



Summer Internship Project Report

Guide- Mr. Amar Sen and Arko Sen

Amar Sabyasachi

37, A.S Lane, Belegkata, Kolkata-700010

Contact: office@amarsen.com

Submitted by:

Shyam Sundar Chatterjee

Roll no-136340003

Animation Department

M.Des

IDC,IIT -Bombay

Acknowledgement

During my Summer Internship Project with Mr. Amar Sen and Mr. Arko Sen were extremely supportive and motivating. Their guidance helped me in learning the art of hand shadowgraphy. It is my good fortune to have somebody like them to guide me all along. I want to thank both of them for sharing ideas to help me in learning a complete new form of art and for creative and valuable suggestions.

Declaration

I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where other's 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 or falsified any idea/data/fact/source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can 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

Shyam Sundar Chatterjee

Name of Student

Certificate of Experience

AMAR SABYASACHI

Ref: Certificate of Experience

This is to certify that Shyamsundar Chatterjee, currently pursuing education in IIT Bombay, has worked with us as a summer intern for the period of 19-May-2014 to 20-Jun-2014.

In this period he has assisted us with two Hand-Shadow AV projects as an assistant editor, gained experience in editing and compositing hand shadow elements, and gained an understanding of our project workflow.

We congratulate him and wish him the best for his future endeavours.

Regards



ARKO SEN
Director – AV wing
For Amar Sabyasachi

Contact: office@amarsen.com, amarsabyasachi@handshadowgraphy.com

37, A.S. Lane, Belegkata, Kolkata 700010. Phone: 9831033292, 9830695535

Contents

Guide Profile	2
Objective	3
The Art of Hand Shadowgraphy	4
History of Hand Shadowgraphy	5
Project Samples	6
Task	7
Process	8
Pre-Production	8
Production	9
Post-Production	10
Conclusion	11
References	12

Guide Profile

Mr. Amar Sen is an artist who is well known for his excellence in various fields of art like singing, acting, magic, graphic art, poetry and obviously his pet art hand shadowgraphy. Born in 1952 in Kolkata, India to a very culturally oriented family. He is worlds one of the best hand shadowgrapher among few of the remaining at present, done numerous live performance all over the world.

Contact: Amar Sabyasachi

37, A.S Lane, Belegkata, Kolkata-700010

Contact: office@amarsen.com

Objective

The objective was to learn the art of hand shadowgraphy having no prior experience in this particular field of art. Hand shadowgraphy in motion is also known as "cinema in silhouette", so it was a personal aim to tell story through the art of hand shadowgraphy, and then understanding the process of making short films simultaneously. It is kind of art form which has immense possibilities that could be applied into different fields.

The Art of Hand Shadowgraphy

The mention of this form of art using the shadows of the hands and body to depict other objects can be found in ancient Chinese texts (A king arranged to have Shadowgraphy shows to entertain his sick queen). Till a decade ago this used to be regarded as an offshoot part of magical performances. The advances in this art form made by Amar Sen and his Partner are huge, pushing the art to unbelievable new heights, the introduction of actual personality likenesses with human profiles of anatomical similarity and total cinematic shadow presentations complete with soundtracks and storyboards was introduced and refined. The current potential of this art as a new, unique and novel medium of expression has been untapped and the art at its peak is all set to die if no more practitioners of this art would be created.

Just few tools are required to perform this art at any place and the tools are hands, lights, and a blank surface for projection and these kinds of tools are easily accessible to human beings.

History of Hand Shadowgraphy

Shadowgraphy which is also known as ombromanie is a kind of performing art where artist's shows images made by hand shadows. It can be called as "cinema in silhouette". Performers of the art are often called a shadowgraphist or shadowgrapher.

The actual origin of this art form is hard to say when the art was first used by humans for entertainment, because it could have came into existence since shadows have existed since the existence of objects obstructing light. It could have been practiced by ancient or later humans, but it probably originated in the Far East. The French entertainer Félicien Trewey was interested in the art of Chinese shadow puppetry called Ombres Chinoises, which means "Chinese shadows". He popularized the art of hand shadows when he developed shadows of famous silhouettes. It then became popular in Europe in the 19th century. This particular form of art is very much popular amongst different kinds of entertainers but it seems that is quite prominent amongst magicians, because it was made popularized by a magician who later on inspired many other magicians.

The art has declined since the late 19th century when electricity became available to homes because light bulbs and electric lamps do not give off good shadows and also because cinema and television were becoming a new form of entertainment. Shadows are greatly defined by candlelight and therefore hand shadows were common in earlier centuries but now it is almost a dying art which apparently taking last few breadths in the hand of few artist those who practices till date.

Project Samples



Task

To start from the scratch of making a short hand shadowgraphy film and understanding the production methodology from start to end. The process was containing ideation, story making, scripting, shooting, and editing. I got to work upon a project on State Bank of India in which we were supposed to make a short hand shadowgraphy AV for SBI signature card.



Process- Pre Production

The process involved while making the short hand shadowgraphy AV for SBI signature card was ideation, story making, script making, shooting, editing and eventually all these aspects were majorly sub divided under the tag of pre-production, production, and post-production.

In the pre-production part very initially a brief sent by a client who gives an idea about what kind of a project has to make. Then the creative team shorted out what all are the essentials elements which should be kept for the project and also ask the client about essential elements as per their requirements from the brief. Once all these happened we made a list of essential elements which would be incorporated into the project. Those elements become the character for the story and with those characters a story needed to be formed to represent the concept of the project. Then a script was made with visuals and captions and it was sent to the client for approve, once the script gets approved by the client, the shooting starts on floor.

Production

Once the shooting goes onto floor with a ready script a set up need to be arranged in a medium space. The set up includes the main hand shadowgrapher artist, lights, camera, and a blank canvas surface for the projection of shadow images.

Some rules are also made to be obeyed at the time shooting like setting up the lights at a particular distance from the blank canvas surface etc.

Shooting hand shadowgraphy images over a blank surface has certain limitation of its own, like any form which is created through hand shadowgraphy must need a horizontal or vertical base while composing a scene over a blank surface area, without that it cannot be created.

Post Production

Once the shooting gets over the video footages took out for clean up in terms of colour gradation and then the most complex videos were composed at the very beginning with the help of software like after-effects etc. to avoid huge number of layers in the master video line. When the complex videos were ready then those were put into the master video line. After all these done a rough cut of the video with sound was made.

Then sent it to the client in low resolution and they keep on sending the video in low resolution by making little changes as per the client requirement until the client approve it at the end.

Conclusion

Under the guidance of Mr. Amar Sen and Mr. Arko Sen I have learnt the art of making "cinema in silhouette" by using a medium or a completely different kind of art form called hand shadowgraphy in which I did not have any prior experience at all. Working with them on a live project gave me a in hand experience of the whole process of making hand shadowgraphy films, along with lot of creative inputs from the masters on various topics. Learnt a type of methodology use for making short films and how to deal with clients while working on a project given by them. Overall working experience with the masters helped me in embedding confidence in order to handle my upcoming and future project with ease.

References

- <https://www.google.co.in/>
- <http://www.amarsen.com/index.htm>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org>