

# Melissa Bouwman

melissa.bouwman@gmail.com • 213.308.3988 • www.melissabouwman.com

## Education

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| <b>2009</b> | MFA | Animation and Digital Art | University of Southern California               |
| <b>1994</b> | BA  | Film and Video Production | Grand Valley State University (Magna Cum Laude) |

## Teaching Experience

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| <b>2009 to Present</b>     | <b>Inner City Arts - Animation Teaching Artist</b>                            | An incredible art space for kids, Inner City Arts serves hundreds of youth every year in the Greater Los Angeles area. In the animation studio, students learn how to do hand drawn animation, pixilation, collage animation, and cut-out puppet animation on Macintosh computers using iStopmotion. Students use iMovie and Garage Band to add sounds to their animations.  |
| <b>Summers 2008 - 2010</b> | <b>California State Summer School for the Arts - Animation Instructor</b>     | Taught animation principles and techniques to fifty gifted young artists in an intensive residency program. In the CSSSA animation program, the focus is on the artistry of movement, exposure to a wide variety of hand-made techniques, and using the fundamental elements of art and design in their work. Students work in a variety of techniques such as hand drawn animation, sand animation, and stop motion animation. All work is shot on Macintosh computers using iStopmotion. |
| <b>Spring 2008</b>         | <b>Manual Arts High School - Animation Workshop Leader: Youth in Power</b>    | Worked with teens to create animated Public Service Announcements on Youth Labor Laws. Our group met for six weeks to conceptualize the messages they wished to communicate, create images using digital cameras and Photoshop, and animating those images in Flash. The final products were screened during the Downtown LA Art Walk in the windows of the Chapman Gallery.   |
| <b>2005 - 2006</b>         | <b>West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology - Digital Arts Instructor</b> | After school program for "at-risk" youth, WMCAT combines mentorship in the arts with life skills to keep kids in school and build bridges to post high school opportunities. In the Digital Arts studio, students work with Photoshop, Flash, scanners and digital cameras. At WMCAT students work towards creating personal work for bi-annual gallery exhibits of their art.   |
| <b>Summer 2007</b>         | <b>Summer Youth Empowerment Program - Documentary Video Teacher</b>           | Taught documentary video production to a group of Korean Teens at the Korean Resource Center. The end product was a moving documentary featuring interviews with their elders about immigrating to the US, and their experiences as a Korean Immigrant in Los Angeles.   |
| <b>Spring 2006, 2007</b>   | <b>Kalamazoo Valley Community College - Animation Workshop Leader.</b>        | Led stop-motion animation workshops for middle school students and Flash animation workshops for high school students from underprivileged communities.  |

**Spring 2006 ASIFA Animation Workshop Group - Workshop Leader**

In 2006, the theme for the ASIFA Animation Workshop was "The Sounds of Animation." A soundtrack was provided by renowned composer, Norman Roger, and each workshop group was given a section of music to interpret visually. Students used digital cameras, scanners, Photoshop and Flash. The compilation premiered at the 2006 Hiroshima Animation festival.

**1999 - 2004 Grand Valley State University**

**Visiting Faculty:** 2001 to 2004 **Adjunct Professor:** 1999 to 2001

Taught Courses in Video Production, Non-linear Editing using Final Cut Pro, Scriptwriting, Aesthetics of Image and Sound, History of American Cinema, and Technology in Advertising and Public Relations in which students used InDesign, DreamWeaver, and Photoshop. Co-wrote the curriculum for Aesthetics of Image and Sound, and wrote the curriculum for Technology in Advertising and Public Relations.

**1995 - 2001 Careerline Tech Center Media Production Instructor. August, 1995 to July, 2001**

Provided vocational training to high school students in video, photography, TV studio production, animation and digital arts. In the digital arts lab students learned PhotoShop, InDesign, Flash, and Final Cut Pro. Other responsibilities included working closely with learning disabled and emotionally impaired students, maintaining the digital arts lab, designing digital art and digital video curriculum, and assisting with the yearly program budget.

**Summer Career Path Summer Camp - Media Arts Instructor****1996 - 2006**

Led career exploration workshops in photography, video, and animation for middle school students. In one week, students would use digital cameras, create "monster" self-portraits in Photoshop, shoot a music video using the TV studio's green screen, and create a cut paper animation using iStopmotion.

**Summer Chicks make Flicks™ - Co-Founder and Instructor****2002, 2003**

Launched a program to teach video production and media literacy to teen women. Participants learned how to use digital video and audio equipment, storyboard and script their concepts, and use iMovie to edit their work and add sound.

**Summer Photo Outlook Program - Photography Mentor****1999**

35mm Photography mentor to "at risk youth" in the Belknap Lookout Neighborhood of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**1997 - 2001 Ottawa Area Intermediate School District - Adult Education Instructor**

Taught evening classes in Adobe Photoshop, Quark Xpress, Adobe Illustrator, and digital photography.

**Spring 1995 East Grand Rapids Public Schools - Animation Mentor**

Proposed and implemented the program budget, and designed and implemented a ten week curriculum for elementary, middle school, and high school workshops.

## Professional Work

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- 2011**      **New World Symphony "Pictures at an Exhibition."** *Sequence Director, Designer, Animator*  
 Created animated sequences to project on five screens for a live performance of "Bydlo" from "Pictures at an Exhibition" by Modest Mussorgsky at the Grand Opening Gala of the New World Symphony's new orchestra hall designed by Frank Gehry. The New World Symphony is conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas and is America's premier orchestral academy. Animation and compositing with live action elements and visual effects created in After Effects.
- Duck Studios. "Mickey Mouse Project"** *Compositor*  
 Created background extensions for converting SD to HD. Tracked backgrounds for character placement. Created and added shadows. Rotoscoped existing animated characters into new backgrounds.
- David and Dana Dornsife. USC.** *Motion Graphics Designer*  
 Created the opening sequence of a video for an event marking the renaming of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. The one minute opening told the story of the Dornsife "legacy of giving" to the university through collaged photos and images of the Dornsifes.
- 2010**      **Recruitment video: Marine Biology at USC.** *Director, Animator, Editor, Compositor*  
 Documentary/Animation Hybrid video, shot on HD video, animation and effects in After Effects.
- Animated Title Sequences and Vignettes for short film "GayKeith."** *Designer, Animator*  
 Pixilation, stop-motion animation, and digital cutout animation. Produced with Photoshop and AfterEffects.
- 2009**      **A Whole World of Space.** *Stereo Camera Layout, Texture, Lighting & Rendering*  
 Stereoscopic animation short that explains stereoscopic vision. Created in Maya.
- 2004**      **"We Got a Badge for That!" PSA Series.** *Producer, Director, Editor*  
 Shot on SD digital video, edited in Final Cut Pro. Aired on local network stations.  
 Received a Silver Addy award from the American Advertising Federation for creative excellence in the Public Service category.
- 1998**      **Holocaust Museum of Houston Interactive CD.** *Video Producer, Editor*  
 Recorded interviews of Holocaust Survivors, created video montages, and compressed video for inclusion on an interactive CD.
- 1996**      **Zootopia - Interactive CD.** *Production Assistant, Lip Sync*
- 1995**      **Jenison at the Bend - Interactive CD.** *Animator, Programming Assistant*  
 An animated history of the city of Jenison. Animations were created using Photoshop and Macromedia Director. Interactivity programmed in Director.

## Technical Skills

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- Software** Adobe After Effects and Photoshop Expert  
 Proficient in Adobe CS5 Master Collection including Flash, Premier, InDesign, Illustrator, DreamWeaver, and Encore.  
 Familiar with Maya and XSI 3D software packages
- Compositing** Proficient in both timeline and node based compositing, as well as shooting on a green screen.
- Stereoscopic Imaging** Proficient with the fundamentals of stereoscopic imagery. Experienced in single camera capture for stop motion and stereo photography, and dual camera capture for live action, as well as creating stereo image sequences using dual virtual cameras in both AfterEffects and Maya.
- Digital Video Production** Seventeen years of experience with video and digital video production and post-production technology including lighting, SD and HD digital cameras, and non-linear editing.

## Awards/Fellowships

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- 2009** SOMA Fellowship for interdisciplinary partnership with the Wrigley Institute, University of Southern California
- 2006** Jacob K. Javits Fellowship
- 1990** Presidential Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence, Grand Valley State University

## Festivals / Screenings

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- 2011** **What I Found in Great Aunt Nell's Closet**  
*Digital collage animation, stop motion animation, and live action. Assets created in Photoshop, and composited in AfterEffects. This piece exists in both 2D, and 3D stereoscopic versions.*
- Cinepride - Nantes, France. *National Juried Festival, In Competition*
  - LA 3D Film Festival - Curated Screening
- 2010** **GayKeith**  
*Animator - Pixilation, Digital Collage Animation, Stop motion Animation. Elements created in Photoshop and composited/animated in AfterEffects.*
- Downtown Los Angeles Film Festival. *Curated Screening*
  - Palm Springs Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. *National Juried Festival*
  - Southwest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
  - Miami Short Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
  - Los Angeles Comedy Festival. *National Juried Festival*
  - Portland HD Fest. *International Juried Festival, Winner - Best Comedic HD Short*
  - CineKink NYC. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
  - Female Eye Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
  - Vail Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
  - Canada International Film Fest. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- What I Found in Great Aunt Nell's Closet**
- Amsterdam Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. *Curated Screening*
  - Fairytales Film Festival. *International Juried Festival*
  - Paris Feminist Film Festival. *International Juried Festival*

**2009 What I Found in Great Aunt Nell's Closet**

- Ottawa International Festival of Animation. *International Curated Festival*
- Cleveland International Film Festival. *Juried Festival, In Competition*
- Brooklyn International Film Festival. *Juried Festival, In Competition*
- London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- Reeling Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- Frameline Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- HollyShorts Film Festival. *Regional Juried Festival*

**Great Aunt Nell's Predilection**

*Interactive Stereoscopic Installation: User operates a crank on the side of the viewing podium to control the speed and direction of the stereoscopic film inside. Director, Interactivity design and execution.*

- Visions and Voices - Animated Spaces Show. *Curated Exhibition*

**Treasure**

*Director, Animator, Editor. Cut Paper Animation. Shot on 35mm Film.*

- HollyShorts Film Festival. *Regional Juried Festival*
- Palm Springs Children's Film Festival. *International Curated Festival*

**2008 What I Found in Great Aunt Nell's Closet**

- Outfest Los Angeles. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- Fresno Reel Pride. *Curated Festival*
- Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. *International Curated Festival*
- Festival Mix Brazil. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*

**Great Aunt Nell's Predilection**

- Art Walk Los Angeles - Chapman Gallery. *Curated Exhibition*

**Treasure**

- Uppsalla Short Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- Antelope Valley International Film Festival. *International Curated Festival*
- First Frame. *Student Show case, Selection Committee*

**That Time**

*Hybrid Animation. Director, Animator, Editor*

- Experimental Animation Show. Los Angeles Film Forum. *Curated Screening*

**2005 Brushfires: Chapter 7 – Into a Cloud.**

*Feature Film. Shot on Digital Video. Offline Editor using Final Cut Pro.*

- OUT FAR! Phoenix International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. *Juried Festival, Official Selection*
- Philadelphia International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. *Juried Festival, Official Selection*

**2003 Chicks Make Flicks Documentary.**

*Producer, Creative Director, Editor. Shot on Digital Video, edited on Final Cut Pro, this documentary shows behind the scenes of the Chicks Make Flicks program*

- Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts, Film/ Video Competition. *Regional Juried Festival. Second Place Documentary Category*

**Chicks make Flicks: Volume 2.**

*Producer, Creative Director, Editor. A compilation of the work created in the 2003 Chicks make Flicks program.*

- ArtWorks Summer Celebration; *Culmination Screening*
- One Reel Film Festival. *Juried National Film Festival, Screening: Best of Chicks make Flicks 2003*

**2002 Chicks make Flicks: Volume 1.**

*Producer, Creative Director, Editor. A compilation of the work created in the 2002 Chicks make Flicks program.*

- ArtWorks Summer Celebration; *Culmination Screening*
- One Reel Film Festival. *Juried National Film Festival, Screening: Best of Chicks make Flicks 2002*

**2001 Anijam 2000.**

*Director, Contributing Animator. Hand drawn animation anijam created by the students in the Media Production Program at the Careerline Tech Center. The linking element is a single line in the center of the screen.*

- Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts, Film/ Video Competition. *Regional Juried Festival. First Place Animation Category*

**1996 Noorthoek Academy: A Place Where I Can Be Me. Documentary Video. Director, Editor**

- Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts, Film/ Video Competition. *Regional Juried Festival. Second Place Documentary Category*

**1994 Through the Magnifying Glass.**

*Director, Animator, Editor. Traditional & Digital Cel Animation about a Entomologist and his subject.*

- Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts, Film/ Video Competition. *Regional Juried Festival. First Place Multimedia Category*
- Video Tusculum Festival. *National Juried Festival, Honorable Mention*
- North Carolina Film & Video Festival. *National Juried Festival*

## **Selection Committee/ Jury Experience**

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| <b>2006</b> | Reel Thing Film & Video Festival 2006 - Jury  |
| <b>2003</b> | Kalamazoo Animation Festival International 2003 - Jury                                    |
| <b>2002</b> | Kalamazoo Animation Festival International 2002 - Jury                                    |
| <b>2002</b> | Women's History Month Film Festival, Grand Valley State University - Selection Committee. |

## **Professional Affiliations**

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| <b>2009 - Present</b> | <b>Women in Animation</b>   |
| <b>2008 - Present</b> | <b>Stereoscopic Club of Southern California</b>   |
| <b>2006 - Present</b> | <b>ASIFA Hollywood</b>  |
| <b>1992 - 2006</b>    | <b>ASIFA Central (International Animation Society)</b><br>Board Member, Community Outreach, Conference Coordinator, Contributing Writer |

## Professional Development and Conferences

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- 2009**      **Scientific Visualization Conference at the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies**  
Weekend Retreat and Conference bringing together representatives from USC's Marine Biology department, USC's Animation department, and leaders in the field of Science Visualization.
- 2008**      **5D Conference.** California State University, Long Beach. October 2008  
Conference covered the trends of cross platform delivery of mass media for marketing and audience immersion.
- 2003**      **KAFI (Kalamazoo Animation Festival International)**  
Led a roundtable presentation and discussion called "Integrating Animation into the K-12 Classroom" as a part of the Animation Educator Conference.
- Grant Writing Workshop.** Grand Valley State University, October 2003.
- 2002**      **Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom.** Grand Valley State University, Fall 2002
- 1994**      **SIGGRAPH Art and Design Show, Summer 1994**  
Assistant to the Art and Design Show Chair, Deanna Morse.

## References

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### **Kathy Smith**

Chair

John C. Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts  
School of Cinematic Arts  
University of Southern California  
University Park, LPB 200C  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-2211  
(213) 821-4396  
kates@usc.edu

### **Michael Patterson**

Working Director , Animation and Live Action Production  
Member of the Directors Guild of America  
Visiting Associate Professor  
John C. Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts  
School of Cinematic Arts  
University of Southern California  
University Park, LPB 200C  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-2211  
(310) 617-9938  
patte1@usc.edu

**Candace Reckinger**

Adjunct Faculty  
John C. Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts  
School of Cinematic Arts  
University of Southern California  
University Park, LPB 200C  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-2211  
(310) 617-9620  
reckinge@usc.edu

**Deanna Morse**

Professor  
Grand Valley State University  
School of Communications  
1 Campus Drive  
Allendale, MI 49401  
(616) 331-3101  
morsed@gvsu.edu

**Lori Damiano**

Animation Department Chair  
California State Summer School for the Arts  
3358 N Baldwin St.  
Portland, OR 97217  
(559) 718-8947  
lorid@nethere.com