



The Monk and the Robot : Making of (July 2013)



It all began when my friend Wendy Wuyts advised me on attending the Puppets In prague workshop on Puppet for film animation. As I had to write and direct my diploma film at Prague Film School, I decided to take this workshop & these beautiful puppets came to my mind. The Monk and the Robot (I changed the tile at the end)

The key technical skills that made this possible are:

- Experience with 3D cg animation through my studio BAN (You can do without)
- Prague Film School intensive learning of the whole production process of filmmaking, from script to screen, while focusing on cinematography
- Puppet in Prague workshop. A specialized workshop about Puppet for Film Animation. We learned to design, sculpt and build the puppet, build the armature and animate it (the whole process).

Most importantly : Passion, love & the unconditional support of a very dear team (Oskari Polho, Alina Nikitina, Vivien Lalu, Alain Sawaya, David Caganek)

Puppets in Prague is a wonderful workshop for puppet making and the whole process of Puppet for film animation

I thought to share with you this beautiful experience, I hope it will inspire you !

April 1- April 15: Scenario writing

Two intensive weeks of script writing and storyboarding, with weekly consultations with school teachers.

I was used to plan everything digitally on Excel and copy paste between my script and storyboard. As I decided to do it the traditional way, I got this special black Book.

Working with a pencil and a book, in a parc, in a hidden room in a tea place changed the whole experience. There is something about the direct link between your thoughts and handwriting which is somehow more thought that a flowing keyboard typing. Erasing the words would take time, much more than a simple select and delete.

In 3 weeks of insanity, I had my short movie completely organised and visualised.

a- Character design

First comes the sketch and first idea of the characters

The Monk - Preliminary sketch

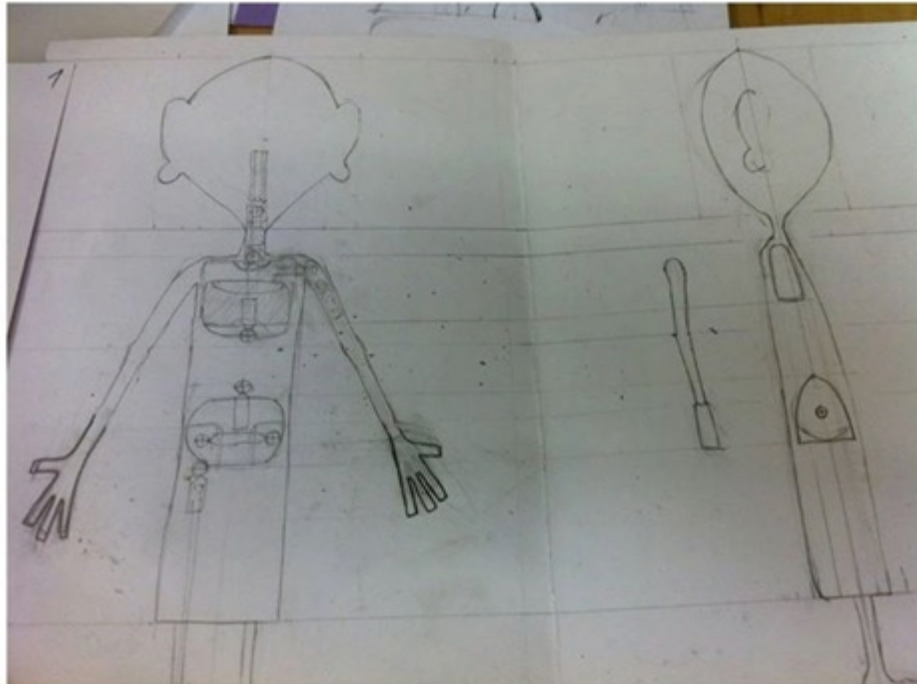


the robot- Preliminary sketch

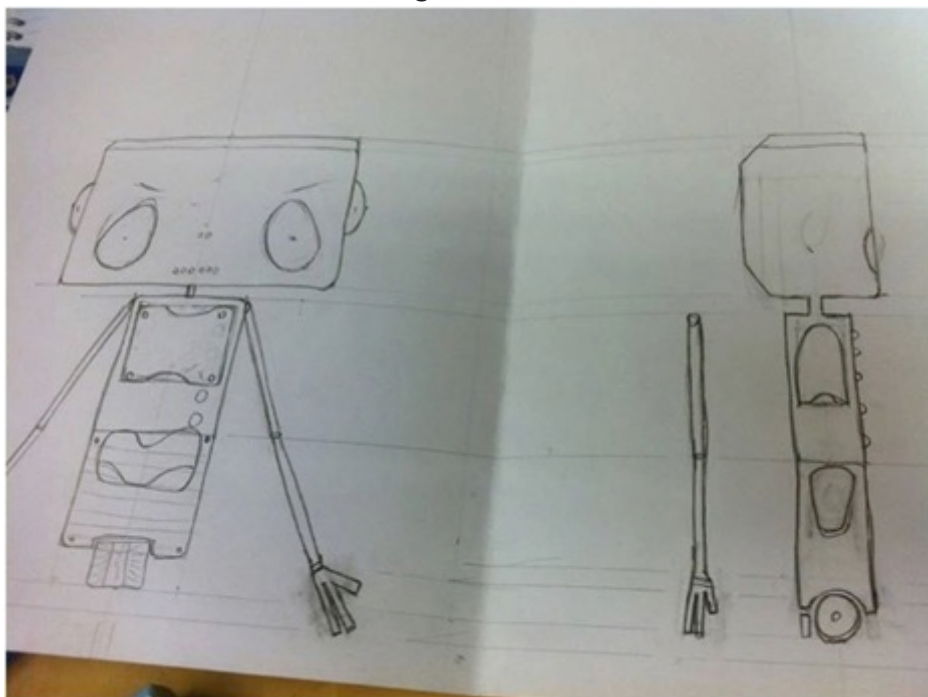


Then the technical drawings has to be done for the wood carving

The Monk - Technical drawing

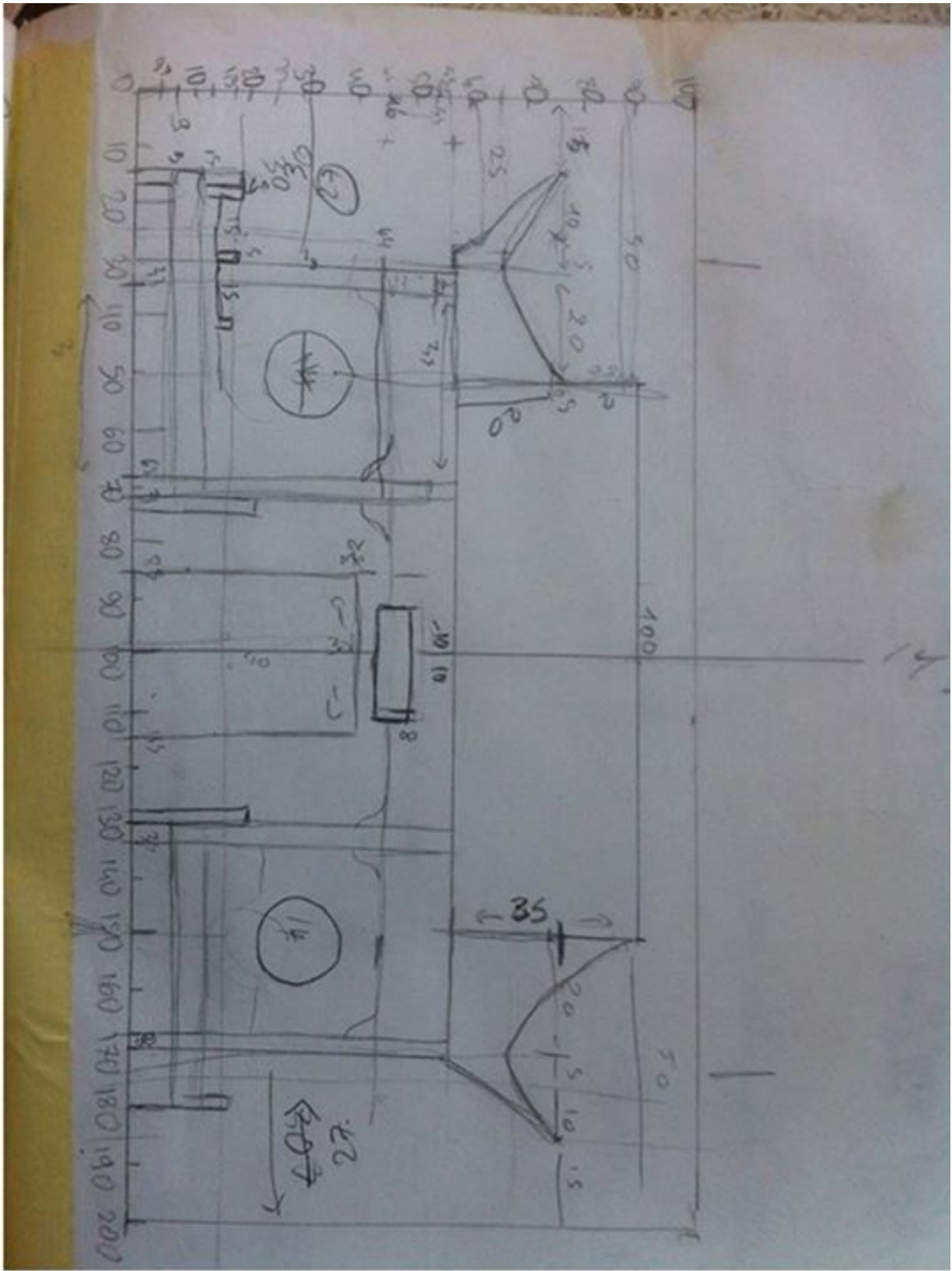


The Robot - Technical drawing



b- Background design & Floor plans (Staging of characters & All cameras placement)

The temple - preliminary technical drawing

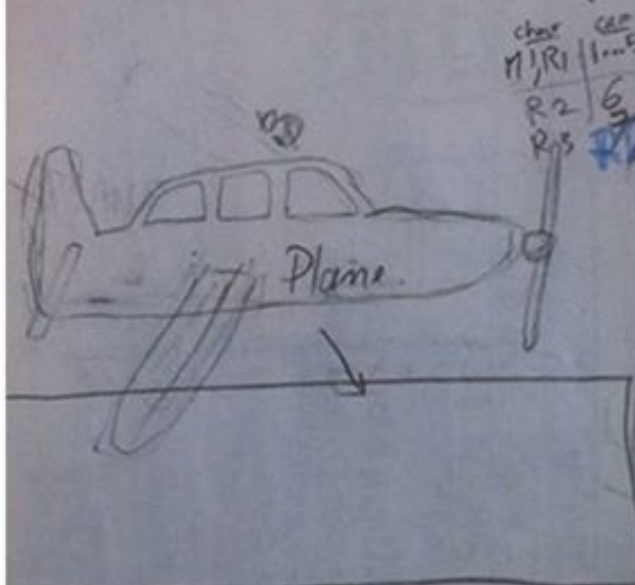


Aiport Floor Plan

FLOOR PLANS

Floorplan

AIRPORT ENTRANCE



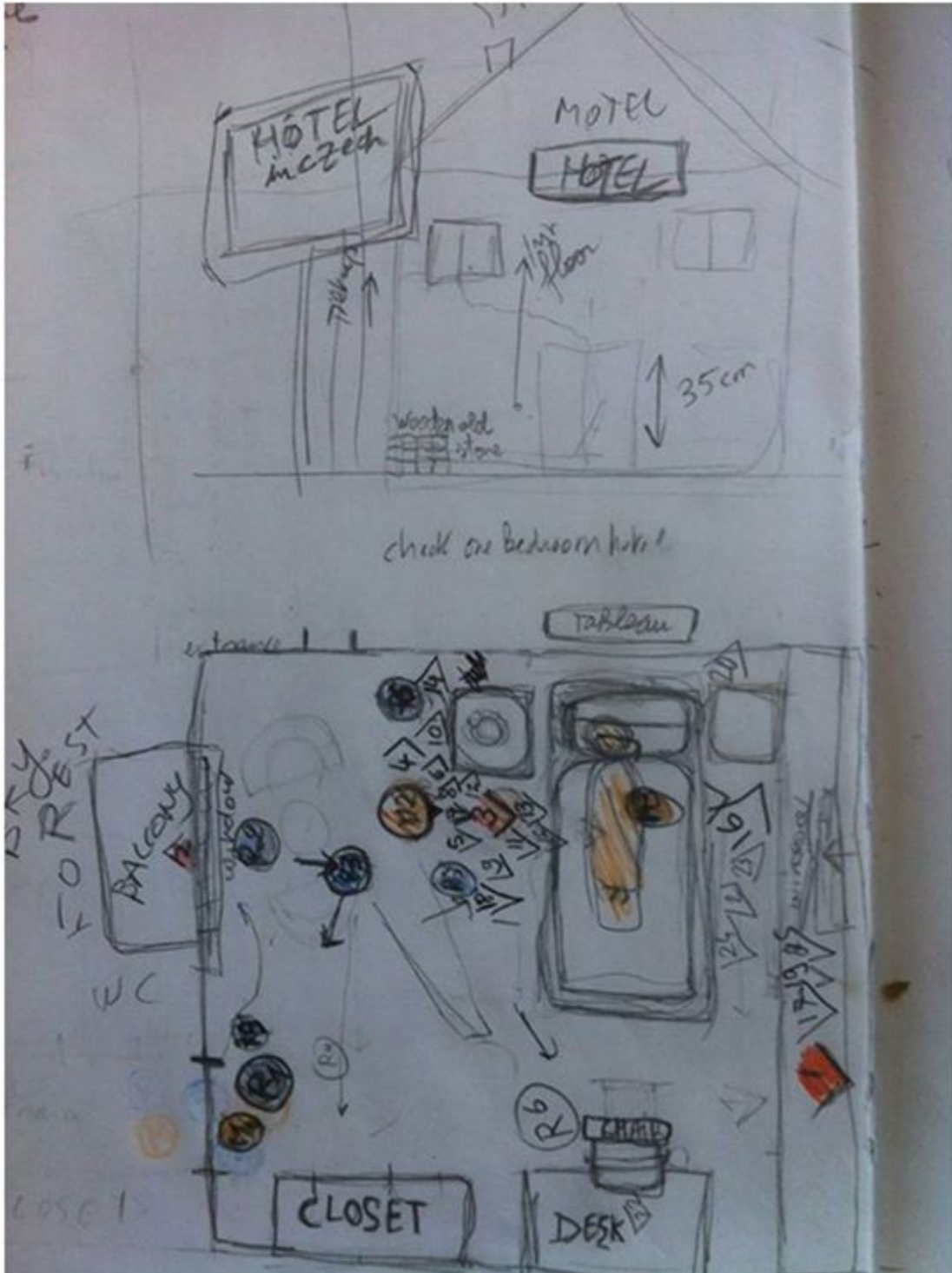
char	col
M/R1	1...5
R2	6
R3	7



Blueish cold atmosphere ..

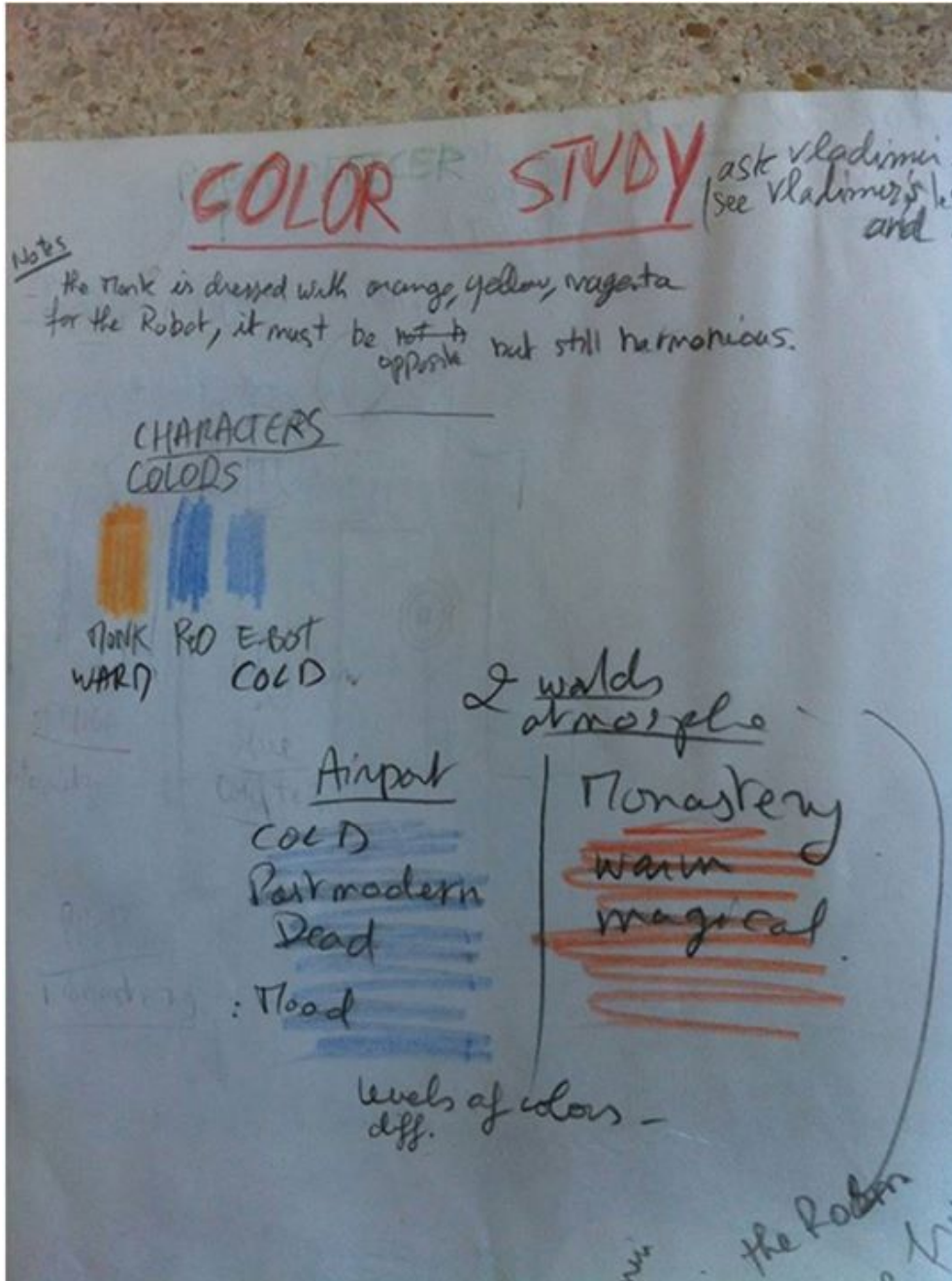


Hotel Room inside Floor Plan



c- Color Study & Art direction

Color Study



e- Storyboarding the final movie

Here are below the storyboard panels. In this process, there is no point of animating if your storyboard is not completely thought of and finalized. You must visualize the movie before going into production. In spite of scanning all the pages, here are a few. There were around 30 sheets, with around 90 frames.



April 17- April 30 : Workshop Puppets in Prague

9am -6pm at atelier Puppets in Prague - What a beautiful workshop :)

Puppet Building

Technical drawing

Wood Carving

Body

Hair & Make up

Wooden parts

Latex Parts with wires inside

Cloth design & tailoring

Here are some pictures :

Monk's body and Head parts



Sculpting monk's head



Hand molded, ready to go into latex process



Mirek helping with the Monk



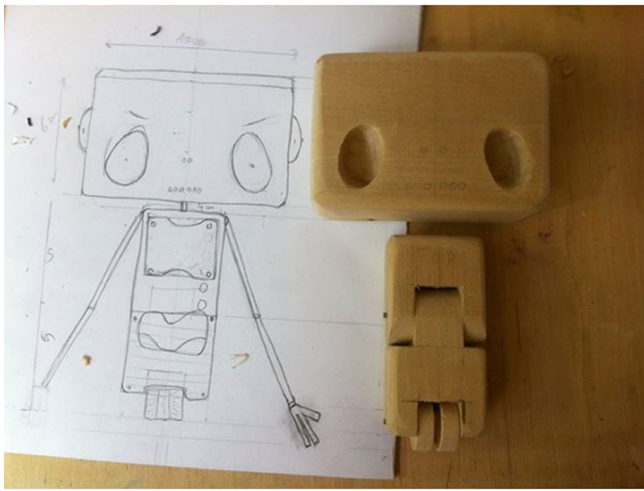
Monk full body, ready to get dressed and to put his shoes on.



Monk's head ready for polish and then painting :)



Robot technical drawing & parts



Monk technical drawing & parts



7 pm-3am : Set building at my place, transformed in atelier

Cardboard

Cutter

Hotglue

Acrylic Paint & brushes

You can check some pictures at this album :

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.346944865457952.1073741831.346829242136181&type=3>

The workshop is now finished. Thanks to the help of Puppets in Prague, I got to finish creating the Monk & the Robot characters. Now, it is time to go back to Prague Film School for the next steps

May 1: Checkout Equipment from School & first setup, with DP Oskari

5 dedo Lights

Camera 60 D +tripod

Reflectors

2 C-stands

(No pictures available) - Our hands were carrying equipment :)

As for the next steps, I did not have time & extra hands to do a proper making of video or tutorial.

May 2 – May 20 :

Photography strategy with Oskari

Oskari Polho, my friend classmate at PFS, is such a great cinematographer. He established a strategy of lighting, specially customized for this process of stopmotion. He would come before I begin to animate, place the lights, draw diagrams of which lights to use & when, with light placement and camera settings

In respect to my shooting, I would then place the camera depending on the angles that I fixed in preproduction.

Stopmotion animation and time corrections

It took me around 18 days, 12h/day to animate the characters frame by frame, on an average of 14 fr/sec.

Post Production

May 20-21 : Editing corrections and timing adjustments

May 22: Music by Vivien Lalu - VO, SFX by Alain Sawaya

May 23 : School Submission

For more info about the process of Puppet making, please check Puppets in Prague:
http://www.puppetsinprague.eu/how_to_make_puppets.html

I got absorbed with this form of visual storytelling. I would definitely do it again !

Alain Nasnas (aka Ban)

Author/Director