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THE LOST ART OF HAND DRAWN ANIMATION

Josie Attisano

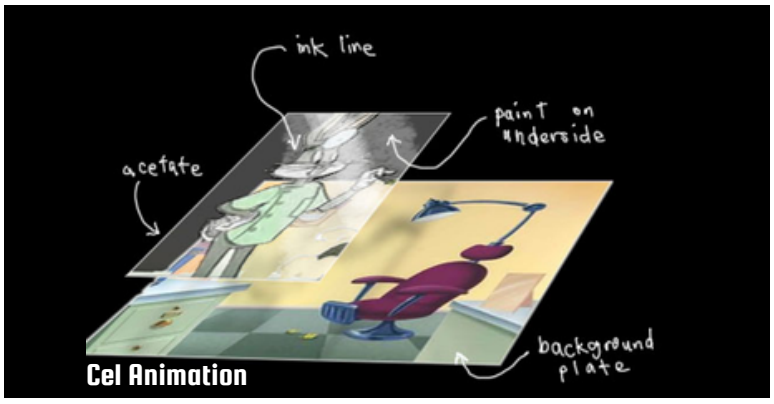
Over the last century, animation has changed. A lot.

When you think of animation from ye olden times, you most likely picture Steamboat Willie, an old Disney cartoon which served as the debut for the world renowned Mickey Mouse. But let's go back further than that. Before animation like Steamboat Willie could be made, other means of experimental animation existed. These were called zoetropes, and they were created long before filming video had been invented. Zoetropes are a rotating circular construct that has frames of animation drawn on it. When it was rotated at the right speed, the mind would be tricked into perceiving an animation. A similar device was called the Phenakistiscope, and it worked in pretty much the same manner. With the invention of these devices, animation was achieved.


Zoetrope


Phenakistiscope

Now, let's talk about Steamboat Willie, and more broadly, the hand drawn cel animation of old Disney productions and television cartoons like King of the Hill, SpongeBob, and the Simpsons. Cel animation was achieved by drawing a character's lines on the front side of a transparent sheet of plastic called a cel, and then flipping it over and painting in the color on the other side. Then, the animation cel was overlaid on top of a hand-painted background and a picture was taken of the whole set up. Put thousands of these photos together, and you get to see Bart Simpson skateboarding through Springfield. So much effort went into this type of animation, and I believe that the level of quality that animating like this reached is unmatched by other forms of 2D animation like modern puppet rigging and tweening.



Cel Animation

As we move into the 2010's, more and more cartoons have stopped being produced through hand-drawn animation. It was expensive, took a long time, and often had many imperfections. More and more, companies like Disney and Pixar moved to pursue 3D animation, especially after the success of Pixar's groundbreaking computer generated animation movie Toy Story. And even now, people generate terrible slop animation with the use of AI, which I find to be the absolute worst form of animation ever. I believe that AI use in art is entirely deplorable and it should never be given any recognition as art or gain any traction. Anyway...

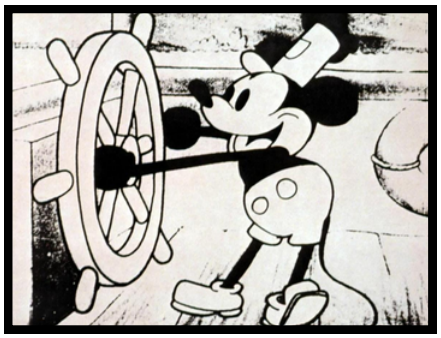
Now that you have all of that context, I want to touch on the actual topic of this article: the lost art of hand-drawn animation. When you look at the current animated movies in theaters that are available to watch now, every single one of them was animated with 3D technology like Autodesk Maya (industry

standard), or created with puppet animation. Have you ever decided to sit down and watch an older show like Family Guy from the first episode? When I did this, I loved the roughness and the charm that the hand drawn animation of the show had to offer. If you think of the show in modern times, it is known for having terrible and stiff animation, which is attributed to the use of puppet rigging. I understand that puppet rigging is cheaper and faster to produce, but I think that the quality decrease is incredibly visible and shows that use this technique of animation poorly lack a lot of life - missing the whole point of animation. Animation literally means “the state of being full of life or vigor; liveliness”, which is lost in a lot of modern TV animation.

When a show switches from 4x3 to 16x9, the quality supposedly gets better. But to me, that is a sign that the show is dying. It happened with Futurama, it happened to King of the Hill, to Family Guy, to SpongeBob, to nearly every old classic who is known for a great first few seasons and declining fast.

However, I think that there is hope for bringing back this lost form of art. Earlier, I briefly touched on the topic of AI and AI accessories. I think that with the rise of AI art and animation being generated, there will be outcry and desire to see art made by real blood, sweat, and tears. It will serve as motivation to artists to create even more incredible things, in a form that AI could never encroach upon.

So, to any artists and future animators reading this, or even just animation enthusiasts - I truly believe that we are going to head into another golden era of animation if we work hard and play our cards right.







HAND DRAWN CEL ANIMATION – Spot where the different layers are!





PUPPET RIGGED ANIMATION – Both of these shows also do frame-by-frame animation for certain scenes.





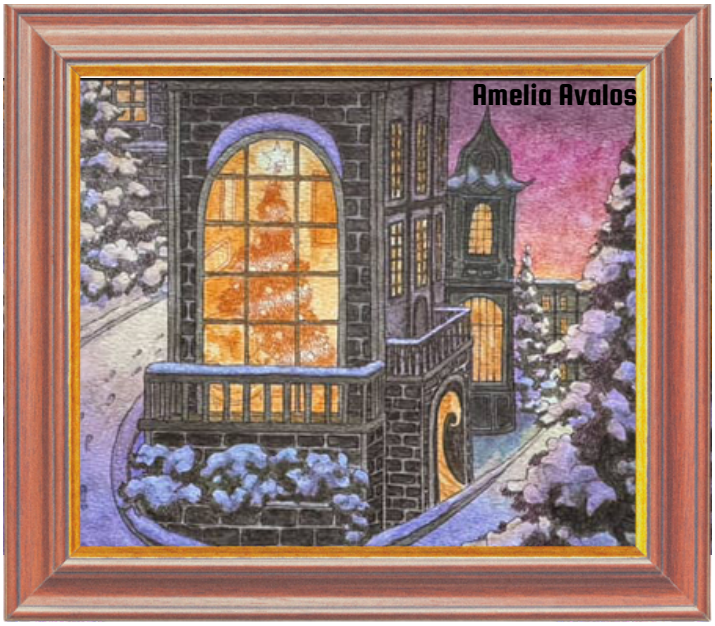
3D ANIMATION – The advancements in modeling, animation, and lighting quality are clear!



AI SLOP – Completely soulless.

AP Art

A small collection of works from the artists of 2024-2025 AP 2D Design and AP Drawing










Richard DeVito


Jake Lauther


Amelia Avalos


Alex Ramierz

The Essay That Got Me Into Cornell:

a personal anecdote by Antonio Bencivengo

What do you do when you're dealt a bad hand?

What do you do when your own uncle kicks you out because he deems you a problem child at the ripe age of five? I grow bitter and start blaming other people for my problems. I lose myself. I become said problem child.

What do you do when you're evicted from your no-bedroom apartment alongside your mother and grandmother just three years later, at the age of eight? I let it get to me. It's only more flames added to my fire, my insatiable fire. Nothing satisfies me anymore; nothing makes me happy anymore.

What do you do when your own family doesn't want to take you in because of how they view you and your mother? I enter the system.

What do you do when you're forced to move from shelter to shelter because your own mother can't control her emotions and can't stop herself from putting holes in walls? It's just a few more flames to me.

What do you do when you realize that being bitter and unhappy and resentful and jealous of others is getting you nowhere? I stop being that way. I get over myself and I make a comeback, arms reaching for success.

What do you do when you're exposed to the horrors of the world - ones that people try so hard to shield their children from - when you're not even double digits yet? What do you do when the woman living in the unit next door to you is snorting cocaine right next to her newborn's crib? What do you do when you can't even concentrate on your homework because the hallways outside your unit are bombarded with families yelling at each other because they're not getting the help they need? I get earbuds and I concentrate on my homework.

What do you do when you're ripped from your school because the Department of Social Services found an apartment in a different town that your mother can finally afford to pay for? I make new friends. What do you do when your mother can't afford to pay for that apartment anymore? I go back to my regularly scheduled programming.

What do you do when a family is being held at gunpoint just three units down from yours because the gunman's wife doesn't want to see him anymore? What do you do when you hear the gunshots outside while trying to enjoy your Christmas as much as you can? I make a joke about someone's car backfiring. Shoddy cars sped down that road all the time, even on Christmas. What do you do when you can't leave your unit the next day because the entire shelter has been deemed an active crime scene? I think about that joke I made.

What do you do when you're kicked out of yet another shelter because your mother is still putting holes in walls? What do you do when the emergency shelter hotline doesn't have a place for you to stay? What about when your friends and family still don't want to take you in? And when you don't have enough money for a place to stay for the night? I sleep in the car, and I wake up for school the next morning. I ace my tests.

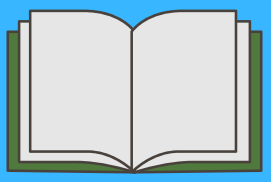
What do you do when it feels like the world is against you, like everything is out to get you, and when nothing is going your way? I tell myself that "this too shall pass".

What do you do when you tell yourself that "this too shall pass" one too many times for comfort? I say it once more, and this time, I mean it.

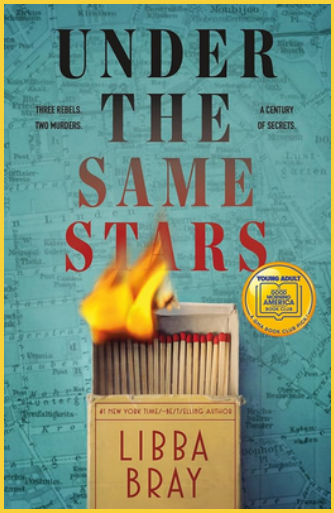
What do you do when you're dealt a bad hand? I use it to my advantage. I don't just survive, I succeed.



LYNCH'S BOOK REVIEW



I have been a fan of the young adult author Libba Bray for many years. Her last series, The Diviners, was an amazing historical fiction/mystery/supernatural mash up! It has been about 5 years since her last book though so when I saw this one, I put it on the top of my TBR (to be read) pile. It did not disappoint! This is a story that has characters from three different time periods who intersect (in an amazing manner) at the end. First, we meet two girls, Hanna and Sophie, who live in 1940s Germany. They are best friends, but are on very different paths. Next, we meet Jenny, whose father has been transferred to work in West Germany and Lena, who lives in West Germany and has a punk rock band. Jenny and Lena become friends, but they have very different backgrounds and they need the help of an older woman, Frau Hermann, to help them keep secrets while she keeps secrets of her own. Finally, we meet best friends, Miles and Chloe in the spring of 2020. They are in their senior year of high school in New York City and Chloe's grandmother sends her a package and asks for Chloe's help to investigate the case of two teenage girls who went missing from her hometown in Germany in the 1940s. This marvelous book is a blend of historical fiction and mystery where the reader learns that nothing happens in a vacuum. The author develops such fabulous characters and we learn that magic is real in the love that we feel for those around us. I was so sad when I finished this book because I had to say goodbye to these compelling characters. Put this on your summer reading list for sure!



Should YouTube Be Banned from School Chromebooks?

Kevin Kuriakose

One tool that has helped many students learn and study effectively is YouTube. Whether it's Heimler's History or TED-Ed, YouTube has played a major role in classroom learning by helping students better understand important concepts. But with the recent ban on YouTube, an important question arises: Is it better for students to learn without it?

It Helps Students Visualize the Lesson

Watching videos in class helps students who learn better visually. Seeing concepts explained through animations, graphics, or real-world examples can make lessons clearer and more memorable. For visual learners, this can make a big difference in how well they grasp the material.

YouTube Is Great for Review and Studying

Whether you're watching Heimler's History or other educational channels, videos are a powerful tool for review. They help students remember key ideas, relearn challenging topics, and refresh their memory before a quiz or test. YouTube can be a great way to study independently or reinforce what was taught in class.







Summertime

Anna Benhardt

Summer offers a unique blend of warmth and freedom that few other times of year can rival.

Across the country, people are trading in their routines for road trips and their office desks for poolside lounge chairs. In many cities, local parks and outdoor spaces transform into community hubs, buzzing with farmers markets, food trucks, and impromptu concerts. For many, it's a time to reconnect—with nature, with friends, and often with a part of themselves lost during the colder, more hurried months.

According to climate experts, this summer is trending hotter than average, prompting both caution and creativity. Cities are responding with "cooling stations" for vulnerable populations, while homeowners are investing in backyard shade structures and portable fans to beat the heat.

But summer isn't just about recreation—it's also a major economic engine. The travel industry, still rebounding from pandemic-era slowdowns, is seeing a significant spike in bookings. According to a recent report from the U.S. Travel Association, domestic travel is expected to increase by nearly 12% this summer compared to last year.

Still, beyond the numbers and news, summer remains a deeply personal experience. For some, it's the scent of sunscreen and the taste of lemonade. For others, it's family reunions, bonfires, or the thrill of a summer romance. It's the season when stories are made—some small, some unforgettable.

As temperatures rise, so do spirits. And for a few golden weeks, life just feels a little lighter. The hope that summer brings reminds us that the best is yet to come. Across the United States and beyond, people are embracing the promise of a new season and the fresh experiences waiting just around the corner.

Why Vacations Are Needed



Jayden Deangelis

In the relentless rhythm of modern life, where schedules tighten and responsibilities multiply, the simple act of taking a vacation often becomes an afterthought—a luxury postponed for some more "convenient" time. Yet, contrary to this mindset, vacations are not indulgences; they are necessities. They serve as crucial intermissions for mental clarity, opportunities to deepen family bonds, and avenues to explore the diversity of the human experience. Through rest, relaxation, and the joy of cultural immersion—especially through cuisine—vacations offer profound benefits that extend far beyond momentary pleasure. They are, in every sense, essential to personal and communal well-being.

First and foremost, the brain needs a break. The human mind, though remarkably resilient, is not built for endless productivity. Cognitive fatigue—the silent erosion of attention, creativity, and decision-making—accumulates when we ignore the need to pause. A vacation provides more than just a cessation of work; it offers a mental reset. The change of scenery, the freedom from routine, and the stimulation of new experiences activate parts of the brain that lie dormant during the monotony of daily life. This rejuvenation results not only in sharper thinking upon return but also in an enhanced capacity for innovation and emotional regulation.

Equally important is the time vacations allow us to spend with family. In a world increasingly digitized and distracted, genuine human connection is often sacrificed on the altar of productivity. Vacations offer a rare moment of unstructured time in which families can rediscover the intimacy and mutual understanding often lost in the daily hustle. Whether it's a shared laugh over a missed train or a heartfelt conversation beneath a starlit sky, these moments forge lasting memories and strengthen familial bonds. They remind us that relationships are not maintained by proximity alone, but by presence—true, intentional presence.

Rest and relaxation, too, are not idle pastimes but essential components of health. The body, like the mind, needs time to repair and recalibrate. Studies consistently show that individuals who take vacations experience lower stress levels, a reduced risk of heart disease, and improved sleep quality. The tranquility of a quiet morning on a beach, the unhurried pace of a mountain hike, or simply the freedom to wake without an alarm—all provide the body with a chance to escape the chronic stress that often simmers beneath our busyness. They allow the parasympathetic nervous system, often suppressed by constant demands, to do its vital work of healing.

Beyond these restorative benefits, vacations provide a platform for the kind of personal growth that comes only through exposure to difference. Traveling to a new place—especially one rich in cultural traditions distinct from one's own—expands both empathy and perspective. One of the most tangible—and delightful—manifestations of this is food. Culinary experiences offer a unique window into a culture's history, values, and communal life. From street-side vendors to high-end regional cuisine, the flavors of a destination tell stories that cannot be captured in books or documentaries. Tasting local dishes, engaging with vendors, or even attempting a cooking class in a foreign kitchen fosters a deeper respect for the world's diversity and a humility that reminds us our way is not the only way.

Moreover, stepping away from one's regular environment, even temporarily, creates space for gratitude. It is often in leaving home that we most clearly see its value, and in entering someone else's world that we come to appreciate both our differences and shared humanity. A vacation is not merely an escape; it is a return—a return to self, to loved ones, and to the broader human story.

In conclusion, vacations should not be relegated to occasional luxuries, nor should they be seen as escapes from "real life." Rather, they are vital chapters in the narrative of a balanced, meaningful existence. Through rest, family time, and cultural exploration—especially via the universal language of food—vacations enrich the mind, heal the body, and nourish the soul. In a society that prizes busyness, choosing to pause is a radical, restorative act. It is, perhaps, the most productive thing we can do.

THANK YOU

As the 2024-2025 school year wraps up, we want to express our gratitude to everyone who helped make the Journalism Club such a meaningful experience and contributed to making KROB Vol. II our best edition yet! This year, students from varied grade levels took part in shaping our newspaper, resulting in four unique and engaging issues.

A HUGE thank you to our amazing club members!

JOSIE ATTISANO
ANNA BENHARDT
LUCY CHANG

MAKSYM CHASE
JAYDEN DEANGELIS
VALENTINA DIGIUSEPPE

AUBREY EARLE
KEVIN KURIAKOSE
ELLIS WORCESTER

We couldn't end this year's final issue without saying thank you to our advisor and faculty contributor!



Thanks to our wonderful advisor!

MS. SCALONE

Thanks to our fabulous faculty contributor!!

MRS. LYNCH



Happy Graduation

Dear Class of 2025,

As the staff of The Panther Press, it is both an honor and a privilege to address you—this year's extraordinary graduating class.

Throughout your time at our school, you've been the pulse of our community. Your energy, creativity, and school spirit have filled the hallways and brought life to every event, project, and gathering.

Your dedication has been evident in every corner of campus—from academic achievements and athletic triumphs to artistic expression and scientific discovery. We've been proud to document your journey, capturing the milestones, memories, and moments that have defined your high school experience. Every story we've written and photo we've published reflects the legacy you leave behind.

As you move forward, we hope you carry with you the lessons learned, the friendships formed, and the resilience you've built along the way. The world beyond these walls is wide with possibility, and we know you'll meet it with the same passion, drive, and purpose that brought you this far.

Remember: this is just the beginning. Every new challenge, every accomplishment, will shape the story only you can tell. Keep reaching, keep learning, and always stay true to the curious, courageous spirit that has made your class so memorable.

Congratulations, Class of 2025! We can't wait to see where life takes you next. Thank you for the memories, the inspiration, and the mark you've made. Here's to your next chapter—and a future full of promise.

With pride and best wishes,

The KROB Panther Press News Team

