

Year 6 – Types of Stop Motion Animations

Stop motion is an animated filmmaking technique in which objects are physically manipulated in small increments between individually photographed frames so that they will appear to exhibit independent motion or change when the series of frames is played back.



Object Animation

Any object such as a pair of scissors or a toy can be used as the object that is being animated, as long as it fits the story you are trying to tell. Object animation is frequently used in tutorials, commercials or videos that are used for a broad range of purposes.

Moreover, this type of stop motion animation is often combined with other types of animation techniques. One of the greatest challenges of object animation is to simulate flying or bouncing off the objects in the shot since it is difficult to control their movement. Rigging is commonly used to solve this issue because it enables the animator to have complete control of the object's movement, although removing the rig from the shot is going to require some additional work in the post-production.



Clay Animation

As its name indicates, this type of stop motion animation involves animating figurines and objects made out of clay. However, clay isn't the only material that can be used to create these animations, as animators often make puppets out of plasticine and other similar materials.

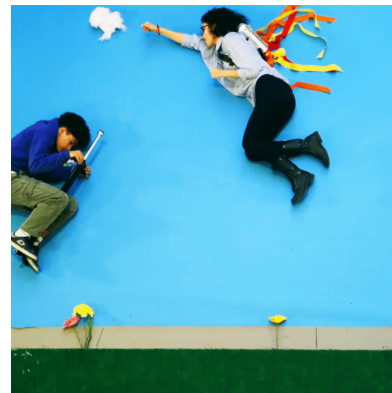
Clay animation is regularly used to create cartoons, although it is relatively easy to find music videos and TV shows that are made using this technique. Creating the entire scenography and the characters for clay animation movies is incredibly difficult, which is the reason why novice animators must have an advanced set of clay modeling skills in order to be able to use this stop motion animation technique effectively.



Lego Animation

If you have seen the Lego Movie you already know the potential Lego bricks offer to animators. However, this movie was created using computer graphics, so don't expect to achieve the same results on your first try. Basically, you need to build your entire scenography and the characters in your movie out of Lego bricks, and then change their on-screen positions from one frame to the other.

This is by no means an easy task, because it may take you a lot of time before you can start shooting your video. Even so, you will have a broad range of props at your disposal which can give you a lot of versatility during the production stage of your project.



Pixilation

This type of stop motion animation involves working with people, as you will be animating the movements of one or more actors one frame at the time. Pixilation works particularly well with other types of animation like object animation, but it can also be quite effective when combined with regular videos or time-lapses.

The examples of Pixilation can be traced back to the early 20th century, while today this animation technique is equally present in commercials, music videos, and full-feature movies. Famous movie directors like Jan Švankmajer or Shinya Tsukamoto have created some of their best work using the Pixilation technique.



Cutout

Cutting pieces of paper and animating them may not seem like a sure way to create an entertaining movie until you actually see the enormity of the possibilities this animation technique offers. Even so, professional animators aren't as keen on using it as the newcomers to the world of stop motion animation.

All you need to start creating a Cutout animation is a flat surface and differently shaped pieces of paper. There are countless ways in which you can apply this technique, and the story you are trying to tell is the best way to determine the exact elements you are going to use in your stop motion animation.



Model Animation

In case you know how to create puppets out of different materials, then you can try making a model animation. Moreover, you need to find a way to change the facial expressions of the puppets you are using in your movie, which is why Model Animation shouldn't be your first choice if you are just learning stop motion animation techniques.

Model Animation can be seen in full feature films like The Isle of Dogs, Kubo and the Two Strings, Anomalisa or Shaun the Sheep. Large teams of animators worked on each of these movies, so you shouldn't expect to achieve the same results if you decide to take on the task of creating a Model Animation movie on your own.



Silhouette

Unlike Model Animation, creating silhouette animation doesn't require you to have a huge production budget. In fact, you just need a white bedsheet, an artificial source of light and a few actors, to start creating this type of stop motion animation.

Once again, the story you are trying to tell needs to be perfectly adjusted to the technique you are using since it can be difficult to tell a compelling story using only silhouettes. However, you won't have to spend a fortune on this type of stop motion animation, since it can be easily created in less than perfect filming conditions.

