Contemporary Animation and Visual Effects Education: Balancing Different Influences and Pressures to Allow for Creative Expression, Established Industry Production Practices, and New Research Possibilities

Abstract:
While on sabbatical last March, David Donar was invited to do a presentation at Vancouver’s Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, one of the premiere visual art schools in North America. David will discuss the challenges in finding the right balance between the arts and sciences and how to implement it into a digital arts education. In addition to education, he will shed light into creative expression and how it can lead into new research opportunities for students, faculty and staff. Finally, Professor Donar will share in his creative research project an animated landscape of “Lake Simcoe” which is located north of Toronto, Ontario.

Bio:
David Donar is an Associate Professor at Clemson University teaching visual arts, story and animation within the Digital Production Arts program. He is an alumni of California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) and taught and developed the Bachelor's of Animation degree at Sheridan Institute in Toronto, Canada. David’s career spans many different venues, industry, and medium which includes Disney Interactive and TV, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, and Mondo Media. Professor Donar started his career as a political cartoonist and his work has been published in the NY Times, CNN, Wall Street Journal and the Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year. In addition to cartooning his films have aired on MTV, PBS and the Independent Film Channel and screened in film festivals throughout the world.