MASON SMÅGEL Rigging Artist



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mikros Animation | Paris, France

Rigging Intern

- Used internal rigging system to develop biped rig
- Developed prototype rigs for joint dynamic hair and cloth setups
- Refactored old code for rigging tools to enhance features and conform to coding style

Neko Productions | Studio City, CA / Remote

Freelance Rigging Artist

Jun. 2021 - Nov. 2021

Sept. 2020 - present

Jun. 2022 - Aug. 2022

- Created rigs for props and characters with quick turnarounds
- Shot sculpting to fix cloth simulation and improve character silhouettes

SCAD Animation Department | Savannah, GA

Student Aide

- Developed pipeline for department wide collaberative projects
- Created unique rigs for professors and students to use in courses

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

SCAD Capstone film | Savannah, GA

- Rigging Artist | Pipeline TD | "Goro Goro Mar. 2022 present
- Built rigs using techniques to optimize parallel evaluation in Maya
- Developed tools in Houdini to generate effects
- Organized and optimized lighting pipeline for Houdini in Redshift

SCAD Animation Studios | Savannah, GA

Technical Director | "The Last Dungeon" Mar. 2022 - present

- Led a team of riggers to create animation quality rigs for Unreal
- Developed maya to unreal pipeline for animation

Technical Director | "Hex Limit"

Jun. 2020 - Jun. 2021

Oct. 2019 - May 2020

Sept. 2021 - present

- Created four high-quality character rigs including a modular crowd rig
- Led Modelling team to create characters cohesive style and designed shared character topology

Technical Director | "Bearly"

- Rigged nine creatures including quadrupeds, birds and fish
- Developed custom tools for animators to including a shot scultping tool

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Rigamajig2

- Modular rigging system for maya written in python
- Author rig components and deformations in maya
- Build and publish rigs from the command line

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Savannah College of Art and Design

BFA in Animation | Technical Animation Sept. 2019 - May 2023 (expected) GPA: 4.00 Savannah, GA

Relevent Courses

Storytelling in Unreal, Principles 3D Char Anim, Organic Surface Model, Model Environ/Props

Animschool - Express student

Advanced Rigging Apr. 2020 - Jun 2020 Instructed by Eyad Hussien

SKILLS

Technical Skills

Character / Creature Rigging Topology and Articulation Facial Rigging Python Scripting Troubleshooting Math for 3

Software Proficiencies

Maya Zbrush Shotgun Studio (Incuding API) Adobe Suite Houdini Linux Unreal Engine 5 PyQt / PySide2

ACHIEVEMENTS

Rookie of the year - Finalist 2022 Finalist in the Rookie of the year catagory

SCAD Animation Fest 2021

"The Making of Hex Limit" Panelist

SCAD Animation Fest 2020

"The Making of 'Bearly" Panelist

REFERENCES

Available upon request