

# Stephen X. Arthur

## Independent filmmaker: experimental animation

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### Education

- M.F.A. film production - Univ. Southern California, 1981
- M.Sc., B.Sc.- Univ. British Columbia, 1990, 1977

### Filmography

- 2001 *Blind Man* (video)
- 2000 *Vision Point II; Fall Forward Spring Back; Perception Play* (video)
- 1999 *Vision Point* (video)
- 1998 *Transfigured* (35mm)
- 1996 *Touched Alive* (35mm)
- 1995 *The Recess* (video)
- 1995 *Area 7, Arch Rivals, & Presto Agitato* (video)
- 1994 *Hybrid Vigour* (video)
- 1992-93 *Dance in M Minor, Gesture, Fetish Dance, & Mountain Pass Variation* (video)
- 1980 *Look Twice* (16mm - live action)
- 1978 *Breakfall* (16mm - live action)
- 1978 *Splitstream* (16mm - live action)
- 1977 *Over A New Leaf* (16mm - live action)
- 1976 *REM* (16mm - live action)
- 1975 *Anizen* (16mm)
- 1972 *Animartian* (16mm)
- 1970/71 *Absurdo* (16mm)
- 1969-1970 *The Pulsating Universe; The Wrinkled Camel; Discontinued* (early super-8mm & audio tape)

### Major Exhibitions

- Canadian Animation Retrospective, Casa da Animacao, Porto, Portugal, 2001
- Artropolis 2001 exhibition of contemporary art in BC -- curated section
- Best of the Northwest 2001 touring program, Alaska, BC, Washington, Oregon, etc (Northwest Film Center Portland)
- "Image and Light, History and Influence: Film and Photographic Works, Vancouver," Pacific Cinematheque and Charles Scott Gallery, curated by Anne Pollock, Nov. 2000
- Independent Exposure Program at Boston Underground Film Revolution, Zeitgeist Gallery; The Washington DC Psychotronic Film Society; Transat Video in Garsouille, France 2001; Nodance Film and Multimedia Festival Park City Utah, 2001; and The Substation, Singapore; curated by Microcinema, Inc./Blackchair Prod.
- Homage to the National Film Board of Canada ("Homage d' ONF: inequisable pepiniere de talents"), AFCA Animateur, Paris, France, 2000.
- "Here is There, There is Anywhere: Canadian Animation at the Turn of the Century" - curated by Chris Robinson; Vietnam (March), Fredrikstad Norway (May), Vancouver (April), Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, 2000
- "Frozen Moments: Implications of the Digital Revolution on Independent Animation in Canada" - Indep. Film/Video

Alliance AGM, Edmonton, Alberta, June 2000.

- Cinematheque Ontario (Toronto) - "Independents" series, April 5, 2000
- (TV): KNOW TV (BC, Canada), Feb 5 & April 11, 2000
- National Gallery of Canada "NFB Animation Art," Ottawa, October 1999
- "Celebration of BC Animation: Retrospective of a Quarter Century of Independent Animation", Special 4-day event, Pacific Cinematheque, Vancouver, 1999.
- Rockefeller Center Video Wall, New York - in repeated International Animation Program, April-June, 1999
- (TV): in BBC Personal Passions series, "Desmond Morris - The Surrealist," 1999
- Vancouver Art Gallery "Memorial for Jack Shadbolt," Judge MacGill Theatre, 1999 (live on Rogers Cable)
- Bau-Xi Gallery Toronto - one-person video repeat, 1998
- Cinematheque Quebecois (Montreal) & Pacific Cinematheque (Vancouver), "Recent Independent Canadian Animation," 1998)
- "Best of the Northwest" touring film show (Northwest Film Center), 1997
- Black Maria touring film show (Edison Media Arts Consortium, Jersey City State College), 1997
- Moving Pictures touring film show (western Canada), 1997
- (TV): Teletoon Channel *Splat!* Series - "National Film Board" segment, 1997, repeating
- Spike and Mike's 20<sup>th</sup> Festival of Animation touring film show, 1997
- (TV): CBC "Canadian Reflections," 1996 (and ongoing interstitials)
- Vancouver International Airport - Big Screen continuous showing through December, 1996
- Commercial cinemas in Vancouver - seven screens simultaneously for three weeks as prefeature short, at The Park, The Varsity, and Fifth Avenue Cinemas (multiplex), Festival Cinemas indep. chain, November 1996
- Bau-Xi Gallery Vancouver, & Burnaby Art Gallery, 1996
- Edison Electric Gallery of Moving Images: "Shifting Perspectives: The Animation of Stephen Arthur," Vancouver, July 6 - Aug 3, 1995
- (TV): Independent Film Channel 34 New York, 1995
- (TV): KWSU-TV in "The Animated World," 1995
- (TV) Knowledge Network "Schools TV," 1995-96
- (TV) Rogers Community 4 "Production Parade," 1993, 1992, 1978, 1976
- (TV) CBC - *Bob Switzer Show*, 1978

### **Festivals listed separately (with awards):**

- Kinetica-3, traveling festival of abstract film/video - iotaCenter, 2001-2002.
- Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival, 2001
- Reel to Real Film Festival and workshops, Vancouver, 2001
- Nomad VideoFilm Festival touring Seattle, Portland, SF,

Berkley, 2001

- 27th Northwest Film and Video Festival (NWFC), 2000
- 3rd Vancouver Underground Film Festival, 2000
- **Award for Best Musical Score**, and **Nomination for Best Director**. Animated Production, BC Film and Television Industry Leo Awards, 2000
- World Animation Celebration - Official Competition (Los Angeles), 2000
- Ottawa '00 International Animation Festival Independent Short Films Competition, and New Canadian Panorama, 2000
- 16th International Hamburg Short Film Festival, Germany 2000.
- Regensburg Film Festival, Germany - Independent Exposure Programme, 2000
- Bellevue Art Museum Film and Video Festival (Seattle Washington USA), 2000
- RESFEST Digital Film Festivalworld tour; 2000
- Planet in Focus: Toronto Environmental Film and Video Festival, Sept, 2000
- Hollywood Shorts "Spotlight on Animation," Los Angeles, September, 2000
- "Canada Now" program at Animert Dager: the Nordic Baltic Animation Festival, Norway, 2000
- **Director's Citation** - Black Maria Film & Video Festival, 2000
- Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival, 2000
- **Silver Award for Animation** - New York Exposition of Short Film and Video, 1999
- Annecy International Animation Festival - Festival Favorites (France), 1999
- **Golden Sheaf Nomination: Animation** - Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival (Sask.), 1999
- **Golden Sheaf Nomination: Sound** - Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival (Sask.), 1999
- New York Exposition of Short Film and Video, 1999
- Vancouver Effects and Animation Festival, 1999
- New Zealand Film Festival, 1999
- Melbourne International Film Festival, 1999
- Brisbane International Film Festival, 1999
- Hong Kong International Film Festival, 1999
- San Diego World Film Festival, 1999
- Maryland Film Festival, 1999
- Central Florida Film and Video Festival, 1999
- New York Animation Festival, 1999
- Cleveland International Film Festival, 1999
- Taos Talking Pictures Festival (New Mexico), 1999
- Victoria Independent Film Festival - NFB 60th Anniversary Retrospective, 1999
- Czechoslovakian International Film Festival for Children and Youth (Zlin), 1999
- Hiroshima '98 International Animation Festival in Japan - Official Competition, 1998
- Montreal World Film Festival - Official Competition, 1998
- Ottawa '98 International Animation Festival - New Canadian Animation, 1998
- "Best of Ottawa '98" Showcase, Toronto and Germany, 1998
- "Cartoon" - The Swiss International Animated Film Festival (Mendrislo), 1998

- Vancouver International Film Festival, 1998
- Quebec International Film Festival, 1998
- International Festival of Films on Art (Montreal), 1997
- Berlin International Film Festival, 1997
- **Juror's Citation Award** - Black Maria Film/Video Festival (Edison Media Arts Consortium, Jersey City State College), 1997
- **Judge's award** - Northwest Film & Video Festival (Northwest Film Center, Portland), 1996
- "Festival of Festivals" Toronto International Film Festival, 1996
- Atlantic Film Festival (Halifax), 1996
- **Jury Award** - New York Exposition of Short Film & Video, 1996
- Vancouver International Film Festival, 1996
- **Best Animation** - Sea to Sky Film Festival, 1996
- Northwest Film and Video Festival (Portland, WA), 1995
- Nomad Video Festival (Seattle, San Francisco), 1995
- Olympia Film Festival - "Cine-X" program, 1995
- Video Rampage (Video In, Vancouver), 1994
- Festival of Five, Vancouver, 1994
- **First Prize (Experimental)** - Long Island International Film Festival, 1979
- **Fred A. Niles Communication award** - Chicago International Film Festival, 1979
- **Eight First Prize Awards for independent films made before attending film school: 1971-76 (Absurdo, Animartian, Anizen, & REM): 6th, 7th, & 8th Annual B.C. Student Film Festivals, 1974, 1975, 1976 (plus "Best of show" BC Student Film Festivals, 1975, 1976); Canadian Film Awards for Young Filmmakers (Motion Canada), 1976; Canadian Student Film Festival (Famous Players), 1971; Vancouver Student Film Festival, 1971; Second Prize, Pacific Northwest Film Festival, 1970**

### Collections that include my work

- DVD RELEASE: *Best of RESFEST Shorts Vol. 1*, 2001
- HOME VIDEO RELEASE: *100% Independent: A Selection of 17 Canadian animated short films, 1980-2000*, produced by ASIFA-Canada, 2000.
- ASIFA Northwest Showreels, 1996 and 2002
- Vancouver Public Library, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design library, iotacenter library (LA), Northwest Film Center (Portland)
- National Film Board of Canada Collection
- Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre, Moving Images (Vancouver), Microcinema Inc. (San Fransisco)

### Commissions, Grants, Fellowships

- Canada Council Travel Grant for presentations, panels, and screenings at Ottawa 00 International Animation Festival, 2000
- Canada Council Creative Development Grant in Media Arts (Film), 1999-2000
- National Film Board of Canada commission to develop my original film series, "*Earth Moves*," using 3D CGI animation for continental **landscape time-lapse on the scale of millions of years**, 1998-2000 (for eventual NFB production).
- NFB travel grant to attend as guest of Hiroshima International Animation Festival in Japan, 1998

- Commission to expand independent fine-art animation film as NFB film production, 1996 (*Touched Alive* becomes part of *Transfigured*)
- NFB Program to Assist Filmmakers in the Private Sector, 1996 (*Touched Alive*)
- Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 1979 (*to attend USC*)
- William Rea Fellowship in Television, 1978 (*to attend USC*)
- Canada Council Film Production Grant, 1978 (*Splitstream*)
- NFB Program to Assist Filmmakers in the Private Sector, 1977 (*Over a New Leaf*)
- West Vancouver Parks & Recreation, 1977 (*Over a New Leaf*)
- UBC Faculty of Education, Dept. of Audiovisual Media, 1972 (*Animartian*)

## Critical Reviews

- Maija Martin, "Supernatural British Columbia," *Artropolis 2001 Celebrating Contemporary BC Visual Art*, exhibition catalogue, A.T. Eight Artropolis Society, 2001
- Stephanie Yamniuk, *CM Magazine*, Vol VII, No 9, Manitoba Library Association, Jan 2001
- Maureen Furniss, "Fresh from the Festivals," *Animation World Magazine*, Issue 4.8, November 1999 and January 2001
- Holly Willis, *RES: The Magazine of Digital Filmmaking*, Fall 2000, Vol 3 #4.
- In "Independent Exposure", *Seattle Weekly*, Sept 28, 2000
- Emru Townsend, "World Film Festival - Three NFB animated shorts make excellent use of new technology," *The Mirror* (Montreal), August 27 - September 3, 1998
- Paula Gufstason, editorials, *Artichoke*, Spring 1997, & Summer 1998
- Mark Harris, Film Festival Notes, *The Georgia Straight: Vancouver's News & Entertainment Weekly*, Oct. 1998
- Leslie Bishko, "Power Tools: A Look at How Three Vancouver Animators Have Explored Digital Imagery," *ASIFA Canada*, Vol 24, No 2, July 1997
- Michael Scott, in "Inventive paintings trace process of creation," *Vancouver Sun*, July 13, 1996
- Dan Ireland, "Northwest Film Festival takes a turn left," *The Oregonian*, Nov 1, 1996
- Kerry Gold, column "The Scene", *Vancouver Sun*, Feb 3, 1997
- Leslie Bishko, in "Vancouver Animation," *The Independent Film & Video Monthly*, Vol 19, No 19 (FIVF), Nov 1996
- Laurence Green, in Updates and Short Takes, *POV* (Canadian Independent Film Caucus), Fall 1996

## Other Relevant Activities

- **Workshop** on Experimental Bitmap Animation presented at Ottawa 00 International Animation Festival, Sept 2000
- "Frozen Moments" program of independent animation films and **panel discussion** curated by QAS at both the Ottawa 00 International Animation Festival and at the Independent Film and Video Alliance 2000 National Conference on Media Arts: "That Digital Thing" in Edmonton, 2000
- **Panel** discussion on Independent Animation at Ottawa 00 International Animation Festival, 2000
- **Jury** for National Film Board of Canada's *Award for Best Animated Film*, Vancouver International Film Festival, 1999
- **Guest Speaker**: "The Making of *Vision Point*" (and other

works in progress), Vancouver Film School, Multimedia Campus, 1999

- **Guest Speaker** & curator, "Abstract Animation," Center for Digital Imaging & Sound, 1998
- **Guest Speaker**, "Tribute to Jack Shadbolt", Artists for Kids Gallery, 1998
- (TV): **Interview**, demonstration, screening, "Studio BC" profile, Knowledge Network KNO, 1997
- **Guest Speaker**, Vancouver Film School, Multimedia Campus (honorary), 1996 & 1998
- **Guest Speaker** & curator, "Experimental Animation," ASIFA-Canada Vancouver Chapter, 1995
- **Guest Speaker**, "Dramatizing Information," Society for Technical Communication, Vanc., 1984
- **Instructor**: "Writing for Film, Television and Radio," 2 semesters, Institute for Communication Arts (Vancouver), 1984, 1987
- **Original feature-length screenplays**: *Big Breaks*, 1986; *Critical Mass*, 1983 option to produce sold to MTA/Persik Productions, Los Angeles, 1987; *Getting It*, 1982, option to produce sold to R&K Productions/Rudy Rucker, L.A., 1982; *"Critical Mess"*, 1980, option to produce sold to Licht-Mueller Films, L.A., 1980; *Placebo*, 1979; *Eclipse*, 1977.
- **Photography**: (1) *Connecting Art and Nature - Photographs by Stephen Arthur*, Amelia Douglas Gallery, August 1995. (2) Wildlife photography for "Duck Hybrids and Variants in Greater Vancouver," *Discovery* 23:1, 1994
- **Story Analyst** (reader) for HBO, NBC, Chuck Fries Productions, and Telefilm Canada (freelance 1983-1985)
- **Anna Wyman Dance Company** - one-month full-time intensive Contemporary Dance Workshop, including choreography of short dance for six dancers, publicly presented, Shawnigan Lake Summer School for the Arts, B.C., 1974.
- **Graphic Designer**, UBC Faculty of Education, Media Dept (incl. animated department logo), 1974
- **Video scripts** (training, educational, & commercial clients): Justice Institute of BC; BC Ministry of Forests (Nutec Training/Black Tusk Video); BC Cancer Research Center; Fisheries Council of BC (BCIT A/V Prod. Dept); BC Children's Hospital (Biomedical Communications); Hillsborough Resources (Shane Lunny Prod.); Trans Atlantic Resources (Mott Communications); Bikes on Broadway (Massey Prod.); BC Central Credit Union (Vidatron Prod.), West Vancouver Parks and Recreation.