

Melissa Bouwman is a Visual Artist, Animator, and Educator specializing in traditional and digital cut-out animation, experimental narrative, installation and DIY stereoscopy. With 20+ years of experience in the field, she has produced both commercial work and her own films, which have been described as "lyrical, touching and politically challenging." Melissa's personal work has screened internationally in numerous juried festivals.

Melissa grew up in an agricultural community in West Michigan where she developed a deep appreciation for native plants, seed pods, trees, chickens, and cows. She moved to Los Angeles to escape the bitter winters of Michigan and to earn an MFA in Animation and Digital art at the University of Southern California. She continues to relish the climate and exciting botanical offerings in LA and teaches animation and digital art to grades 8-12 at Crossroads. She is passionate about teaching and mentorship, the earth, human interaction, media literacy, equity and justice.

Curriculum Vitae

Melissa Bouwman
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Education

2009 MFA Animation and Digital Art University of Southern California

1994 BA Film and Video Production Grand Valley State University (Magna Cum Laude)

Teaching Experience

2011 to Present **Crossroads School for Arts & Science – Digital Arts and Animation Instructor**
Design curriculum and teach four levels of Digital Art and Animation courses for 9th through 12th grade students. Topics covered in the Digital Art and Animation major include design principles, intro to typography, intro to green screen shooting and compositing, interactive design and fundamental principles of animation. Students learn how to use Photoshop, Animate, AfterEffects, Illustrator, and other key components of the Adobe Creative Suite.

Summers 2008 to 2017 **California State Summer School for the Arts - Animation Instructor**
Taught animation principles and techniques to gifted young artists in an intensive residency program. The CSSSA animation program focuses 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.

2009 to 2011 **Inner City Arts - Animation Teaching Artist**
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.

Spring 2008 **Manual Arts High School - Animation Workshop Leader: Youth in Power**
Worked with teens to create animated Public Service Announcements on Youth

Labor Laws. Each team conceptualized messages, created images using digital cameras and Photoshop, and animated those images in Flash. The PSA's were screened during the Downtown LA Art Walk.

**2005 -
2006**

West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology - Digital Arts Instructor

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.

**Summer
2007**

Summer Youth Empowerment Program - Documentary Video Teacher

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.

**Spring
2006, 2007**

Kalamazoo Valley Community College - Animation Workshop Leader.

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

Annually, ASIFA international proposes a global anijam theme around which animation teachers can form a team of youth animators to tackle the concept. In 2006, the theme 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. The workshop ran for six weeks, and students used digital cameras, scanners, Photoshop and Flash to create the finished project. The compilation premiered in Japan 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 curriculum for Aesthetics of Image and Sound, and wrote curriculum for Technology in Advertising and Public Relations.

**1995 -
2001**

Careerline Tech Center - Media Production Instructor.

Provided vocational training to high school students in video, photography, TV studio production, animation and digital arts. In the digital arts lab students learned how to use 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**2002, 2003 Chicks make Flicks™ - Co-Founder and Instructor**

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. The culmination of the six week program featured moving personal films by each of the young women, as well as PSA's, and "faux commercials" that attacked representation of women in media.

Technical Skills

Software	Adobe After Effects and Photoshop Expert Proficient in Adobe CC 2020 including Animate, Premier, InDesign, Illustrator, and Audition.
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 AfterEffects.
Digital Video Production	Seventeen years of experience with film and video production and post-production technology including lighting, HD digital cameras, linear and non-linear editing.

Awards/Fellowships

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 / Exhibitions

2016	Survivor Guilt <i>Video Installation. Single channel digital video processed in AfterEffects</i> • Moonlighting
2015	Pictures at an Exhibition <i>Animator – “Bydlo.” Hybrid Animation/Live Action. Elements created in Photoshop and composited/animated in AfterEffects.</i> • Granada Theatre, Santa Monica, CA
2014	Rotation <i>Experimental Video featuring cell phone video clips composited and processed in AfterEffects.</i>

- Cognitive Faculties

2012 Pictures at an Exhibition

Animator – “Bydlo.” Hybrid Animation/Live Action. Elements created in Photoshop and composited/animated in AfterEffects.

- The New World Center, Miami, FL

2011 GayKeith

Animator - Pixilation, Digital Collage Animation, Stop motion Animation. Elements created in Photoshop and composited/animated in AfterEffects.

- 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

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

- 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*
- Southwest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- Portland HD Fest. *International Juried Festival, Winner - Best Comedic HD Short*

What I Found in Great Aunt Nell's Closet

- Amsterdam Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. *Curated Screening*
- Fairytales Film Festival. *International Juried Festival*
- Lesbian Film Festival of Freiburg. *International Juried Festival*
- Paris Lesbian & Feminist Film Festival. *International Juried Festival*
- Out at the Movies. *International Curated Screening Series*

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*
- London Lesbian Film Festival. *International Curated Screening*
- Inside Out Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*

- Philadelphia QFest. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- Frameline Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- HollyShorts Film Festival. *Regional Juried Festival*
- Pink Screens Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- First Frame. *Student Show case, Selection Committee*

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*
- LESGAICINEMAD. *International Juried Festival, In Competition*
- 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*
- Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. *International Juried Festival, Official Selection*
- Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival. *Juried Festival, Official Selection*

2004

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

- 2003** ● 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.

- 2002** ● ArtWorks Summer Celebration; *Culmination Screening*
● One Reel Film Festival. *Juried National Film Festival, Screening: Best of Chicks make Flicks 2003*

Chicks make Flicks: Volume 1.

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

- 2001** ● ArtWorks Summer Celebration; *Culmination Screening*
● One Reel Film Festival. *Juried National Film Festival, Screening: Best of Chicks make Flicks 2002*

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.

- 1996** ● Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts, Film/ Video Competition. *Regional Juried Festival. First Place Animation Category.*

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*

Commissions / Commercial Work

- 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" 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. Animation and compositing with live action elements and visual effects created in After Effects.

Duck Studios. "Mickey Mouse Sales" *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. *Motionographer*

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** **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** **Recruitment video: Marine Biology at USC.** *Director, Animator, Editor, Composer*
 Documentary/Animation Hybrid video, shot on HD video, animation and effects in After Effects.
- 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 and created video montages for 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.

Selection Committee / Jury Experience

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