

SWARNA THENGA

(The retelling story of Icarus)

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
of the degree of Master in Design

by

Jenin J Vadakkan

136340006

Supervisor

Prof. Phani Tetali



Industrial Design Center

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

2015

IDC IIT BOMBAY
PRESENTS



സ്വർണ്ണതേങ്ങ

SWARNA THENGA

FILM BY

JENINJ VADAKKAN

GUIDE

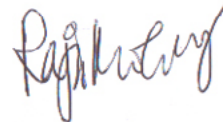
PROF. PHANI TETALI



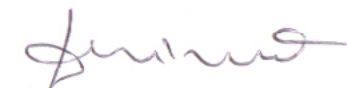
APPROVAL SHEET

The Animation Degree Project entitled 'SWARNA THENGA' by Jenin J Vadakkan, 136340006 is approved in for the partial fulfillment of the Master of Design Degree in Animation Design.

Project Guide: 

Chairperson: 

Internal Examiner: 

External Examiner: 

Date: 30-04-2015

Place: IDC IIT Bombay

DECLARATION

I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where others' ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources. I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated any idea/data/fact/source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.

Signature: 

Date: 28-04-2015

Name: Jenin J Vadakkan

Roll No: 136340006

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely extend my gratitude to my guide Prof. Phani Tetali for his guidance and support throughout the project.

I would also like to thank Prof. Sumant Rao , Prof. Nina Sabnani, Prof. Shilpa Ranade and Prof. C.P. Narayanan for their support.

I would like to thank Mr Faizal Ahamad for providing music design and Mr. Shantanu Yennemadi for supporting in sound design.

I thank all my teachers, friends at IDC and my family for supporting and encouraging me throughout my project.

ABSTRACT

Desire, greed and ego are human emotions that make living hard - for one-self and others. The movie focuses on the epiphany of these emotions and its repercussions. The impact of such vile thoughts in the life of protagonist Vasu – a coconut tree climber were explored from the cultural framework of a Christian Kerala community. The cameo of Vicar in close knitted village community as mentor and guiding light was brought out - the way he refused to let go of the Church's adopted son Vasu, and instilled good virtues in him through incisive deeds. The characters were envisioned as part of retelling the 'Story of Icarus'. Vicar devises a plan to relieve Vasu of his vice. The ensuing tale of events were illustrated along the lush green environment of Kerala backdrop.

CONTENTS

Approval sheet	i
Declaration	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	vi
Introduction	1
Final Story	2
Character description	3
Character development	4
Shot Breakdown	5
Title design	14
Environment Design	15
Animation Process	17
Finished Shot from movie	19
Music and Sound Design	22
Conclusion	23
Reference	24

INTRODUCTION

I had heard about the story of Icarus in my childhood. At that time I felt a deep attachment with this Greek mythology. Which inspired me to take this story concept ahead as my degree project. The hard part was retelling this great mythology in modern context based on my culture. I had to make sure that it will not make any damage to great story. In the beginning I came up with a few stories and they was too far away from my personal experience. So I decided to make story which related to my own experiences and environment.

I adapted the emotions of desire and greed from the original story. But my next challenge was the execution of the story in a modern context. When I looked into my experiences, my thoughts reached my church and people living around it.

FINAL STORY

Vasu was an orphan boy who was cared for by the church. When he grew up, he became a coconut palm climber and the only one in the entire village. His way of life over the years changed from an innocent boy to a man whose only aim was to acquire wealth. He was willing to go to any extent to accomplish this in a short span of time. He resorted to stealing and other derogatory methods to achieve his goal. This kind of behavior from an adopted son of the Church saddened the Vicar to a great extent. Wanting to mend the ways of Vasu, the Vicar shared a secret with him. It was about the palm tree which bears the golden coconut. Vasu was very excited to hear about this as this would help him realize his dream of being rich.

Thus began Vasu's journey in search of the golden coconut.

After looking for the golden coconut for months, Vasu was tired. The search was reaching nowhere. One day after tirelessly searching for the coconut he got fed up and sat beneath a coconut palm. He took out his coconut toddy bottle and started drinking. He looked up to see the birds flying freely in the sky. He felt frustrated and irritated by the carefree nature of the birds and their happy chirping. In his anger he hurled his bottle of toddy at them. At that moment, he noticed something shining on the coconut palm. Something was glowing in the sunlight. When he looked closely, it was the golden coconut. He got excited and ran towards and up the palm tree. When he got closer the glow went off and it became an ordinary green coconut. Unhappily he looked to the other palms and they had the golden coconut. He quickly got down from that palm and started climbing the next. But when he reached the top the same thing happened. It was just an ordinary coconut. When he looked around he could see golden coconuts on every coconut palm in the area. He climbed down and up all the palms in which he could see the coconut. He was frustrated and in a final moment of desperation he jumped from one palm tree to the next. His greediness and desperation had taken a toll on him and he fell down.

He lay on the river bank unaware of his surroundings. He felt he had lost everything. Then he felt God's hand coming towards him.

He looked up to see the compassionate Vicar. Vasu understood the depth of his sins and the helping hand of the vicar changed his heart. From that day onwards, Vasu decided to leave his conceited ways to live a good and truthful life.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

VASU



Vasu was an adopted son of the church. He is a 30 years old man with masculine figure. After high school education, he left from the church and became coconut palm climber in that village. He was the only person who continued with this profession which eventually increased his demand for the work. Even the rich people in the village required his service because coconut harvesting is not a matter of profit it's matter of safety also. They were not willing to risk their life and they knew that coconut tree climbing is a tedious task. So everyone wanted his service. This made him a haughty and greedy person. His only vice was his greed, his need to be wealthy in a short span of time. It lead him to thievery and other bad choices.

VICAR

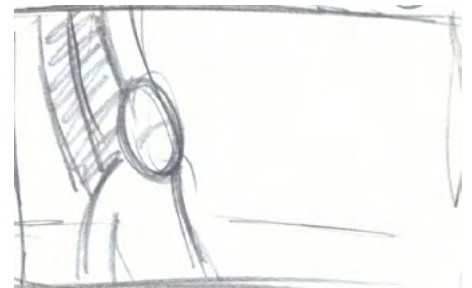
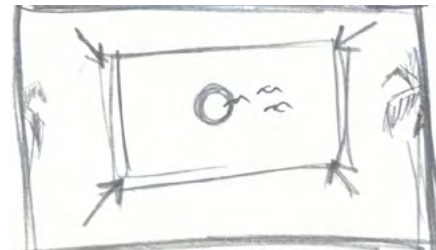
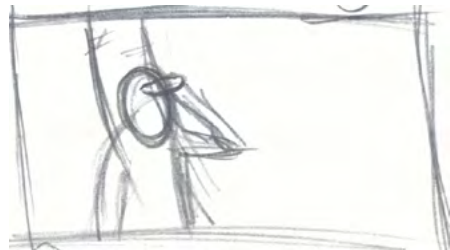
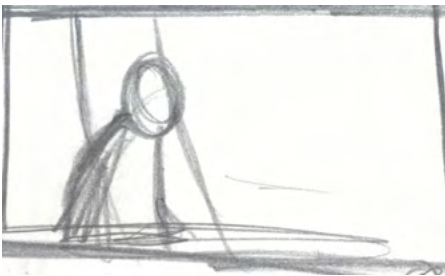
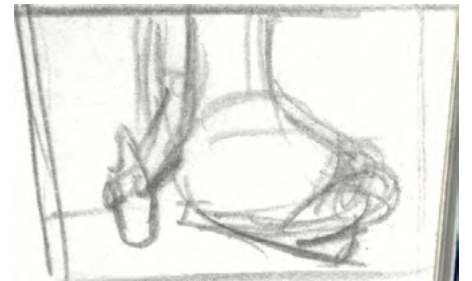
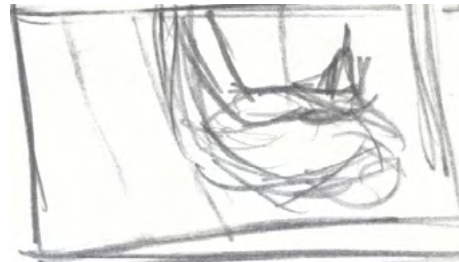
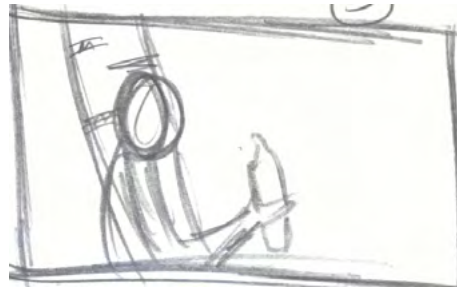
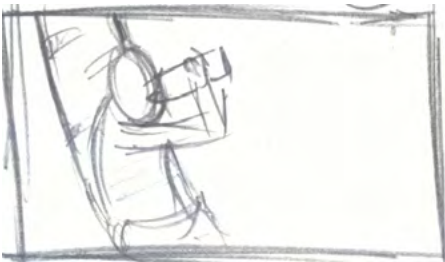
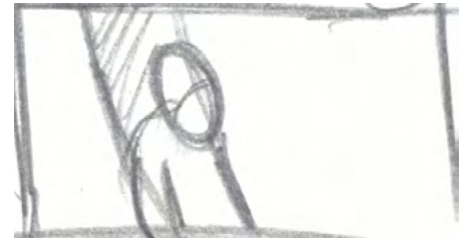
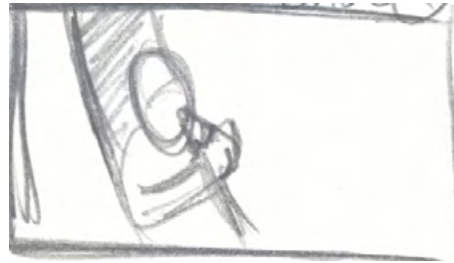
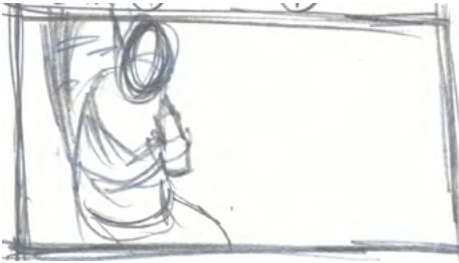


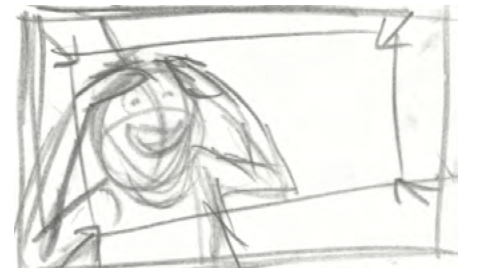
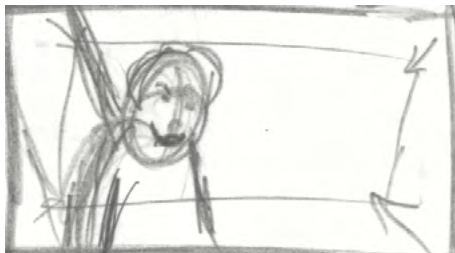
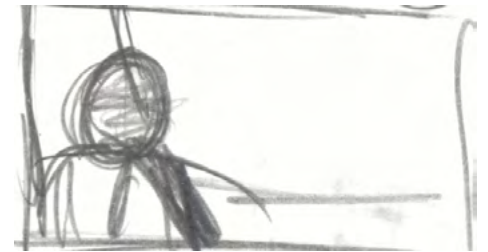
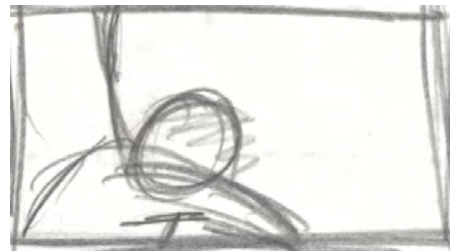
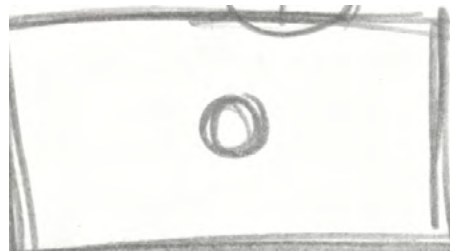
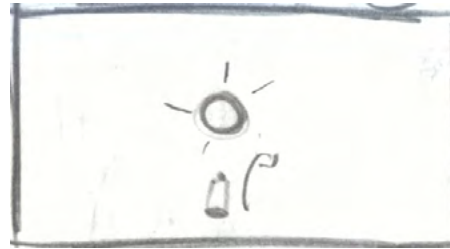
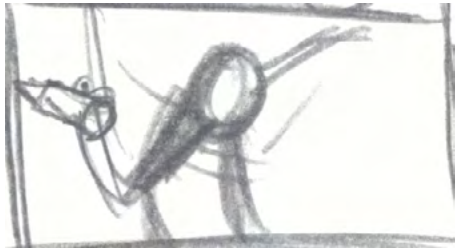
Vicar is a Powerful character in the movie. His age is around 60 years. He is a Wise and respected person in the village. Vasu was trained under him. Villagers always approach him for solving their problems. But some how he failed to correct the bad activities of his adopted son Vasu. The complaints from others about Vasu always make Vicar of church sad. Vicar appears only for a couple of occasions in the movie.

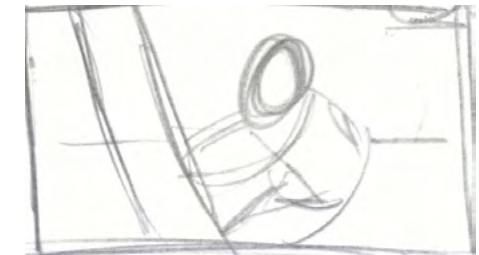
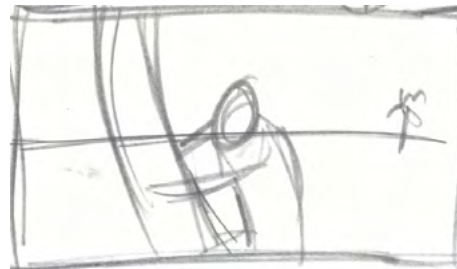
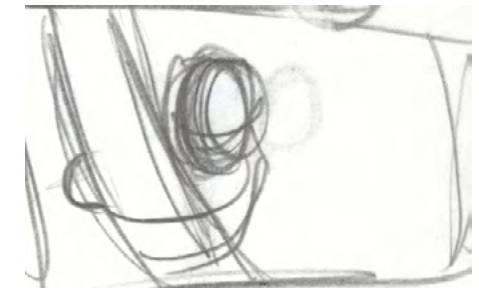
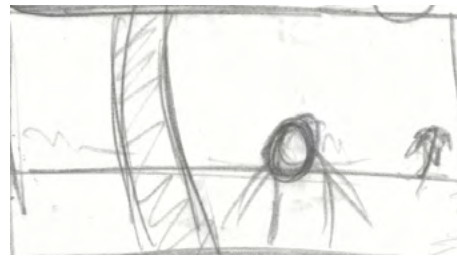
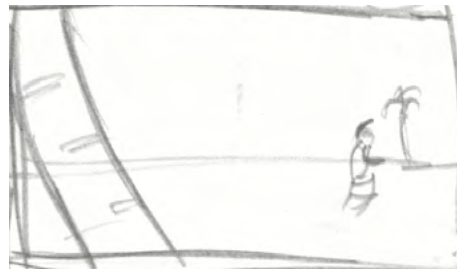
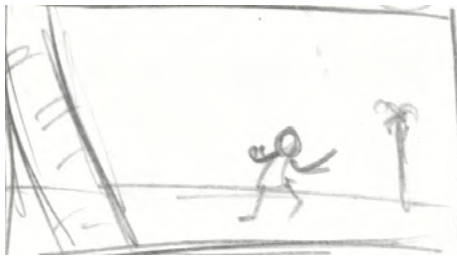
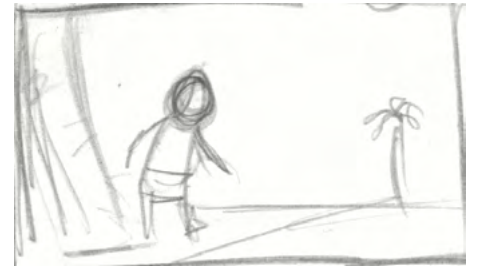
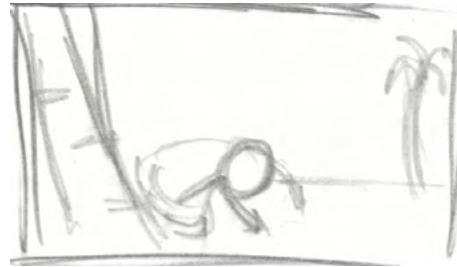
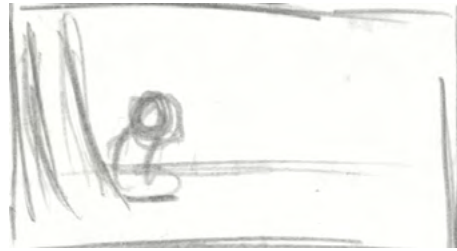
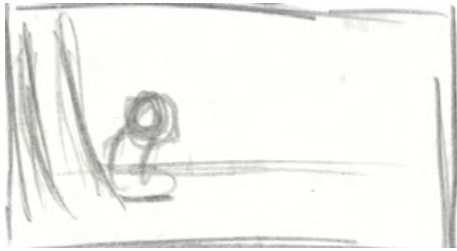
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

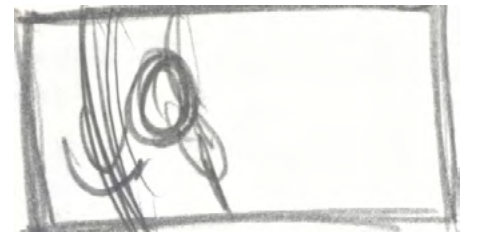
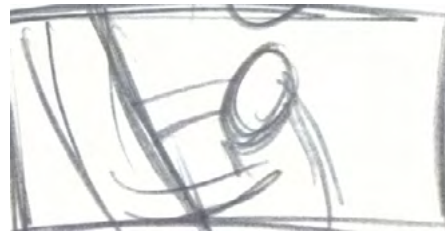
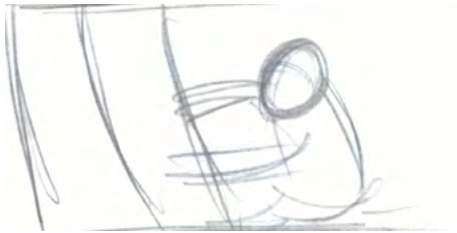
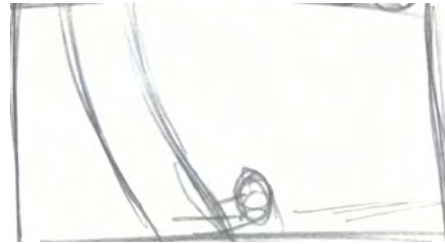
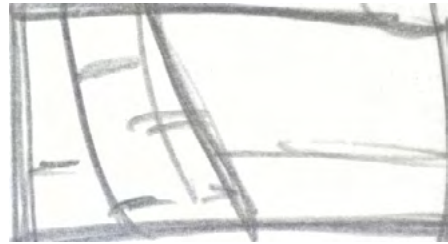
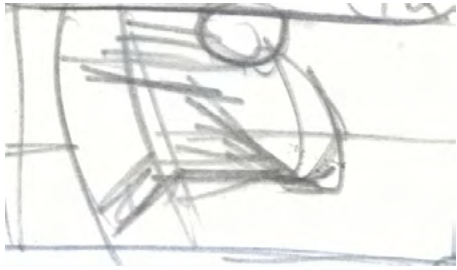


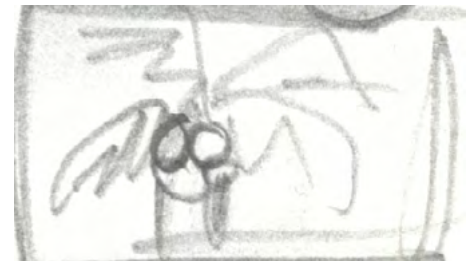
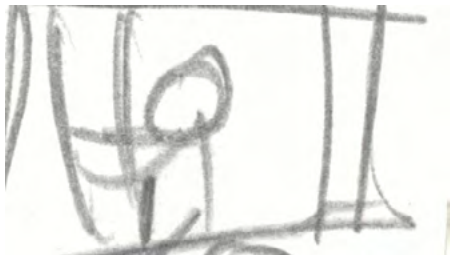
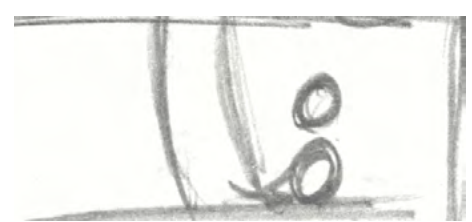
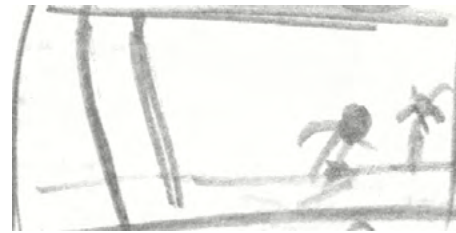
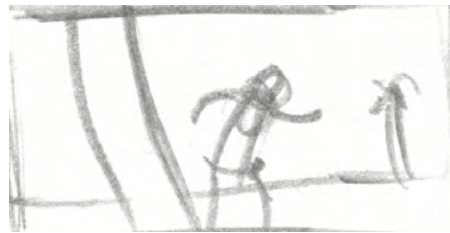
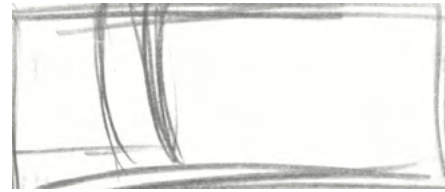
SHOT BREAKDOWN

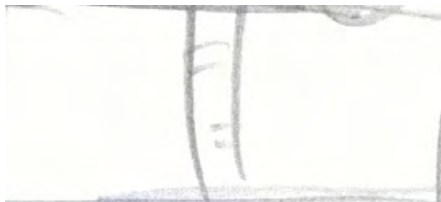
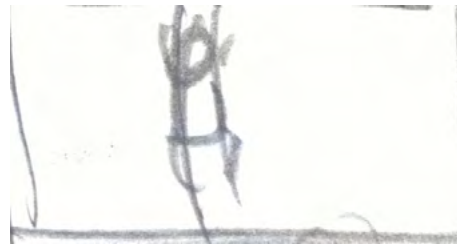
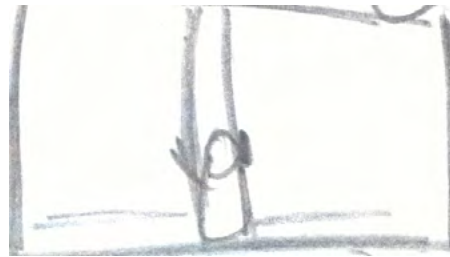
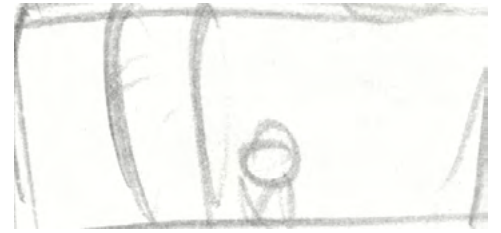
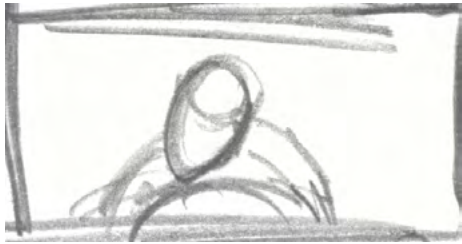


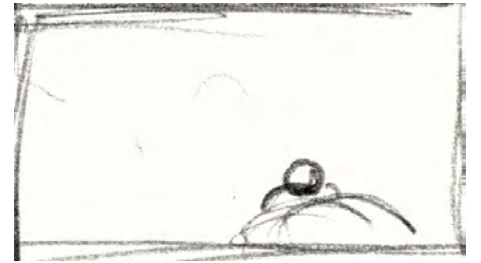


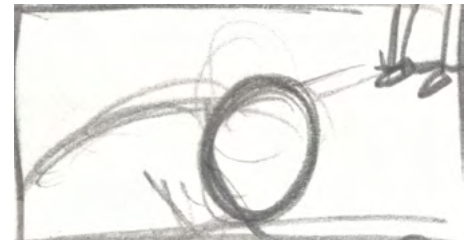
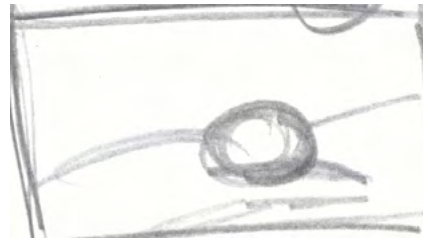
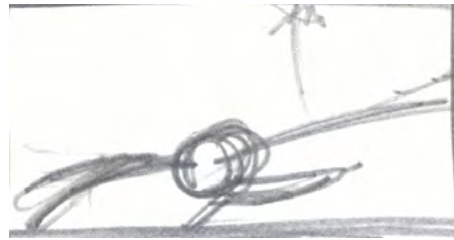
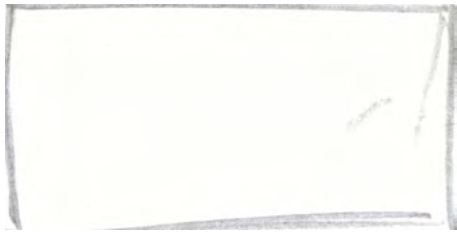
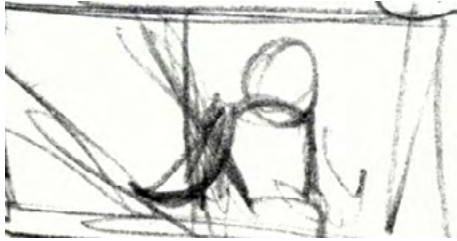


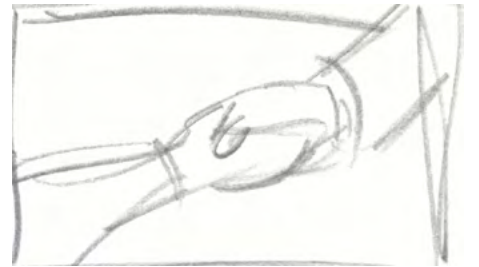
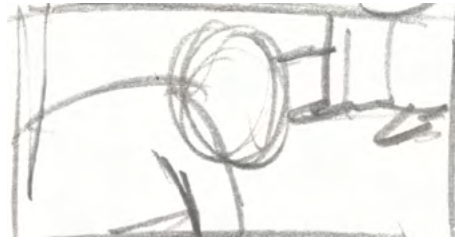












TITLE DESIGN

പ്രദീപ്തദൈവം

GOLDEN COCONUT

Edited font- Ravi varma (Malayalam)

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

INITIAL SKETCH



OVER LAYER



MIDGROUND LAYER



BACKGROUND LAYER



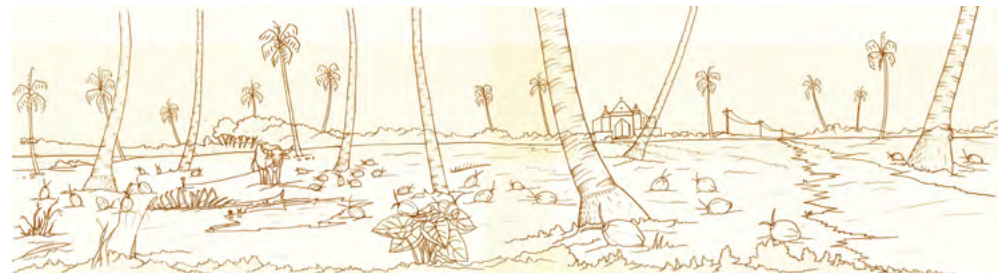
At the time of research for the film, I visited my village for field study. In my mind, I had a vision for a village which was similar to my village. So I visited mine and took some photographs as part of the research.

When I started working on the layout design, I took interesting elements of different photographs and compiled it into a composition according to the requirements of the film. It really helped me to capture the essence of a typical Kerala village.

Initially I made roughs to get proper perspective and composition. After that the background was divided as three separate layers – the foreground, mid-ground and background for effective animation. The main intention for doing this was to create a depth of field while the shot was panned. This will bring greater effect when the layers are panned at different speeds; the foreground moves faster than the other layers and since each layer has a different speed it makes for a realistic camera movement. An optical illusion in its true sense.

I put new papers on the initial rough sketches and traced out the contours in different pages. After cleanup, the images were scanned and brought to Adobe Photoshop for color. After that the layers were saved in PNG format for compositing in After Effects.

FINAL COMPOSITE



FINAL BACKGROUND DESIGN



ANIMATION PROCESS

I have chosen the traditional method of paper and pencil animation for the film. Although the method is very time consuming, I have found that it gives very good results in terms of line quality and animation.

Initially I thumbnailed the shots and after that rough animation was done. The rough animation consisted of very rough lines but it helped in getting proper actions of character movement. The line test was made after this initial stage and then timed.

After satisfactorily correcting the action and timing, the animation was made according to the model. Care was taken to keep the volume of the model intact in most of the drawings. Then the final cleanup was made with the detailed character on paper. These drawings were then scanned and taken to Adobe Photoshop for coloring.

Some of the character parts had to be layered as some of the shots required the characters performing different things in different timing. For example, in the climax shot, the protagonist is sobbing and weeping and at the same time he is wiping his tears off. The time of the facial expression and the hand movement are totally different. For avoiding clash between these timing, I used layering. In the animation, the body parts of the character was did in separate layers and later composited together.

ANIMATION PROCESS

INITIAL LINE TEST

For getting a proper action



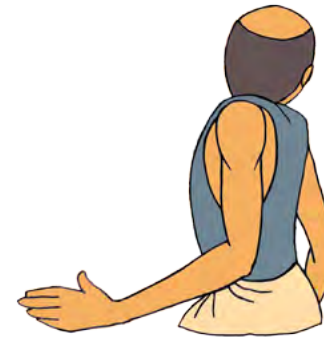
CLEAN UP TEST

Tracing contours in separate paper for final scanning



FINAL FRAME

Scanned image with color.
Rendered in photoshop



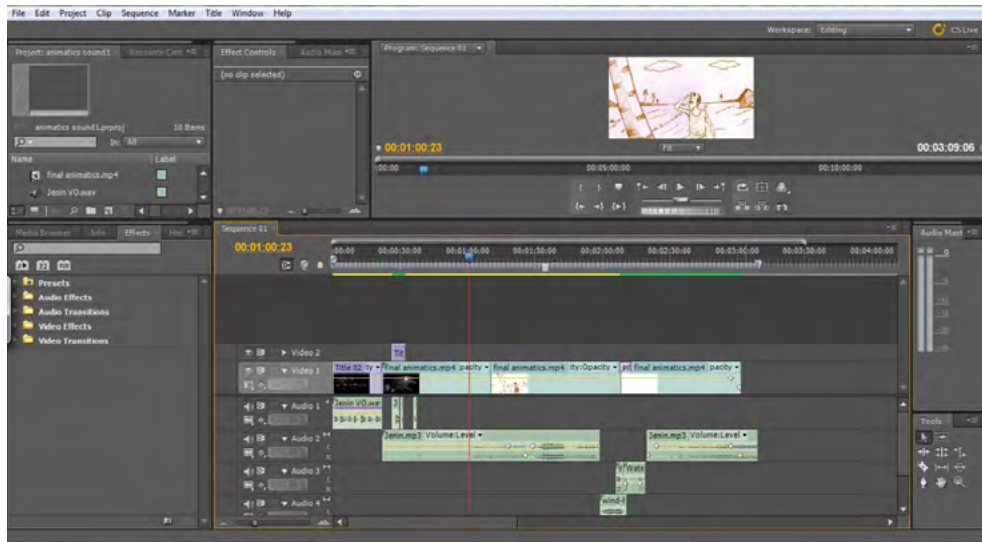
FINISHED SHOT FROM MOVIE







MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN



Sound Editing in Adobe Premiere

One of the most crucial and fun part of making a film is including the sound. It makes the movie come alive with life. The film takes place in a typical Kerala village. The feeling of the village depends much on the sound design, especially when we include the ambient sound.

The characteristic sounds of native birds and animals and the whistle of the wind are all different when compared to other parts of Kerala. I was particular that this diversity in sound should also come in the film as well. This would give the audience a feel of the location.

For the music, I want to use the traditional Kerala Vanchi Pattu (boat song), which are a collection of old folk songs sung by boat men. It will give a general feel of Kerala Culture and lifestyle.

Some of the scenes in the movie is saturated with emotions. I believe that the combination of music and acting of the character would work together in harmony to propagate this emotional message of the movie.

CONCLUSION

Throughout the movie our protagonist searches for the treasure and it brought a tough time for him. But after long days of search for the treasure, the movie ends with his enlightenment.

The golden coconut stands for greed as well as enlightenment. Like an epiphany, our protagonist understands his condition and his moral values. I would like to conclude by saying that, each individual will have their good and bad attitude, but it depends on us to see the good parts in all of us and forgive us and them.

REFERENCE

For color scheme

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/28077197648393556/>

For Music

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ_fkw5j-t0

For Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZHevKIgsYY>

For Sound

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGjpyQnTwQg>

For ambience sound

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaMMGbVsKDw>