

Ronn Brown

Educational Leadership

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QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Film and Television Production:

- 25+ years experience in the Film Industry working on films, television and special projects
- In-depth knowledge how to conceive projects from inception to completion
- Visual Effects and Animation features experience, both in staff and freelance capacities
- Calm, focused and collaborative guiding artist to a common goal
- Uphold studio standards, working relationships and other objectives
- Art Director for Feature Film, Television and Virtual Reality projects

Administration and Communication:

- Supervised both large and small crews for 10+ years
- Bid, prioritize and organized workloads to meet strict deadlines
- Trained and supported staff and kept teams on target
- Established and maintained strong working relationships with all levels of stakeholders
- Lead reviews for director and supervisor notes
- Experience in creating content, curriculum development, and mission statements

Technical Proficiencies:

- Thorough knowledge of how 3D programs, Card and Geometry projections and animated Cameras work to create dynamic shots
- 26+ years Adobe Photoshop experience and other Adobe Cloud Creative Suite
- Other software: Adobe After Effects, Cinema 4D, Foundry Nuke, proprietary software at different studios
- Proprietary production tracking programs and have used Shotgun for a project recently
- Current focus on conceptual design and color theory for a feature project I'm currently leading

Strengths and Accomplishments:

- Lead creative, production and technical teams in planning and alternative options
- Veteran matte painter in both Live Action and Animation
- Demonstrated ability to be flexible and meet deadlines
- Solid skills to improve productivity, efficiency and reduce costs
- Conceive and implement visual direction
- Formulate alternatives and paint-overs for creative reviews
- Lead creative teams for Virtual Reality projects and other emerging entertainment venues
- Peer reviews Visual Effects and Animation books for Focal Press
- Member of creative teams that have won numerous Academy awards, Emmys and was nominated for a VES award for best supporting matte painting in a feature film for Gangs of New York and nominated as a team Emmy team member for Best VFX in a TV Series for the Young Indiana Jones Chronicles: Attack of the Hawkman

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts The University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Major: Photography 1989

The Miami International University of Art and Design Graduate Department

Miami, Florida

Further education at the Graduate level: 2012 -

2014 Graduate Studio(s) 1-4 VA6400 - VA700

Graduate Thesis Research Issues in Contemporary Art

Critical Theories in Art History Art Deco ARH5003

Visual Art Studio Elective - Digital Photography and Digital Printing VA6450

World Cultures and Ethnographic Studies VA5600

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Academy of Art University

MFA Department Chair of Computer Arts and Animation 2001 - 2002
San Francisco, CA

Responsible for all aspects of managing the Graduate Program in Computer Arts and Animation. The Department had over 1600 Undergraduate and Graduate students studying Visual Effects and Animation for Films, Games and Television production. Hired and managed all staff and faculty in the Computer Arts Program. Co-Directed the Undergraduate Computer Arts and Animation Department. Developed and hosted lecture series with industry leaders such as, Ray Harryhausen, Syd Mead and Lorne Lanning. Formed the Presidential Advisory Committee featuring Ed Catmull, Richard Taylor and Richard Edlund. Produced a Student Awards show to coincide with the Portfolio Day. Invited industry leaders as presenters for the student awards. Formed the Graduate Student lab to work with Industry Professionals. Revamped the entire Computer Arts and Animation curriculum. Formed and led the curriculum development committee. Other duties included: budgeting, marketing advising, technology reviews and acquisitions, student and faculty mentoring, staff performance reviews, MFA thesis panel head and review and approved all MFA applicants portfolios in Computer Arts.

Digital Domain Institute / Florida State University

Inaugural Faculty 2014
West Palm Beach, FL

Created and taught the first course in Digital Matte Painting for the launch of Design Essentials program at Digital Domain Institute and Florida State University's co-sponsored Visual Effects program.

Miami International University of Art and Design

Full-Time Faculty of Visual Effects, Animation and Motion Graphics 2009 - 2013
Miami, FL

Taught courses in: Photoshop, Digital Matte Painting, Studio Production, Portfolio Development, Art Direction, Film Production, Internship courses, Special Project courses, and committee member of Graduate Student Thesis Projects. Developed the syllabus for numerous Digital Arts Courses. Taught cross-departmental courses in Film and Visual Effects. Served on the Faculty Development and Library Committees. Started on-line networking groups for Students, Faculty and Alumni. Manage Student exhibition space. Awarded Faculty Recognition for Teaching Excellence 2010.

The Art Institute of Portland

Online Faculty 2004
Pittsburgh, PA

Taught classes in Visual Effects and Animation Department. World Spaces and Designing for Video Games.

The Art Institute of Florida

Full-Time Faculty of Visual Effects, Animation and Film 2002-2004
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Taught classes in Visual Effects, Animation and Film Departments. Classes focused on Computer Graphics, Cinema and Art Foundations. Taught High School aged students for Summer Workshops and lectured on Visual Effects.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Freelance Visual Effects & Animation

AXISvfx, Global Cloud Based 2002 - Present

Creative Director, Visual Effects Supervising and Bidding Producer for Films and Television projects. Clients: Paramount Animation & Pictures, Disney's Mousetrapp, Warner Bros Television, Out of Order Studios, Rhythm & Hues, Dive vfx, Beyondreams Productions, Mind & Machine, Vanguard, Mandoo Studios, CIS Hollywood, and Black Dragon Studios.

Matte Painting Supervisor 2013 - 2017

Reel FX, Dallas, TX

Hired to create the Matte Painting department for the Feature Animation Production Department. Implemented the procedures for the department pipeline and working structures. Managed, scheduled and bid all productions relating to environments. Primary projects worked on were the animated features The Book of Life, Rock Dog and other in-house intellectual properties including VR and Commercials.

Commissioner in The Florida Office of Film and Entertainment 2011 - 2013

The State of Florida Government, Tallahassee, FL

Appointed by the Executive Branch and Governor of the State of Florida. Appointed to represent the Digital Arts in Visual Effects, Animation and Games for the State of Florida.

Senior Matte Painter 2008 - 2009

Sony Imageworks Animation Studios, Culver City, CA

Senior Matte Painter on the animated feature, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Used Cinema 4D, After Effects and Photoshop to create digital environments for the animated film. Work featured in the Art and Making of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs book.

Art Director 2008

Rhythm & Hues, Marina Del Rey, CA

Art Direction for the feature film Cirque du Freak: The Vampires' Assistant. Designed all characters, effects and environments for the film under the studio Production Supervisor and Directors specifications. Supervised the Look Development, Matte Painting, Modeling, Lighting, Effects, Design and 2/D teams. Also, created environments for the film The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor.

Matte Painting Department Head 2005 - 2008

Dreamworks, SKG, Glendale, CA

Recruited by Mr. Katzenberg to start a new Matte Painting department at Dreamworks Animation, SKG. Hired all staff and set-up the Matte Painting department for the following features: Over The Hedge, Flushed Away, Bee Movie and Kung Fu Panda. Provided accurate and dynamic solutions to create more efficient pipeline and creative input on design. Other responsibilities included: bidding, concept design, scheduling, training, marketing promotions and cross-company leadership.

Senior Digital Environment Artist 2003 - 2004

Framestore CFC, London, England

Matte Paintings and Digital environments for the feature films Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban and Thunderbirds.

Senior Matte Painter 2003

Weta Digital, LTD, Wellington, New Zealand

Senior Matte Artist on The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King. Work featured in The Art of Lord of the Rings: Return of the King book, Best of The Art of Lord Of the Rings book & Cinefex magazine.

Senior Matte Painter 1992 - 2003

Industrial Light & Magic, San Rafael, CA

Matte Paintings for Film & Television projects. Senior Matte Painter and Sequence Supervisor on Various Film & TV productions. Work Featured in The Making of Star Wars: Episode 1 book & numerous Cinefex issues. VES Nomination for Best Matte Paintings in a Feature Film for Scorsese's Gangs of New York.

LECTURER

Featured Lecturer on VFX and D3: Digital Design Expo Miami, FL	2016
Featured Lecturer on Visual Effects at Cairomet Cairo, Egypt	2011
Featured Speaker on Matte Painting at ANIMIAMI Miami, FL	2010
Produced and Hosted lecture featuring Ray Harryhausen and Phil Tippet at The Academy of Art University San Francisco, CA	2002
Produced and Hosted lecture featuring Syd Mead at The Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA	2002
Produced and Hosted lecture featuring Lorne Lanning and Tim McGovern at The Academy of Art University San Francisco, CA	2002
Hosted and Created the Presidential Advisory Committee for The Academy of Art University school of Computer Arts Week long lectures, seminars and students portfolio reviews. San Francisco, CA	2002
Lecturer on the Making of Star Wars: EP1 The Phantom Menace The Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA	2001

JUROR

NASA 2 Annual Humans in Space Youth Art Contest	2013
CG Universe Matte Painting Competitions	2012
Animiami Pitch Presentation panelist	2010
Visual Effects Society Awards numerous categories	2008
Annie Awards Production Design and Character Design	2007

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

The State of Florida Film and Entertainment Commission	2011-2013
Visual Effects Society	2001 - present
ASIFA, Hollywood	2005 - present
College Art Association	2009
The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films	2011
Vice chair 2001 San Francisco SIGGRAPH	2001

PUBLICATIONS AND FEATURED INTERVIEWS

Industrial Light & Magic: The Art of Innovation , Matte paintings By Pamela Glintenkamp	2011
Designs on Film: A Century of Hollywood and Art Direction , Credits and Acknowledgments By Cathy Whitlock	2001
The Cinema of George Lucas , Matte Paintings By Marcus Hearn and Ron Howard	2006
The Teaching Spot , Featured interview on Matte Paintings for Feature Films By C. Andrew Nelson	2005

The CG Channel, inc. , Featured interview for the animated feature film, Flushed Away By Jean-Eric	2005
The Sun Sentinel , Feature interview on the Invisible Art of Matte Painting By Margo Harakas Henault	2005
NBC 6 South Florida Today , Live Television interview on Creating the Digital Environments for the feature film; Lord of the Rings, Return of the King By interviewer & Host Lonnie Quinn	2003
Star Wars: Episode 1, The Making of The Phantom Menace , Matte Paintings and Credits By Laurent Bouzereau	1999
Computer Graphics World Magazine, Cover Art and included in the article on Star Wars: Episode 1, The Phantom Menace, Matte Paintings and Credits By Phil LoPiccolo	1999
The Bay City Times , Featured interview on Star Wars	1999
Cinefex Magazine , Numerous issues; Matte Paintings and Acknowledgments	1993 - 2000
Raja Journal of the Humanities The University of Michigan Publishing, Photography Essay	1985

EXHIBITIONS

LACDA 9th Annual "Snap to Grid" , Juried Photography exhibition participant Los Angeles, CA	2013
Miami International University of Art and Design , Faculty exhibition Miami, FL	2010
Sausalito Art Festival Digital Tent , Invited exhibitor of large digital mural for the Art Expo on New Emerging Art Technologies Sausalito, CA	2002
Art Works Downtown Gallery , Digital photography Group Show San Rafael, CA	2000
Paul Slusser Art Gallery , University of Michigan School of Art and Designs group Alumni exhibition Ann Arbor, MI	1999
After Hours After Dark , Industrial Light & Magic Artist group exhibit San Rafael, CA	1998
RayKo Gallery , Juried photography exhibition, Award Winner San Francisco, CA	1998
New World Gallery , group photography exhibition San Francisco, CA	1998
Royal Academy of London , Juried digital photography exhibition London, England	1995
The Rackham School of Arts & Science Gallery , Solo Traditional, Experimental and Digital Photography Ann Arbor, MI	1994
Carnegie Center for the Arts , Solo Photography Show Three Rivers, MI	1989
Paul Slusser Art Gallery , University of Michigan School of Art and Designs group art exhibition Winner of the Color Photography Palazzola Memorial Scholarship Ann Arbor, MI	1988
Wexner Center for the Arts , Juried group exhibition "AIDS the Artist Response" Columbus, OH	1986
Saginaw Art Museum , Annual Juried photography show Saginaw, MI	1985
Kodak International Snapshots Awards , Dual Winner in both Color and Black & White Categories	1984

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Online Design courses Photoshop, Nuke, Color Theory, Lightroom	2018
Nuke Compositing Departmental Training	2016
Graduate Research Seminar	2011
Creating Dynamic Presentations in the Classroom Seminar	2011
Writing at the Graduate Level Seminar	2011
Oral Presentation Skills Seminar	2011
Ceramics Seminar taught by Judith King	2010
The Art of Teaching - 8 week online Seminar	2009
SIGGRAPH attendee	1993 - 2001
San Francisco State University - The History of Animation Courses	1992
UC Berkeley Extension Computer Courses	1991

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

The Visual Effects Society Awards Nominee for Best Matte Painting in a Feature Gangs of New York	2002
Television Academy Emmy Nominee for Best Visual Effects Team The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles, Attack of the Hawkmen	1994
Winner of the Color Photography Palazzola Memorial Scholarship	1988
Kodak International Snapshots Awards, Dual Winner in both Color and Black & White Categories	1984