I had fun, learned so much, and was truly put to the test while making my senior project. I am glad to have gotten the chance to experience another rotoscope and will take everything I learned with me for the rest of my life.