

# Dustin Arthur Grella

## Bio

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**Dustin Arthur Grella** was raised in the rural community of Medina, Ohio, and now resides in New York City. He received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts, being honored with the Paula H. Rhodes Award for Excellence in Computer Art. His animations' accolades include winning the Walt Disney Award at the prestigious Ottawa International Animation Festival. In early 2010 the Akron Art Museum featured his short film Prayers for Peace in a four-month installation.

# Dustin Arthur Grella

## Artist Statement

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Being obsessive and compulsive in our society often time carries negative connotations, however in my work I prefer to celebrate these traits and often times refer to it as OCC, Obsessive Compulsive Culture. I approach my work as if it were a puzzle, taking an action or an idea and aggressively repeating it, sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously, until a resolution is found. Often times the journey is more interesting than the destination, and although a singular action is desired and chosen, influences outside of the realm of control help guide the work into new arenas.

One of my major projects is the Notes to Self project, in which I've written and then mailed, myself a letter every day for almost eight years has generated 3301 letters (and counting), which remain meticulously ordered and still sealed to this day. The slight variations in the project, a change of font, the physical location of the cancellation stamp, and of course what is written inside, are nuances that help decipher time's complexities.

Animation is also a natural meditation for me. I set up a camera on a one-minute timer that records the image, and then I allow myself to draw and explore the direction of the next frame, sometimes a narrative emerges and sometimes the path is abstract. The importance is often times not placed on the product, but on the act of creation.

# Dustin Arthur Grella

## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Exhibitions:**

2010 *Animation at Art Basel*, Casa Wynwood, Miami, FL  
2010 *Midnight Sun*, Summit ArtSpace, Akron, OH  
2010 *Parallel Threads*, West Side Gallery, New York, NY  
2010 *The Only Constant*, Corsica Studios, London, England  
2010 *Referential*, Asterisk Gallery, Cleveland, OH  
2009 *Shaw Video Box*, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH  
2009 *Mediated Realities*, Visual Arts Gallery, New York, NY  
2009 *Know Sense*, West Side Gallery, New York, NY  
2008 MFA Computer Art Open Studios. New York, NY  
2008 *Continuous Current*, West Side Gallery, New York, NY  
2007 *Rockport Center for the Arts* Rockport, TX  
2007 *Filmstock*, The Hat Factory, Luton, United Kingdom  
2007 *Generative Animator*, SPACELab, SPACES, Cleveland, OH  
2007 *19*, Asterisk Gallery, Cleveland, OH  
2007 *Dustin Arthur Grella*, Summit ArtSpace, Akron, OH (Solo)  
2004 *Notes to Self*, Bierce Library Gallery, Akron, OH  
2003 *Notes to Self*, Folk Hall Upper Atrium, Akron, OH  
2003 Medina County Library, Medina, OH

### **Screenings:**

2010 Ottawa International Animation Festival, Ottawa, Canada  
2010 Anima Mundi, Rio de Jenerio, Brazil.  
2010 Annecy Animation Festival, Annecy, France  
2010 Cinequest, San Jose, CA  
2010 Stuttgart Festival of Animation, Stuttgart, Germany  
2010 London Short Film Festival, London, England  
2010 London Short Film Festival, London, UK  
2010 Standing Rock Film Festival, Kent, OH  
2010 Thin Line Film Festival, Denton, TX  
2010 ShowBiz Prestige, Longbeach, CA  
2010 Sedona International Film Festival, Sedona, AZ  
2010 True/False Film Festival, Columbia, MO  
2010 Sebastopol Documentary Film Fest, Sebastopol, CA  
2010 Monstra, Lisbon Animated Film Fest, Lisbon, Portugal  
2010 Heart of Gold Film Festival, Gympie, QLD

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Screenings Continued:**

2010 da Vinci Film Festival, Corvallis, OR  
2010 Vineyard Film Festival, Nicosia, Cyprus  
2010 San Diego IndieFest, San Diego, CA  
2010 Edgemar Short Film Festival, Edgemar, CA  
2010 Atlanta Film Festival, Atlanta, GA  
2010 Wisconsin Film Festival, Madison, WI  
2010 Buffalo Niagra Film Festival, Buffalo, NY  
2010 Sehnsuechte Film Festival, Potsdam, Germany  
2010 Rincon Film Festival, Rincon, Puerto Rico  
2010 Rochester Film Festival, Rochester, NY  
2010 On Location Memphis, Memphis, TN  
2010 Newport Beach Film Festival, Newport Beach, CA  
2010 BE Film Underground Film Festival, New York, NY  
2010 Human Rights Film Festival, Melbourn, Australia  
2010 Connecticut Film Festival, Danbury, CT  
2010 Talking Pictures Festival, Evanston, IL  
2010 GI Film Festival, Washington, DC  
2010 Black Hills Film Festival, Rapid City, SD  
2010 Krakow Film Festival, Krakow, Poland  
2010 Detmold International Short Film, Detmold, Germany  
2010 Waterfront Film Festival, Saugatuck, MI  
2010 CrankCookie Short Film Festival, Passau, Germany  
2010 Maui Film Festival, Maui, HI  
2010 Urban Suburban Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA  
2010 Provincetown Film Festival, Provincetown, MA  
2010 SilverDOCS, Silver Springs, MD  
2010 Palm Springs ShortFest, Palm Springs, CA  
2010 Docuwest, Golden, CO  
2010 Hyart Film Festival, Lovell, WY  
2010 Maine International Film Festival, Waterville, Maine  
2010 Rappahannock Film Festival, Fredricksburg, VA  
2010 Festival de Curmetratges Mas Sorrer, Barcelona, Spain  
2010 Marbella Film Festival, Maidenhead, United Kingdom  
2010 Edinburgh Int'l Film Festival, Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
2010 Wiesbaden Weekend of Animation, Wiesbaden, Germany  
2010 Fest Anca, Bratislava, Slovak Republic  
2010 Flagstaff Film Festival, Flagstaff, Arizona

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Screenings Continued:**

2010 Bend Film Festival, Bend, OR  
2010 TriMedia Festival, Fort Collins, CO  
2010 Filmshift Film Festival, Somerville, MA  
2010 Grand Rapids Film Festival, Grand Rapids, MI  
2010 Atlantic Film Festival, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2010 Bay Street Film Festival, Thunder Bay, ON, Canada  
2010 3D Wire  
2010 Woodstock Film Festival, Woodstock, NY  
2010 Port Townsend Film Festival, Port Townsend, OR  
2010 Filmfest Eberswalde, Eberswalde, Germany  
2010 Akron Film Festival, Akron, OH  
2010 Raindance Film Festival, London, England  
2010 Time Film Festival, Lausanne, Switzerland  
2010 Forester Film Festival, Forester, Australia  
2010 Atlanta Underground Film Festival, Atlanta, GA  
2010 DC Shorts, Washington DC  
2010 Naples International Film Festival, Naples, FL  
2010 Kerry Film Festival, Tralee, Kerry, Ireland  
2010 Indie Memphis Film Festival, Memphis, TN  
2010 Filmshift Film Festival, Sudbury, MA  
2010 United Nations Association, Palo Alto, CA  
2010 Savannah Film Festival, Savannah, GA  
2010 Red Rock Film Festival, Zion Canyon, UT  
2010 Ellensburg Film Festival, Ellensburg, WA  
2010 Florida Film Festival, Maitland, FL  
2010 Griffon International Film Festival, St. Joseph, MO  
2010 Durango Independent Film Festival, Durango, CO  
2010 Lake Arrowhead Film Festival, Lake Arrowhead, CA  
2010 Boulder International Film Festival, Boulder, CO  
2010 New Jersey Film Festival, New Brunswick, NJ  
2010 Documentary Edge Film Festival, Auckland, New Zealand  
2010 Expotoons, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
2010 Bradford Animation Festival, Bradford, United Kingdom  
2010 Hardacre Film Festival, Tipton, IO  
2010 Sana Fe Film Festival, Santa Fe, NM  
2010 Santa Fe Independent Film Festival, Santa Fe, NM

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### Screenings Continued:

2010 Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York, NY  
2009 Cinema City Int'l Film Festival Los Angeles, CA  
2009 SF Shorts, San Francisco, CA  
2009 Jersey International Film Festival, Branchage, UK  
2009 Royal Flush Film Festival, New York, NY  
2009 Utopia Film Festival, Greenbelt, MD  
2009 Greater Reading Film Festival, Reading, PA  
2009 Couch Fest , Seattle, WA  
2009 Cucalorus Film Festival, Wilmington, NC  
2009 Sacramento Film + Music Fest, Sacramento, CA  
2009 DOK Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany  
2009 Filmstock, Luton, UK  
2009 *Boston Film Festival*, Boston, MA  
2009 *Los Angeles International Short Film Festival*, Los Angeles, CA  
2008 *Swansea Bay Film Festival*, Swansea Bay, United Kingdom  
2008 *Newport Beach Film Festival*, Newport Beach, CA  
2008 *Indianapolis International Film Festival*, Indianapolis  
2008 *Byron Bay Film Festival*, Byron Bay, Australia  
2008 *Memphis International Film Festival*, Memphis  
2008 *East Lansing Film Festival*, East Lansing, MI  
2008 *White Sands International Film Festival*, Alamogordo, NM  
2008 *Oxford Film Festival*, Oxford, MI  
2008 *Victoria Film Festival*, Victoria, BC, Canada  
2008 *Trail Dance Film Festival*, Duncan, OK  
2008 *CINECITY*, Brighton, United Kingdom  
2007 *Asheville Film Festival\**, Asheville, NC  
2007 *Colorado Environmental Film Festival*, Golden, CO  
2007 *Three Rivers Film Festival*, Pittsburgh, PA  
2007 *Planet In Focus*, Toronto, Canada  
2007 *Utopia Film Festival*, Greenbelt, MD  
2007 *Hells Half Mile Film Festival\**, Bay City, MI  
2007 *Raindance Film Festival*, London, England  
2007 *Ellensburg Film Festival*, Ellensburg, WA  
2007 *Everglades Film Festival*, Dargle, South Africa.  
2007 *SoCal Film Festival*, Huntington Beach, CA  
2007 *DC Shorts*, Washington DC  
2007 *Wildwood By The Sea*, Wildwood, NJ

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Screenings Continued:**

*2007 Rome International Film Festival, Rome, GA*  
*2007 Jersey Shore Film Festival, Deal, NJ. 8/2007*  
*2007 SF Shorts, San Francisco, CA*  
*2007 Sacramento International Film Festival, Sacramento, CA*  
*2007 FilmGate International Student Film Festival. St. Louis, MO*  
*2007 Landlocked Film Festival\*, Iowa City, IO*  
*2007 The Great Artdoors, MOCA Cleveland. Cleveland, OH*  
*2007 Gloria Film Festival. West Valley City, UT*  
*2007 New Jersey International Film Festival\*. New Brunswick, NJ*  
*2007 Independent Features Film Festival. New York, NY*  
*2007 Bronx International Film Festival. Lovinger Theater, Bronx, NY*  
*2007 Planet Ant Film Festival. Detroit, MI*  
*2007 Student Films Across America, CedarLee, Cleveland, OH*  
*2007 Artfest Film Festival. Harrisburg, PA*  
*2007 Ohio Filmmakers Showcase, Wexner Center. Columbus*  
*2007 Standing Rock International Film Festival\*. Kent, OH*  
*2008 Indianapolis International Film Festival, Indianapolis*  
*2008 Victoria Film Festival, Victoria, BC, Canada*  
*2007 Planet In Focus, Toronto, Canada*  
*2007 Hells Half Mile Film Festival\*, Bay City, MI*  
*2007 Everglades Film Festival, Dargle, South Africa*  
*2007 SoCal Film Festival, Huntington Beach, CA*  
*2007 Sacramento International Film Festival, Sacramento, CA*  
*2007 Bronx International Film Festival. Lovinger Theater, Bronx, NY*

### **Professional Experience:**

2010 Dusty Studio, Director, New York, NY  
2009 Judson Rosebush, Inc., Grant Reseach, New York, NY  
2009 School of Visual Arts, Mac Lab Assistant, New York, NY  
2009 The Packard Institute, Inc., Board of Trustees Secretary, Akron, OH  
2008 Computer Art MFACA Library, Database Designer, New York, NY  
2006 The Buchtelite, Arts + Life Staff Writer, Akron, OH  
2004 Emily Davis Gallery, Attendant, Akron, OH

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Education:**

2009 School of Visual Arts, MFA, Computer Art, New York, NY  
2009 Franklin Furnace Archive, Internship, Brooklyn, NY  
2007 The University of Akron, BA, Interdisciplinary Studies, Akron, OH  
2000 Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

### **Selected Talks/Performances:**

*2011 Stop-motion Workshop, Sedona Arts Center, Sedona, AZ*  
*2011 Guest Lecturer, The Cinema School, Bronx, NY*  
*2010 Stuttgart Animation Festival, Stuttgart, Germany*  
*2010 The Only Constant, Corsica Studios, London, England*  
*2009 Media Modes, Panelist, New York, NY*  
*2009 Prayers for Peace Q+A, LA Shorts Fest, Los Angeles, CA*  
*2009 Thesis Presentation, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY*  
*2008 Cinema Orange, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA*  
*2008 Featured Filmmaker, Standing Rock Film Festival, Kent, OH*  
*2007 Animation Workshop, Summit ArtSpace Exhibition, Akron, OH*  
*2006 Stop Frame Animation, Myers School of Art, Akron, OH*

### **Selected Filmography:**

*2010 Letterbox\_line+circle*  
*2009 Prayers for Peace*  
*2008 Consumption*  
*2008 Wanted: NYC Studio*  
*2007 Glimpse*  
*2006 Tests: zero-ten*

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Honors and Awards:**

2010 *Walt Disney Award*, Ottawa International Animation Festival  
2010 *Best Graduate Film*, Ottawa International Animation Festival  
2010 *Best Student Animation*, Palm Springs Short Film Festival  
2010 Best Animated Film, Jury, Sedona International Film Festival  
2010 Best Animated Film, Audience, Sedona International Film Festival  
2010 Pathé Jury Prize, Time Film Festival, Lausanne, Switzerland  
2010 Best Animation, Student Jury, AnimaLisboa, Lisbon, Portugal  
2010 CINE Golden Eagle, Student Documentary Category  
2010 Pathé Jury Prize, Time Film Festival  
2010 Aglet Award, Red Rock Film Festival  
2010 CINE Golden Eagle, Student Documentary  
2010 Best Animation, da Vinci Film Festival  
2010 Best Animation, CrankCookie Short Film Festival  
2010 Best Animation, Bend Film Festival  
2010 Best Animation, New Jersey Film Festival  
2010 Best Animation, Audience Choice, Sedona Film Festival  
2010 Best Animation, Juried Selection, Sedona Film Festival  
2010 Best Animation, Audience Choice, Atlanta Film Festival  
2010 Best Animation, Honorable Mention, Atlanta Film Festival  
2010 Best Documentary, Rappahannock Independent Film Festival  
2010 Best Short Film, Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival  
2010 Best Short Film, Animation, Indie Memphis Film Festival  
2010 Best Student Film, Bradford Animation Festival  
2010 Best Student Film, MONSTRA Lisboa Film Festival  
2010 Best Student Film, Black Hills Film Festival  
2010 Best Student Film, Talking Pictures Festival  
2010 Best Student Film, CrankCookie Film Festival  
2010 Best Student Short Film, Greater Reading Film Festival  
2010 Best Student Animation, Savannah Film Festival  
2010 Best Student Animation, Palm Springs Shortsfest  
2010 Best Short Documentary, GI Film Festival  
2010 Best Short Documentary, Waterfront Film Festival  
2010 Best Experimental Animation, Atlanta Underground Film Festival  
2010 Audience Choice, DC Shorts Film Festival  
2010 Grand Jury Honorable Mention, Fear No Film Film Festival  
2010 Shifty Uplifty Award, Filmshift Film Festival  
2009 Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant Nominee

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Honors and Awards Continued:**

- 2009 Golden Couch, Couch Fest
- 2009 Best Animated Short, Royal Flush Film Festival
- 2009 Best Short Film, Utopia Film Festival
- 2009 Best Animation, Cinema City International Film Festival
- 2009 Bronze Jury Prize, SF Shorts Film Festival
- 2009 *Paula Rhodes Award of Excellence in Computer Art*
- 2009 *School of Visual Arts Alumni Scholarship Award*
- 2008 *Best Experimental Film*, Oxford Film Festival
- 2008 *MFA Computer Art Departmental Scholarship*
- 2007 Drawn To It (Best Animation) Hell's Half Mile Film Festival
- 2007 *Audience Choice*, Asheville Film Festival
- 2007 Best Animation, New Jersey International Film Festival
- 2007 *People's Choice*, Standing Rock International Film Festival
- 2006 Best of Show, Juried Student Exhibition, Myers School of Art

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Selected Press and Reviews:**

2010

Mehta, Roxanne. Feature: Prayers for Peace. Animation Reporter Magazine, Font & Pixel Media, Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai.

Munson, Ben. Stop-motion animation. Onion AV Club, Madison, WI.

2009

Carney, James. *Brother's film tribute to fallen soldier showing at Museum*, Akron Beacon Journal.

2008

Washington, Julia. *Filmmaker Grella's work to be showcased at Standing Rock International Short Film Festival in Kent*, Cleveland Plain Dealer

2007

Sguregian, Elaine. *Screaming With Color*, Akron Beacon Journal

Shinn, Dorothy. *One-man art show intense, expressive*. Akron Beacon Journal

Benson, John. *Dustin Grella's art displayed at Summit Artspace*. The Medina Gazette

Durbin, Rodger. *Conceptual artist featured in Summit Artspace show*. West Side Leader

2005

Buterbaugh, Chad. *Letters Continue*. The Medina Gazette

Buterbaugh, Chad. *The Long Road Home*. The Medina Gazette

2004

Barett, Bob. *Campus Has Three Art Galleries*. The Buchtelite

2003

Barett, Bob. *Notes to Self*. The Buchtelite

# Dustin Arthur Grella

## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Technical Skills:**

#### **Operating Systems**

Mac OS X, Mac OS 9

Windows XP

#### **Software**

FileMaker Pro

Final Cut Pro

Premiere

Photoshop

Compressor

DVD Studio Pro

Dreamweaver

Quicktime Pro

iStopMotion Pro

Bulk Mac Mail

#### **Languages**

Processing

C++

# Dustin Arthur Grella

## Synopses of Major Projects

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### **Landscape Animation [2010]**

**Prayers for Peace [2009]**, is a narrative stop-motion animation confronting the memory of the artist's younger brother killed in the current conflict in Iraq. In this animation the writer/ animator stops to think about who his brother was, how he identified him, as well as try to define their relationship. The piece reflects back on the days of the funeral and tries to recall what those days were like for him and his family.

**Glimpse [2007]**, a nine minute animated short using stop-motion photography, is both a study of the life of painter Willem de Kooning and a stream of consciousness narrative concerning the impermanence of life. Drawing with soft pastels on slate, the artist creates a dark, uncertain world, sometimes concrete, sometimes abstract. A soundtrack from Lower East Side native Gary Michael Millus and animation by Dustin Grella lend the narrative a dreamlike quality.

**Notes to Self [2002-present]** is an inquiry into the dying art of letter writing, as well as a journal, a stamp collection, and a travel record. Since April 13, 2002, the artist has sent a letter to himself every day. Most of the letters contain an eleven-hundred-word essay, written stream of consciousness, concerning thoughts, feelings, and emotions of the moment. Other letters may contain manual typewritten poetry, pen and ink sketches, or a ticket stub from a concert. All remain sealed to this day. This project is a study into the soul of one person through the passage of time.

**The Quadrangular Chronicle [2004, 06, 07]** is a handcrafted box containing four books. Each of the books is given to a different person, whose two requirements are to get something on the page every day and to have fun. At the end of the year the collected books can be read as separate entities or read as a group, comparing what each of the four different people were thinking or feeling on one particular day. This project is a study of the lives of four people over the span of one year.