

**IDC**  
**IIT Bombay**



# **Project - 1 Report**

## **Summer Internship at Paperboat Animation Studios**

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**Animation Design**  
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## Approval Sheet

The animation Project I Summer Internship which was done at Paperboat Animation Studios by Jaishrish Udai (136340011) is approved, in partial fulfillment of the M.Des. in IDC, IIT Bombay.

Project Guide .....

Internal Examiner .....

Chair Person .....



certificate



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## About the place I worked

Paperboat animation studio is based in mumbai. It is not only into animation but equally into live action, print, etc. too. Saumitra Ranade, Mayank Patel and Aashish Mall are the three heads of the studio.

The major works done by the studio includes live action film Jajantaram Mamantaram, animation film Gopi gawaiya, Bagha Bajaiya, animated series Karadi tales, Lal buzakad, and a number of children's books.

The environment at Paperboat animation studios was quite enthusiastic, and one is always gets appreciated for small little efforts. Hence it was a completely appropriate atmosphere to work in with a few of the masters of the animation industry .

Studio believes in experimentation and quality of work. They always thrives for something new.

It was a completely beautiful experience for me, and I felt really grateful working there.

## Task 1: Illustrating children's book

### BRIEF:

The task was to create a new story, and to illustrate it to make a book out of it. As I already have illustrated two books, I challenged myself by putting a few restrictions and to develop something I had never done. I restricted myself to children's book, as I have never done that before and was afraid of doing that as I never thought that way. My earlier books were made for adults.

### IDEAS:

After reading around 30 illustrated and not illustrated children's books, I had three Ideas in my mind. First, a little boy who feeds water to a dying bird in the summer heat of Rajasthan, the bird gets up and flies away. The boy gets sad but then thinks of an idea to get his bird back, and gets surprised by what happens next! Second, a donkey who is fed up of the donkey work his master gives him. The master feels sympathetic about it and frees it. Then the story goes around what happens with the donkey afterwards. Third, a guy who thinks of offering a bread to a beggar but then before he does, someone else offers. He feels bad about he kept on thinking but never did offer him bread.

### FINALIZING THE IDEA:

After discussing all the concepts with the people in the studio, I chose the first idea. This idea originated from a poem I wrote some time before saying:

*'Dhoop mein jalta panchhi girta hua mere ghar pahuncha,  
Maine use paani pilaya, aur vo fir ud gaya,  
Wo wapis kabhi nahi lauta..'*

Meaning: A very thirsty, dying bird fell down in the veranda oh my house. I fed water to it, and it woke up and flew away again. It never returned!

It sounded sad but it had a possibility of happy ending which I did. So in the story the girl gets not one but a thousands of birds. So it sort of makes a cute story which suits children.

## **STORY**

There is a little girl called 'Chhoti' of around 6 years who is enjoying her summer vacations at her grandmother's (nani's) place. Nani lives in a small village in Rajasthan. Since it is summer, it is really hot. In the veranda of nani's place, there is a big neem tree, under which it is always cool. On one branch of the tree is tied a jhoola (a swing). Whole day Chhoti plays under the shade of the tree.

One day a thirsty bird, burning in the summer heat, felt down in the front of Chhoti. She gets afraid and brings water for the bird. She feeds water to the bird; the bird gets up and flies away. Chhoti gets sad, but then she has a wonderful idea of calling it back.

She ties a clay water container on the branch of the tree, the same branch on which the jhoola was tied to. She also puts some grains on the ground under the shade of the tree. She then waits for some times. In an hour or so, she gets amazed by what she saw. She finds a hundreds of birds next to her, drinking water, bathing, eating or just resting under the tree shade.

## **BHOOMI JEEVDAYA**

Every year a number of birds die in the heat as they do not find water to drink in summers. So it is a very small thing to keep a container of water at your place so that the thirsty birds can drink and get relief from their thirst. There is an NGO called 'Bhoomi Jeevandaya' which does the work of distributing these containers to people in which they can feed the birds and other animals too.

## THE MAIN CHARACTER - 'CHHOTI SI CHHOTI'

'Chhoti' means little. To get connect to children; I needed a little character of the same age group. Earlier, there was a little boy called 'Babloo' in the story but a little girl looked more pleasing. Character development started by

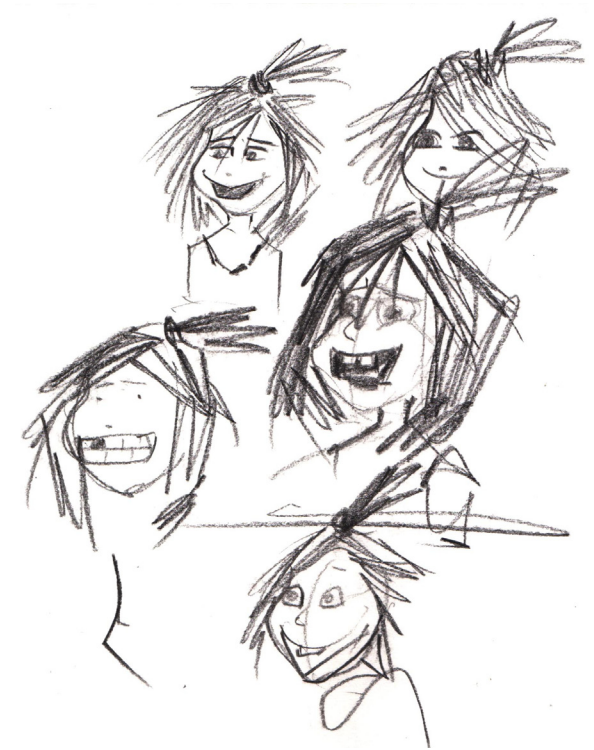
referencing kids from Rajasthan, drawing them, reducing their details and finally coming to the character I used in the book. The stages of development are represented in the following images:



Starting with a sort of portrait of a rajasthan village kid



Converting to a cartoon



Removing details



**Final Character**

## ART WORK (EXPLORING THE MOST SUITABLE LOOK AND FEEL)

The idea was to give the art a feel as it has been created by some child. So I tried keeping the perspectives and proportions in a distorted fashion. One idea was to draw it as the kids draw stuffs on wall with pencils or pastels. Then to get the level of distortion kids have in their paintings, I drew everything with my left hand. It helped me a lot in getting the feel.



## FINAL ART WORK

Cut-out images were used to create compositions. After experimenting with the sketch and paints, I came up to using oil pastels and watercolours together. Bordering sketches with oil and then filling it up with water colours gave it a new feel which was beautiful. Oil boundaries stopped watercolour to flow out hence giving it a new effect as can be seen in the images that follow.



**Chhoti:** Around 24 different final poses were drawn with different poses and expressions for every different scene.



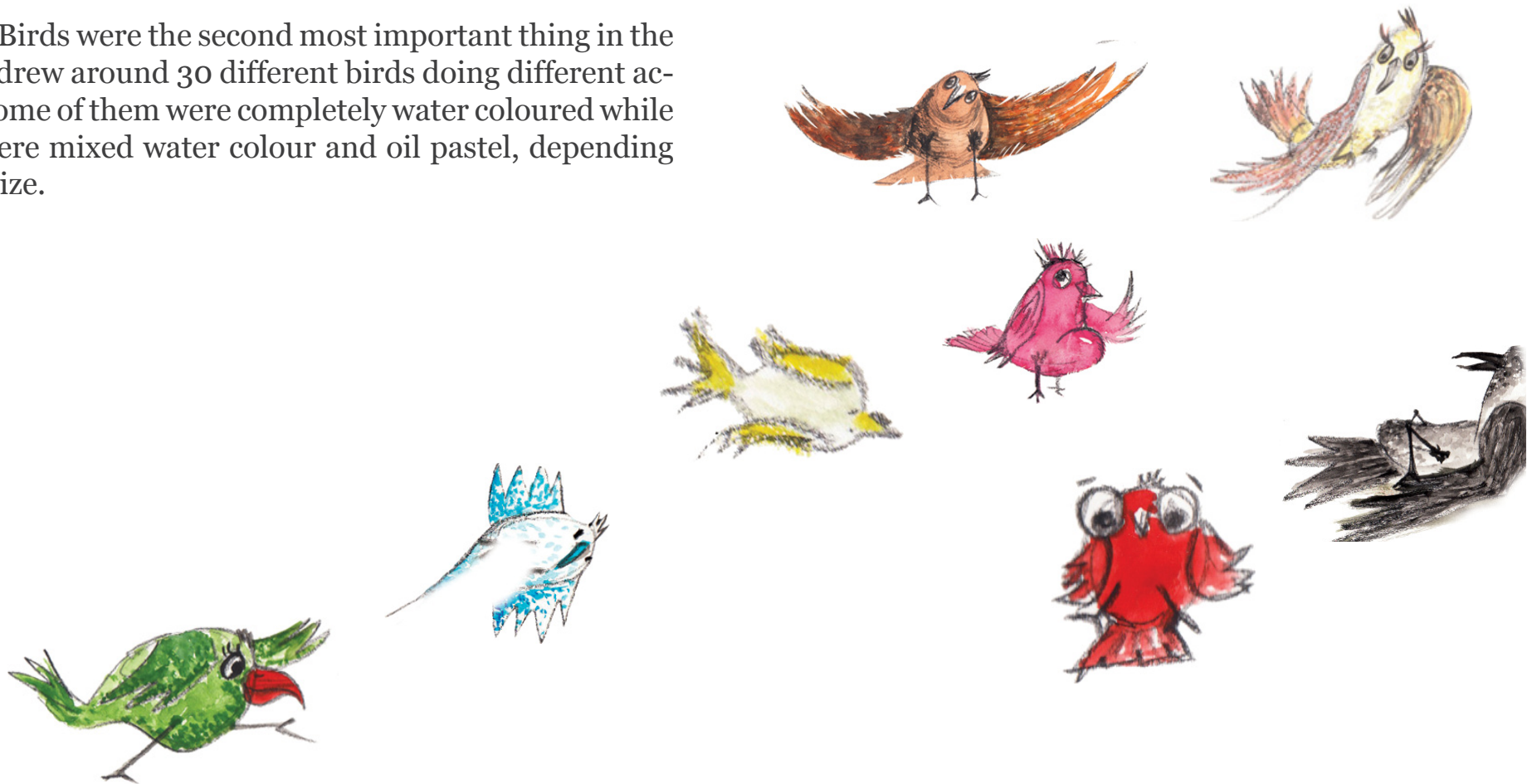
**The Nani's house:** A small raw house, covered with cow dung slurry, and designs made out of white colour bordering gate, window and walls. It is a typical Rajasthan village house which I have mostly observed in my own village in Rajasthan. It also has thick wooden blue doors and windows. There is this big neem tree in front of it (again from the house we have in our village). There is a big boundary wall surrounding the house and the veranda.



**The 'neem' tree:** It's a big tree with a swing tied to it.



**Birds:** Birds were the second most important thing in the story. I drew around 30 different birds doing different actions. Some of them were completely water coloured while some were mixed water colour and oil pastel, depending on the size.



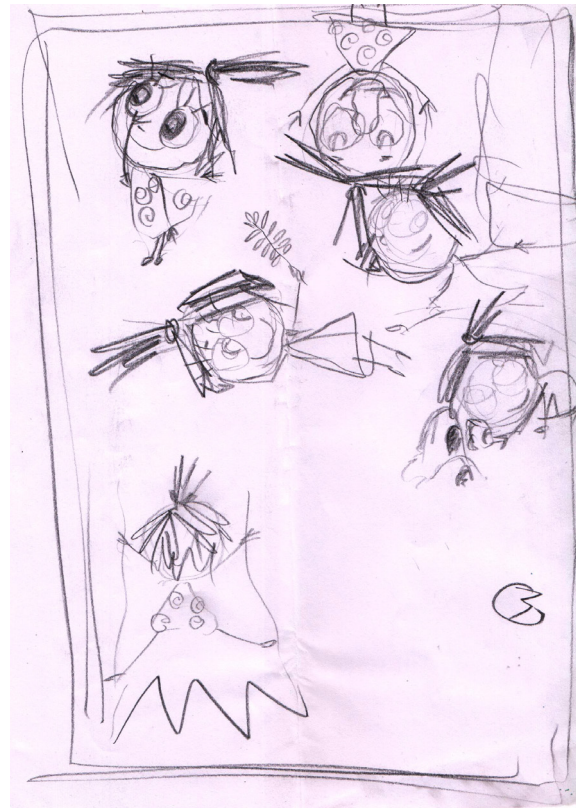
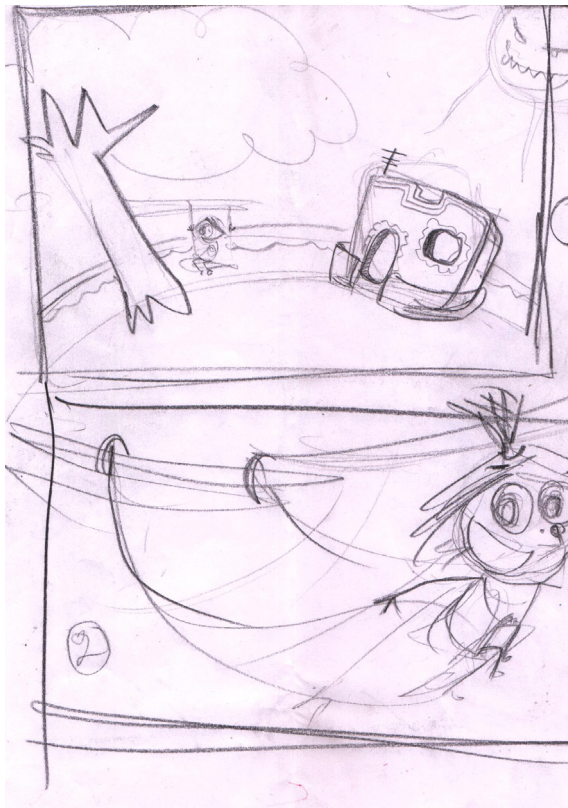
**The sky:** The sky has different colours and textures in different illustrations. It gives mood to the scene.

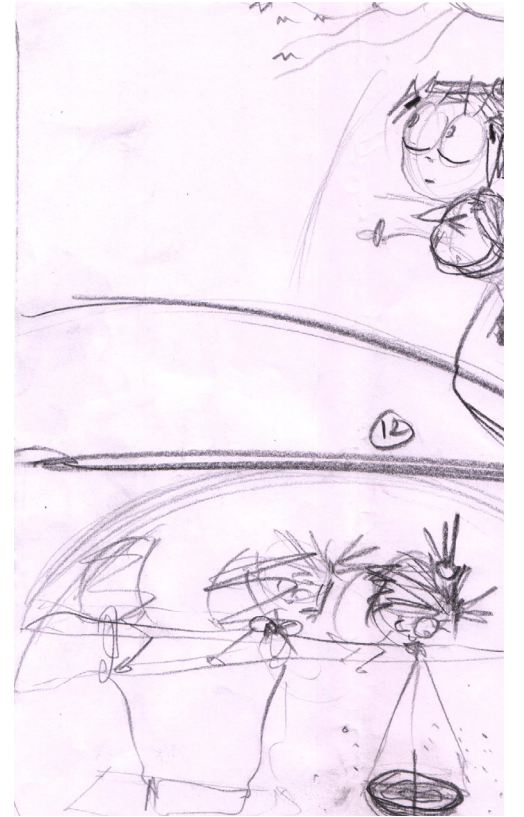
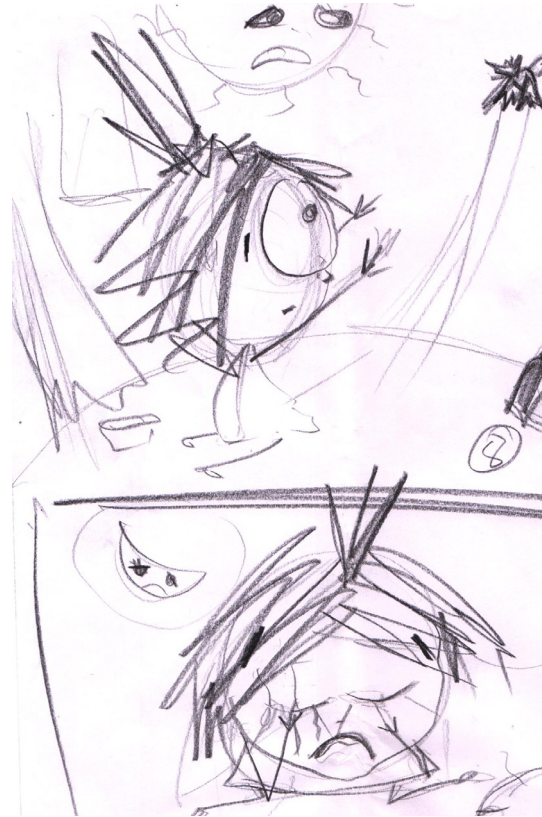
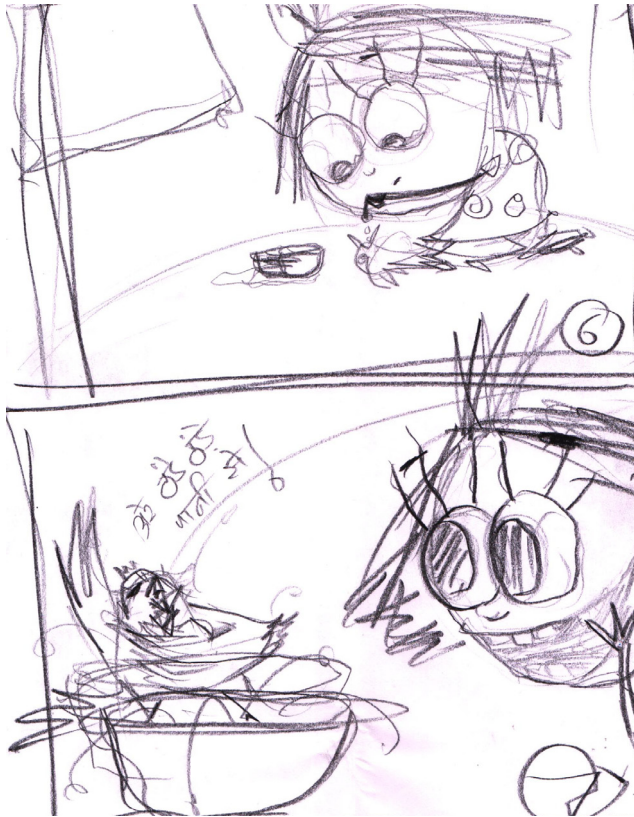
In some of the frames it is a bit more abstract, while in some, it is just plane simple blue sky.

## COMING UP WITH THE BOOK CALLED 'CHHOTI- AUR HAZAARON CHIDIYAEIN'

### Thumbnails:

Thumb nailing was done as soon as the character and the environment were finalized. Accordingly layouting was done. Some of the thumbnails are shown in the following images.





Then according to the thumbnails, elements were put together and compositions were done. Final outcome looks like the following:



नीम की एक शाख से एक लकड़ी का झूला लटकाया हुआ था | छोटी उस झूले पे झूल रही थी | वो अपने खयालों में खोई हुई थी |



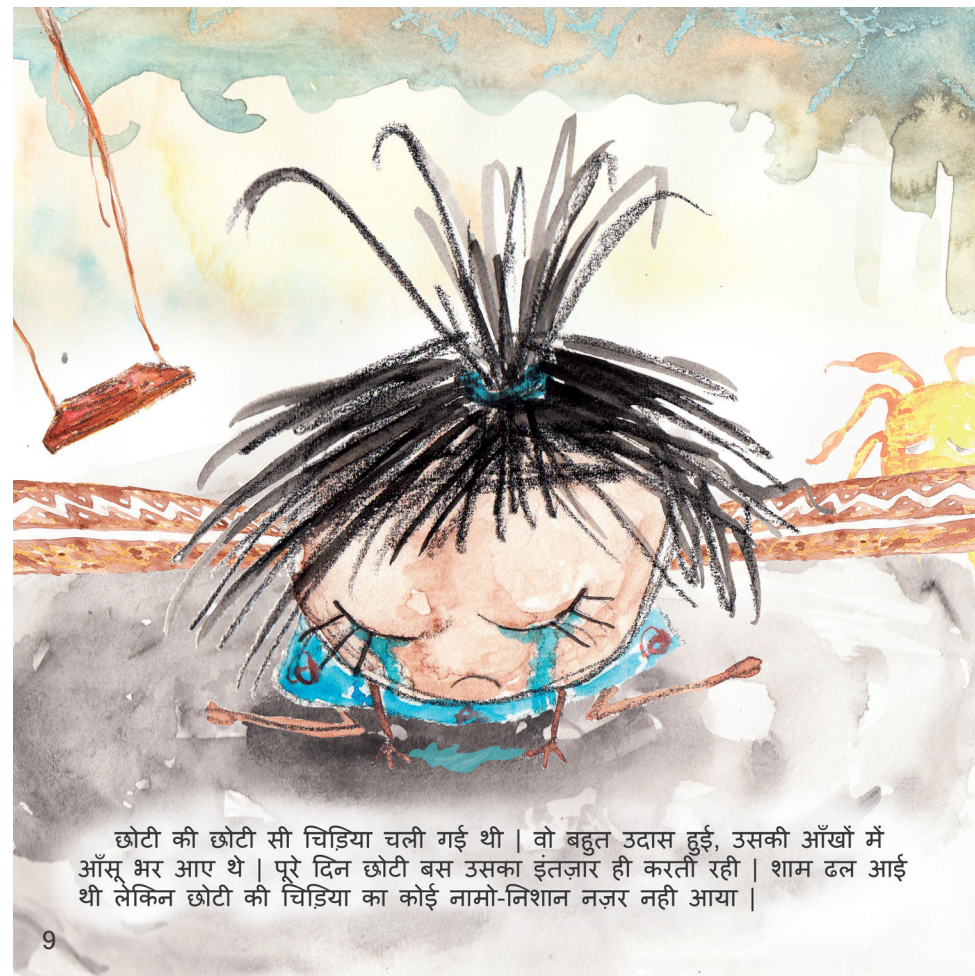
छोटी का नाम 'छोटी' इसलिए था क्योंकि वो घर में सबसे छोटी थी | वो 5 साल की छोटी दिन भर बस धूल-मिट्टी में खेलती रहती थी चाहे कितनी भी धूप करूँ ना हो | ऊपर से गरमियों की छुट्टियाँ भी चल रही थी तो छोटी पूरा दिन बस उस पेड़ के नीचे बिता देती थी |



छोटी ने बस कुछ नहीं सोचा और चिड़िया को उठाने के लिए हाथ बढ़ाया, लेकिन इतने में चिड़िया फुरररुरुर से आसमान की तरफ फिर से उड़ गई !



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छोटी की छोटी सी चिड़िया चली गई थी | वो बहुत उदास हुई, उसकी आँखों में आँसू भर आए थे | पूरे दिन छोटी बस उसका इंतज़ार ही करती रही | शाम ढल आई थी लेकिन छोटी की चिड़िया का कोई नामो-निशान नज़र नहीं आया |

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## Task 2: (Production house's introductory animation)

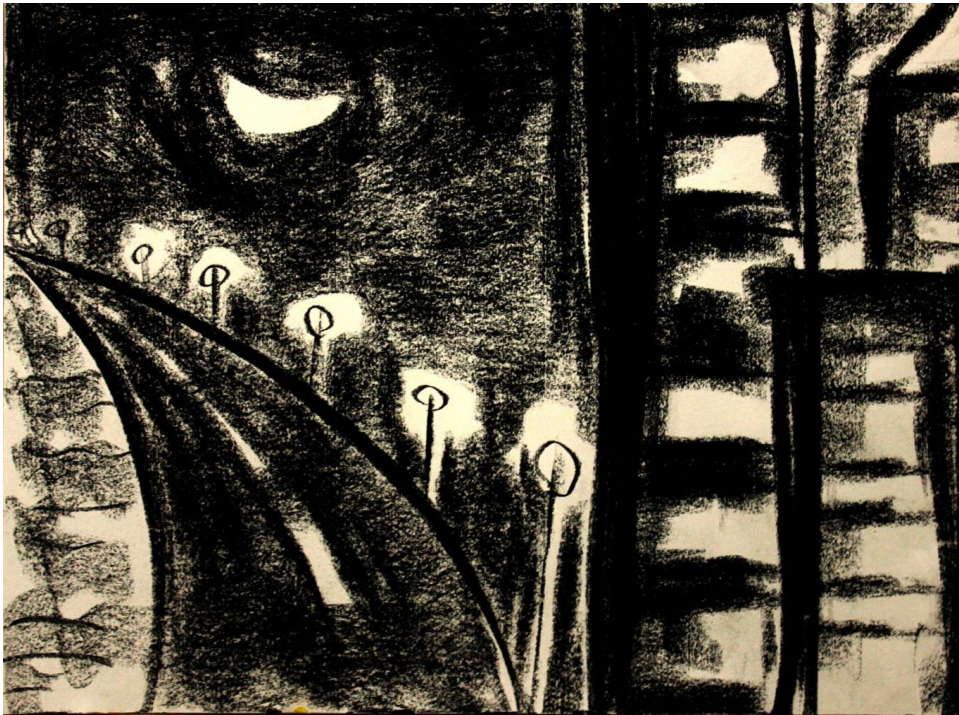
### CROWS

After looking at the crows which I have studied during the second semester (under Professor Shilpa Ranade), Paperboat Studio asked me to animate those crows as a production house's introductory animation. This brought me another project at Paperboat Animation Studios.



## BRIEF

This project was to create a very short animation sequence before the starting of a film in a film theatre for **'Saumitra Ranade Productions'**. The theme was to show the spirit of Mumbai as **'Living on the edge of a knife'**.



It's a night scene in Mumbai (Marine Drive). The camera trolley down from the high buildings and the night sky.

## STORYBOARDING AND CONCEPT ART

After discussing it with the team at Paperboat studios, I worked on the concept art and storyboard which was well appreciated. Since the animation is supposed to have a charcoalish finish, I did the storyboarding in the same feel. Some of the frames from the storyboard are as follows:



A car crash stops as someone is running by the road.



A man walks across the road, his silhouets and shadow are seen.



When he crosses, crows fly, and one of them comes towards the screen. This is where comes the title of the production house.

## **Acknowledgement**

I give my sincere thanks to the people I worked with at Paperboat Animation studios, especially Mayank and Aashish who were just appreciating me for the work I was doing, which is I suppose is the most important thing to learn, i.e. to appreciate ! Appreciation gives confidence which in turn leads to good work. In the end, I enjoyed working there. It was a great pleasure and I learned a lot.