

Dustin Arthur Grella

Curriculum Vitae, Summer 2009

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Dustin Arthur Grella was born in North Carolina, grew up in Ohio and lives in New York City. In May 2009 he graduated from the School of Visual Arts with an MFA in Computer Art, having received scholarships from the department and the Alumni Association as well as the Paula Rhodes Award for Excellence in Computer Art. His animated short, *Glimpse*, won awards in international underground festivals including Best Animation, Audience Choice and Best Experimental film. Dustin's first solo show, in 2007 at Summit ArtSpace in Akron, OH, was the first solo show in ArtSpace's history. His work is the subject of a documentary film scheduled for release in July 2009.

Grella develops artifacts and events that explore the human experience through the passage of time. His work focuses on the design and creation of systems that gather the thoughts or feelings of individuals at particular moments. Through animation, installation, and even the postal services, Grella combines equal measures of sincerity and absurdity, structure and improvisation. By highlighting seemingly mundane tasks, he focuses on the importance of the moment. *Notes To Self* [2002-], is an ongoing series of over twenty-five hundred letters that he writes and mails to himself daily. These letters occasionally surface as objects in his work.

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Selected Exhibitions:

- 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)

Selected Screenings:

- 2009 Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 Private Screening, Visual Arts Theater, New York, NY.
- 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 *Victoria Film Festival*, Victoria, BC, Canada
- 2008 *CINECITY*, Brighton, United Kingdom
- 2007 *Asheville Film Festival**, Asheville, NC
- 2007 *Planet In Focus*, Toronto, Canada
- 2007 *Hells Half Mile Film Festival**, Bay City, MI
- 2007 *Raindance Film Festival*, London, England
- 2007 *Everglades Film Festival*, Dargle, South Africa.
- 2007 *SoCal Film Festival*, Huntington Beach, CA
- 2007 *DC Shorts*, Washington DC
- 2007 *SF Shorts*, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *Sacramento International Film Festival*, Sacramento, CA
- 2007 *Landlocked Film Festival**, Iowa City, IO
- 2007 *The Great Artdoors*, MOCA Cleveland. Cleveland, OH
- 2007 *Bronx International Film Festival*. Lovinger Theater, Bronx, NY
- 2007 *Ohio Filmmakers Showcase*, Wexner Center. Columbus
- 2007 *Standing Rock International Film Festival**. Kent, OH

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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

Professional Experience:

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

Selected Honors and Awards:

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

Selected Talks/Performances:

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

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Selected Filmography:

2009 Prayers for Peace
2008 Letterbox
2008 Consumption
2008 Wanted: NYC Studio
2007 Glimpse
2006 Tests: zero-ten

Selected Press and Reviews:

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

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Technical Skills:

Operating Systems

Mac OS X 10.5, 10.4 10.3, 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

Dustin Arthur Grella: Synopsis of Major Projects

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.