# **AN Week 6 Communication**

### • Story

#### A suicide note of a rose

Rose was found dead in a snow-covered wasteland. Her roommate found her suicide note underneath her, but the letterhead was soaked with snow and blood that it took time to recover before the contents could be read.

Moderator: So did she commit suicide or was she murdered?

Rose's parents: She was definitely murdered! Our daughter was beautiful and cheerful and generous, and she had lots of friends who can all testify to what a sunny girl she was!

Host: You said she had a lot of friends?

Rose's parents: Yes, very many. She always applied her social skills well and handled her friends well, and everyone loved her, she was the shining star.

Host: So has she done anything unusual lately?

Rose's parents: Emm, no, I don't think so, but she's been socializing a little less lately because of the pressure of work, and she's picked up her old brushes and started painting again. Her biggest dream when she was little was to travel around the world and paint every day.

Roommate: She always talks to me about some plans for her life. She is very clear about planning her own criteria for choosing a spouse and planning her academic career, and I envy her for living so soberly.

Moderator: So it seems that she did not have a reason to commit suicide, and after the police autopsy, it was found that pulling out the flower core such a way of death, she assumed a great pain before death. Are there any other clues? Any weird sightings you found

Roommate: No, she has always been able to analyze every piece of human emotion very soberly, I think she is very smart and excellent logical ability, any false feelings can not shake her.

Host: Has she ever said anything about misanthropic thoughts?

Rose's parents: This gentleman, you may not be listening to us carefully, what misanthropic reasons does she have? She graduated from a prestigious school, has an enviable job, has a lot of friendships, many good suitors, two parents, and we don't have any financial problems at home.

Moderator: Suitors? Do you all know about her relationship history? I can understand your excitement, but it is my responsibility to understand any possible cause of her death. I hope you can reveal more to me.

Roommate: Although Rose was very popular and most people looked up to her, she had very little relationship experience, only two formal relationships in her 28 years of life.

Moderator: Oh? Why is that? Is her sexual orientation different? Or is she a single person?

Rose's parents: You're really being unreasonable! How can our daughter be gay!

Moderator: I apologize for offending you, but I don't think gay is a derogatory term. Many LGBT people die of depression because they can't identify themselves or come out to those around them, and I just want to understand all the possibilities.

Roommate: What I can say for sure is that Rose's sexual orientation is indeed male, and we often talk about the boys together. When she was just thinking about life in junior high school, she also had the idea of being single for the rest of her life and as always very sensible, single for a very good reason, but after she got to college, influenced by everyone around her, she also had two relationships. The first is a friend she knew from childhood, their love affair began close to 8 years,

but finally ended without a hitch. The second one was introduced by a friend, whose family's financial condition and personal career were far from Rose's, but he was very good to her, but in the end Rose still chose to break up, and she often told me that if only she was not so sober, if she could also get out of the routine once and could rebel wildly, then life would not be more colorful.

Moderator: Did these two relationships make a big emotional difference for Rose?

Roommate: Actually, no. She still listens to her friends' complaints, the girls' relationships and breakups, but every time she listens to their failed relationships, she is always a little lost, and I think she feels bad for her girlfriends. She still goes to the Club with everyone, goes to parties, goes on picnics and swims, and is still so understanding and happy. I really can't understand why she chose to commit suicide (head down and sobbing)

Moderator: Did she have any dating after that?

Roommate: Yes, but each one she can analyze the strengths and weaknesses of this person, some boys are actually very interested in her conditions are also good, but the height she can not stand, the looks of friends will evaluate, the economic conditions of parents will be picky, not attentive people will make her suffer, parents some chaotic marriage let her sum up a lot, friends experience also gave her a lot of warning, she is always very sensible, her life is like a textbook. Her life is like a textbook.

Rose's parents: You can rest assured that Rose has never let us down since she was a child. She is a gentle, generous and cheerful girl with an impeccable personality. She is the envy of her parents, with a good attitude and good grades, a stable job in the government, and social skills without any problems. To die for something as vain as love is not the kind of child we educate.

Moderator: For some reason, I only felt a sense of suffocation when you were elaborating on her successful life.

Police: The suicide note was recovered

Rose's parents, roommate: What did she write!

Police: Only one sentence, deformed shells to breed round and flawless pearls, is there only one way to live, I want to see if my heart is really only follow the rules of reason, I have no crazy once in the blood.

### • Reflective Text

This piece is a whole conversation of people at a funeral that started when a rose committed suicide on a snowy winter day. There is a quote I love, if the rose's name is love, why did it wither into a sea of flowers. I was inspired by this line that roses often aspire to love, but what happens to love if the rose chooses to commit suicide. In the script, it is also evident through the dialogue that Rose does not seem to lack love or peace of mind, but it is all an appearance that she has gotten by restraining her desires and impulses by worldly restrictions, so is a life full of adventure and unrest the true meaning of life, or is the peace and conformity that others see as the perfect life. This script, as an animation, could have better portrayed Rose as an inhuman character. Most animations are always cute and lively and such a dialogue only animation would have been a different visual experience. Similar works like in The Great Gatsby, Gatsby's funeral. When Susan gave us a clip of The Lion King during our class, Simba and Scar's dialogue was instrumental in driving the development and narrative of the whole episode, so I was thinking of trying a dialogue-only animation script to tell the story and convey some thought.

# AN Week 7 voice

#### • Format: Game

#### • Beginning story

A teenager returns home from university only to find the town he grew up in empty, with plenty of ingredients in the fridge and the water heater on, and people who seem to have vanished into thin air without warning. The town is famous for its music and the great musician Francis is the pride of the town, and it is for this reason that almost everyone in the town knows an instrument, each with their own unique skills. At this point, a masked old man suddenly appears and tells the young man that if he wants to get back his family and friends, he needs to start with their musical instruments, defeat the instrument spirits and after collecting all the pieces of their musical memories, the man will return to the town.

#### Initial setting

The player chooses their gender, appearance and the instrument they are good at (electric piano, acoustic guitar)

### Level setting

The player goes in search of the musical instruments in the town based on the sound. Once found, each instrument triggers a fragmented memory and the player begins to fight the instrument spirits with their initial cards (instrument master and music tiles). During the battle random keys will appear in time with the music rhythm and buff bonuses will appear when the correct click is made.

#### • At the end of the level

The player will receive a memory fragment and a musical instrument fragment as well as a music clip.

### • The parts work as follows

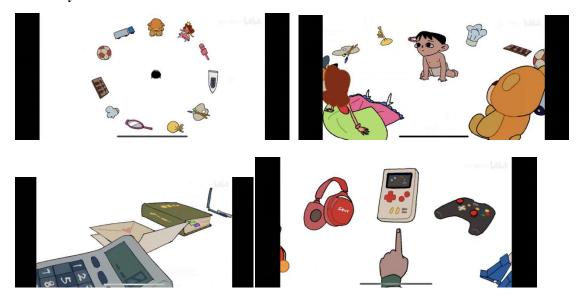
*Memory Fragments* - When a complete character memory is assembled, the character can be used as a combat bonus and only one can be worn.

Musical Instrument Fragments - Once a complete musical instrument has been created from all the pieces, the card can be used by the main character.

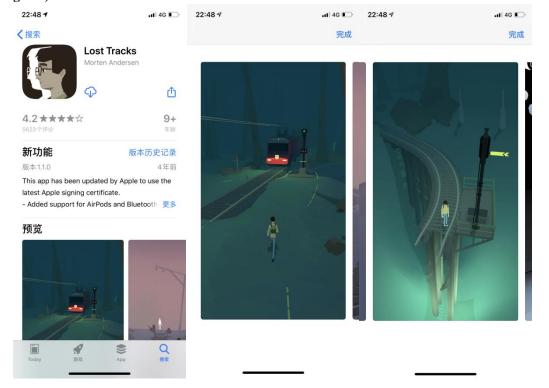
*Musical Fragments* - When a complete musical piece is assembled, the main character can use the musical card to attack.

### Related work

Animation of the player selecting a musical instrument: 抓周 by student from Communicate university of China



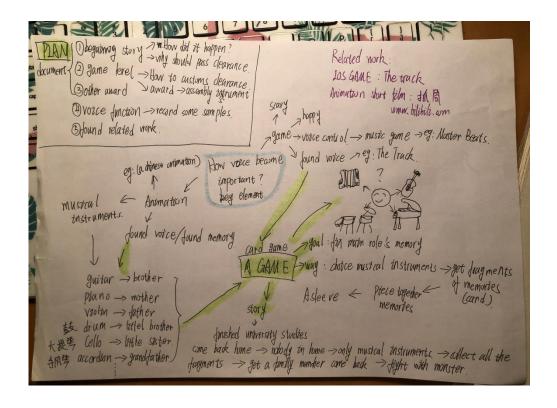
Animation of the player looking for a sound: Lost tracks by Morten Andersen (ios app store game)



# • Reflective Text

For this assignment, I wanted to respond to the class topic of the importance of sound in animation and game work. So for the first time I tried to create a game plan, worried that it would not be very professional, so I browsed the internet for some good game plans and made the current one as it is. When considering whether to use it as an animation or a game, I thought it was more

important to have music in the game. There are a lot of popular music-based games nowadays, but often the music is used as background music to set the mood or as a rhythm game, so I wanted to make a game that starts with music and uses music to fight, perhaps this maximises the function of music in a game piece.



# **AN Week8 Time**

• Format: 2D Animation

• *Main character:* Lady, Scholar, Maid

• *Environment:* Garden

• Time: Real world and Lady's dream

• *Key scene:* Lady fall sleep, the water haven't boiling yet, when lady wake up, the water just have boiling yet.

# • Story

Once upon a time, a poor scholar dreamed of a beautiful woman standing under a plum tree in a garden, said to be his future wife, and has often thought of her ever since.

In the capital, there was a daughter of a great official, talented and beautiful. She had always imagined beautiful love stories after reading about ancient love stories by books. Her maid then persuaded her to go and rest in the garden, and the maid went to boil water to make her tea. The lady read under the plum tree, and in the heat of midday she drifted off to sleep. In her drowsy dream she saw a scholar coming to court her with a half weeping willow, a plum blossom embroidered on his sleeve, and they met from time to time by the garden pavilion. In their dreams, they had a wonderful time, each time avoiding the eyes of the family, but the two eventually became a couple. The scholar also got his exams and became a great official and married the young lady. They lived in great wealth and comfort. The following year, the scholar was promoted and his position grew from day to day. Later on, the scholar made another meritorious achievement for the court. When he returned to the court, he continued to rise through the ranks and became a chancellor for ten years. They had three sons and more than ten grandchildren, all of whom became officials. Their marriage to a wealthy and powerful family gave the scholar and his wife great honour and pride. They lived into their eighties, the scholar never cheated on his wife, and he was devoted to her all his life.

Suddenly, there was a bird call and the young lady woke up. Finding herself still under the plum tree, books scattered beside her, and the maid only just coming over with tea. From then on, the young lady was stricken with lovesickness, sorrowful and thin, and fell ill. On her deathbed, she asked her mother to bury her under the plum tree in the garden, instructing the maid to hide her self-portrait under a large stone. Her father built a temple of plum blossoms in her honour.

Three years later, when the scholar went to the capital to take his exams, he stayed in the temple of plum blossoms and found her portrait under the big stone. The spirit of the lady wanders through the garden and reunites with the scholar. The scholar excavates the tomb and opens the coffin, and the lady comes back to life.

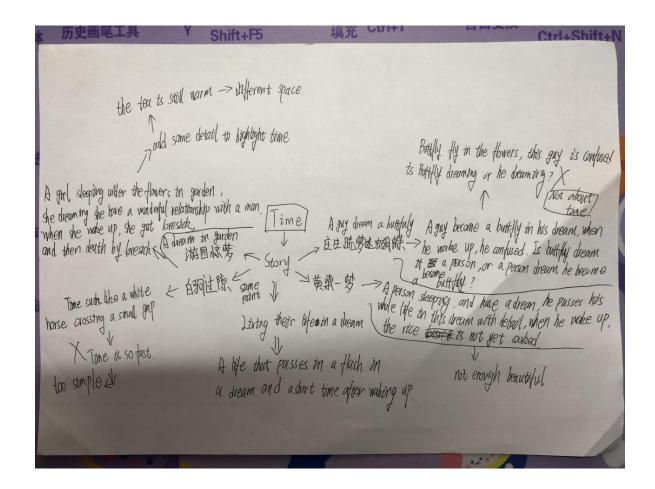
# • Related Work



**Xiada,游园惊梦,2008** \_(https://m.u17.com/c/7174.html)\_

# • Reflective Text

For this assignment, I would like to respond about the importance of the construction of the timeline in the story, time determines the development of the plot and the direction of the story. So for this story I picked a story that fits the theme very well. There are two timelines in this story, one for the normal real world and one for the lady's dream timeline. In China there have been many traditional stories about time or in sleep can not distinguish between time space and the real world, such stories are very much. I was also inspired by one of the scenes of the traditional play "A Dream in the Garden". I decided to make this story into a big project and use it as my work during Studio2. I will continue this one plan in the later AN assignments to make it better and clearer. In the next week's AN, I will write out the specific shot script and find related work.



# **AN Week9 Movement**

• Format: 2D Animation mixed Live Action & Page Flip Animation

• Software: Toonboom Harmony, Adobe Effect, Adobe premiere

**Dream**: 2D Animation

Real world: 2D Animation mixed Live Action

Book of lady: Page Flip Animation

### • Script

#### Part One

Scene 1

The scholar's room (blank background, single line performance)

- 1. The scenery outside the window is a good view of spring, with butterflies flying around (close up, butterflies fluttering among flowers)
- 2. The scholar's house is very simple, with only a desk and a bed (panoramic view)
- 3. The scholar is asleep in his bed (top view, spinning into dream)
- 4. In the dream he sees a beautiful woman standing under a willow tree, and an old man's voice tells him that this is his future wife (pure white background, woman standing under the willow tree)
- 5. The scholar wakes up and recalls the woman (close up of the scholar's eyes, then turn to the silhouette of the woman standing under the willow tree)

### Scene 2

## The lady's home

- 1. A lively street
- 2. Turning to the entrance of a magnificent residence, with the name Du Fu written on it
- 3. In the long corridor, the lady is wandering in the garden
- (1) Birds are singing in the trees
- (2) Butterflies fluttering among the flowers
- (3) Carp jumping up from the lake
- 4. The lady saw the flowers in the garden in full bloom, so she went to sit under a willow tree and began to read a book
- 5. The book is a love story of two people (realistic page-turning animation: Peking Opera shows the contents of the book)
- 6. Watching the lady leaning against the willow tree fell asleep and had a dream

#### **Part Two**

#### Scene 1

### Lady's dream

- 1. A scholar comes with half a weeping willow to woo her (panoramic view, blurred solid color background)
- 2. This scholar has a plum blossom embroidered on his sleeve (close-up)
- 3. They often avoid their families and meet in the courtyard (composed of 3 small shots)
- (1) Sitting and chatting in a pavilion (two people sitting in a pavilion and chatting)
- (2) watching the squirrels in the trees together (squirrels eating nuts in the trees)
- (3) The lady sitting and playing the piano, the scholar standing and reciting poetry
- (4) The scholar finally won the exam (the scholar rode a big white horse with a big red flower, and the child next to him cheered that it was the first place)
- 5. rewarded by the emperor and made a big official (in the palace, the emperor gave him his official hat)
- 6. Married a lady (the marriage scene)
- 7. the scholar appeals to the emperor and catches the traitor (in the palace, the scholar brings the traitor to the emperor)
- 8. The scholar was promoted to be the prime minister (ten years passed)
- 9. They had three sons and more than ten grandchildren (the family photo showed more and more children)
- 10. they lived to be more than eighty years old (the backs of the two old men faded away and birds chirped)
- 11. The lady sleeping under the tree woke up (the lady's perspective, gradually opened her eyes to see the blurred shade of the tree, the sunlight came through)
- 12. After realizing that it was a dream, the lady sighed and covered her face with a book (close-up of the sigh)

#### Scene 2

### In the garden

- 1. lady is always depressed
- (1) Sighing in the pavilion
- (2) Standing by the pond and sighing
- 2. one day, the lady stood by the pond and seemed to see a man standing on the bridge who resembled the scholar (third view), 3.
- 3. so she went after him (back chase, chasing the real world distorted and disappeared, leaving only the darkness and the lady alone, the lady knelt down and cried)
- 4. day by day, the lady more and more desperate (the garden spring, summer, autumn and winter, the lady from standing to squatting)
- 5. in the snow, crouching in tears, lady heard the servant say that the master asked him to bring the new scholar to meet her (lady close up, background sound)
- 6. the tearful young lady turns her head (close-up, pupils dilated, surprise)
- 7. snow-capped, standing under the plum tree is none other than the scholar. (Large panorama)

8. The scholar bowed to the lady, his face slowly leaking out. (Close up of the plum blossoms on the sleeve moving up to the scholar's face)

### • Related work

# Mike Roush, The hidden life of the burrowing owl

(https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Ds411V78k/?spm\_id\_from=333.788.recommend\_more\_video. 12)



# **GRADES, King (Official Video)**

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k\_kQAn9vBI4&list=PLf2DjE5RH6X8jk06g0zpmCwjRCbX SV04a&index=35)



### • Reflective Text

This piece is a continuation of the previous week's story, this week I wrote the script for it and I wanted to create a subplot for it in a later studio. This piece comes from the Chinese play The Peony Pavilion, which many people have used as a theme for this scene of a dream in a garden, and I have changed the story a bit so that it can be told as fully as possible in the limited time available. The reason why I chose to present it as an animation is that it is a rather beautiful story and if it were a game, the pace would be too fast to create the right atmosphere, and if the game were slow it would not appeal to the player. Of course I would like to try to make it an interactive exhibition, which would be very interesting, but this would be based on the fact that there is already an animated image. This week's theme is Movement, so I just wanted to carry on from last week's theme and make some shot scripts to make the project more tangible.

# AN Week10 Light

# Concept

I want to do a big, relatively complete animation project in the next two weeks (Week 10-11) about a cultural practice from my homeland, Yunnan province, China, and an ancient woodblock printing technique (甲马 Jiama). I think this cultural artefacts are very interesting, but I'm still struggling with what form of animation to show them in. I would like to realise it in my next studio if possible, as the technique has a certain history, so my previous preference for graffiti and cute drawings may not be very suitable for this theme.

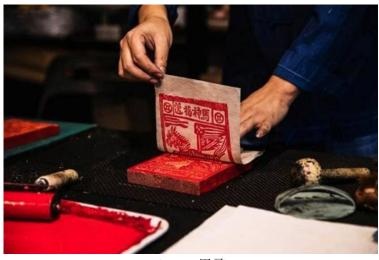
# Background

### Introduce

甲马 (armour and horses), a paper with painted images of gods and goddesses, used for worship. It is also known as paper horse (a horse painted on paper) or armour and horse paper (paper with a painted horse wearing armour).



(Woodcut black and white print)



(Print 甲马)

#### Using way

### The first use is more common.

The first of these is the paper used in Chinese folk rituals to worship gods such as the god of wealth, the god of the moon, the god of kitchen and the god of longevity. The ancient people used animal coins(牲币) to sacrifice to the sun, moon and stars, the country and the mountains, and after the Emperor Xuan of the Tang Dynasty, paper horses were used to sacrifice to the gods and spirits. According to the chapter "Paper Horses" in the Qing Taibao Classical Notes - Articles (an ancient Chinese book dedicated to folk objects and people's deeds), the horses were originally called paper horses, and originated from the Tang Dynasty, as they were hand-painted coloured images of gods and goddesses. During the Song dynasty, when engraving and printing became popular, the horse became a colourful print with five-colour overlays, which lasted through the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. Among the surviving Qing dynasty armour and horses, there are many paintings of Zhong Kui (a mythical warrior god who catches ghosts and wards off evil spirits), Kui Xing (an astral deity who blesses children's academic performance and examinations), Guanyin (a deity who blesses people with an heir) and Marshal Zhao (a mythical warrior general, mostly used as a door god), but none of these deities, except Marshal Zhao ride horses. Nowadays, the custom of worshipping the gods is rare in mainland China, but in Taiwan it has always flourished and is usually beautifully printed and sold in stacks for invoking the gods, driving away ghosts, adding wealth and increasing longevity, and is called "金纸" (golden paper).



(Peach Festival of god, using for birthday congratulation, Hebei Province)



(Punishing the good and punishing the bad, Hebei Province)



(Five god, Wuxi Province)

# The another use is less common

In a novel by the Qing Dynasty literary figure Shi Nai'an, there is a character called Dai Zong who straps an armoured horse to his leg so that he can walk very fast, like a scud. This use of the armour horse is depicted in many Taoist texts and novels.



(Daizong with an 甲马 tied to his leg)

Form: Woodcut black and white print



(God of water)



### Main area of my interested

In Dali Prefecture, Yunnan Province, in south-western China, there are many original carved woodcut panels of the 甲母, all hand-carved, which have attracted many travellers and scholars to learn more about their conservation. Yunnan province has a very large number of ethnic minorities, accounting for half of the number of ethnic minorities in China. In Yunnan the 甲母 was mainly passed down for religious practice among the Han, Bai and Yi peoples, and was particularly widespread in the Bai region of Dali. While in the mainland, due to religious and socio-economic developments, the strong witchcraft of the kama has gradually died out, in remote and isolated Yunnan this primitive religious phenomenon has been preserved intact and has developed into a ritual object in the worship of the Bai's unique system of gods and goddesses and an object to ward off evil spirits in everyday life. The content and form of the kama has also evolved into a folk art form of printmaking with distinctive Yunnan regional characteristics. The Yunnan kama graphics have a unique formal aesthetic, with decorative shapes that are simple, rugged, archaic and vivid. The simple lines serve the naive shapes, building a natural and vivid harmony of beauty.



*There are nearly 1,000 different types of paper, and there are three main categories.* 

1. The "totems" inherent to the Bai people. For example, the "dragon" is the totem of the Bai ancestors. There are, for example, the "White Dragon", "Wealth Long", "Flying Dragon", "Basho Dragon", "Green Dragon God" and the "Fire Dragon Prince" and the "Water Dragon King", etc.



(Dragon King)

2. The "本主" (Lord )is unique to the Bai people. This is the main element of the Bai folk religion, which originated from the worship of the god of nature in the original religion of the Bai ancestors, the "Kitchen God". It is a major element of Bai folk religion, and is derived from the worship of the gods of nature in the original Bai religion, such as the "King of Water and Grass", the "Prince of Snow Mountain" and the "Mother of the Lord",etc.



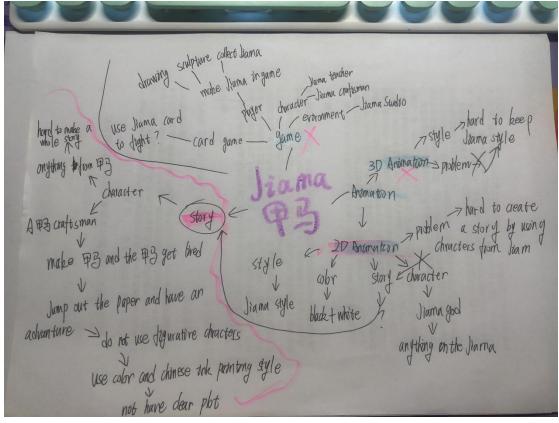
(God of wood, King of Water and Grass, God of general cave)

3. The various idols of the Bai ancestors and the various gods and goddesses worshipped by the Bai folk. The gods of the family, the god of happiness, the god of the land, the gods of water and fire, the god of wood and the god of bridge, the god of road, the god of rock, etc.



(God of bridge, God of road, God of water)





# • Reflective text

This work is about a cultural practice from my home town and I will be planning this work over the next 10-11 weeks and hopefully bringing it to life in the next studio. In the next week I will be explaining and planning how to make an animated short film in this artistic style, what the story and plot will be and what kind of images I want to present. The reason why it has to be an animated piece is because 甲母 is not a very famous cultural product and I want to make it a short animation that is not too long so that more people will want to spend this small amount of time watching my work and get more attention for this cultural product. In this week's class, our theme was light, and one of the pieces Susan showed us was a clip from The Lion King, which

had a great use of light and shadow, and rendered the atmosphere of Scar and his men's evil ambitions very well. Coincidentally, it was also this clip with its strong contrast and high saturation, and the silhouettes of the hyenas that reminded me of Karma. It was such an amazing association that I decided to start planning this animated short.

# • Reference

Shaoying He, The White 甲马 - Artistic Symbols of Ritual, 2013, viewed date:29/9/2021 <a href="http://www.cqvip.com/qk/84383x/201307/46666527.html">http://www.cqvip.com/qk/84383x/201307/46666527.html</a>

Jing Li, The Art of the Yunnan 甲马, 2010, viewed date: 29/9/2021 <a href="https://www.cnki.com.cn/Article/CJFDTotal-MEIS201909022.htm">https://www.cnki.com.cn/Article/CJFDTotal-MEIS201909022.htm</a>

Honggang Yu, A Study of Dali 甲母 Art and Its Use in Modern Design, 2011,

https://cdmd.cnki.com.cn/Article/CDMD-10691-1012050203.htm

(Ps: sorry, as the  $\mbox{$\mathbb{P}$}$  is still little studied internationally, so I can only look up references to papers on Chinese academic websites)

# Week 11 Everything

### • Story

She quietly walked over to her grandfather's work table, where she found some 甲马 paper. She looked up another pile and found the goddess of the Lord, the god of birds, the god of fire, and the god of the night (the gods who patrol the streets at night to keep people safe). Hmm? Grandpa had misspelled the word "游", not "油" as in "oil" but "游" as in "parades" (in Chinese, the two words are pronounced "you" the same). The little girl looked at the paper and laughed out loud, so grandpa wasn't as good as me. The moment the ink dripped onto the paper, her surroundings suddenly lit up and countless bright lights emanated from the paper, which the girl was so frightened that she covered her mouth (not daring to let her grandfather hear).

The girl is swept into the paper and finds that the buildings look nothing like home, but how the street scene is exactly the same as in the town. She was walking down the street trying to find her home when suddenly a man with a bird's head and wings on his back appeared and saw her and came striding towards her, she turned her head in fear and ran. She turned her head and ran. The man was chasing after her, and the girl did not have time to hear what he was saying, but only ran on as fast as she could. When she reached the beach, there was no way out, and a big wave swept the girl into the sea.

In the sea the girl swam desperately forward and the dragon tossed in the sea, lightning flashed in the sky and the seaweed god and the seaweed together lifted and lowered the girl. In this moment all the gods of the sea come out and look at the girl with curiosity. (In the climax, many gods from the 甲母 will be added.) Just as the girl is about to be exhausted, a goddess full of golden light leaks out from behind the mountain and spreads her arms. The girl finally reached the shore in that direction and, exhausted, she fell into a deep sleep.

When she woke again the next day, the girl was slumped over the studio table, her grandfather had just pushed his way in, only saw the eyes of the night wanderer on the 甲马 paper move.

### Style

Vellum or Xuan paper style background backing Normal world with ink brush strokes,甲马 world in 甲马 style



# • Related Work

# Xueyan Wang, Gaku, 2020, Pratt Institute

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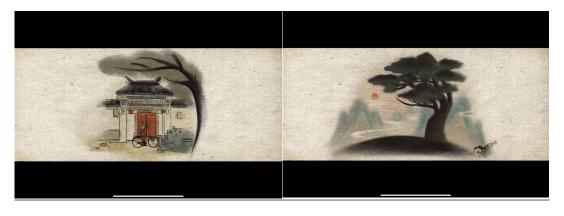


Qing Yang, On the way,2021,Beijing Film Academy

<a href="https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Wb4y1z7cY?from=search&seid=14404889249760826951&sp">https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1Wb4y1z7cY?from=search&seid=14404889249760826951&sp</a>

<a href="mailto:m\_id\_from=333.337.0.0">m\_id\_from=333.337.0.0</a>





# Reflective Text

This week's production is a continuation of the previous week, in which I wrote the exact storyline, and the script will be refined later based on this story. As the origins of the Kama are so old, it is difficult to explain them clearly in an animated short film. In this animation I only wanted to capture the unique artistic style of the Yunnan horse in a short clip. The references are mainly to the drawing style and presentation, and I will focus more on plot modification in the next implementation. I have seen a lot of great animated short films in class that have inspired me.