



a stop-motion shortfilm production by thorwald hoffmann

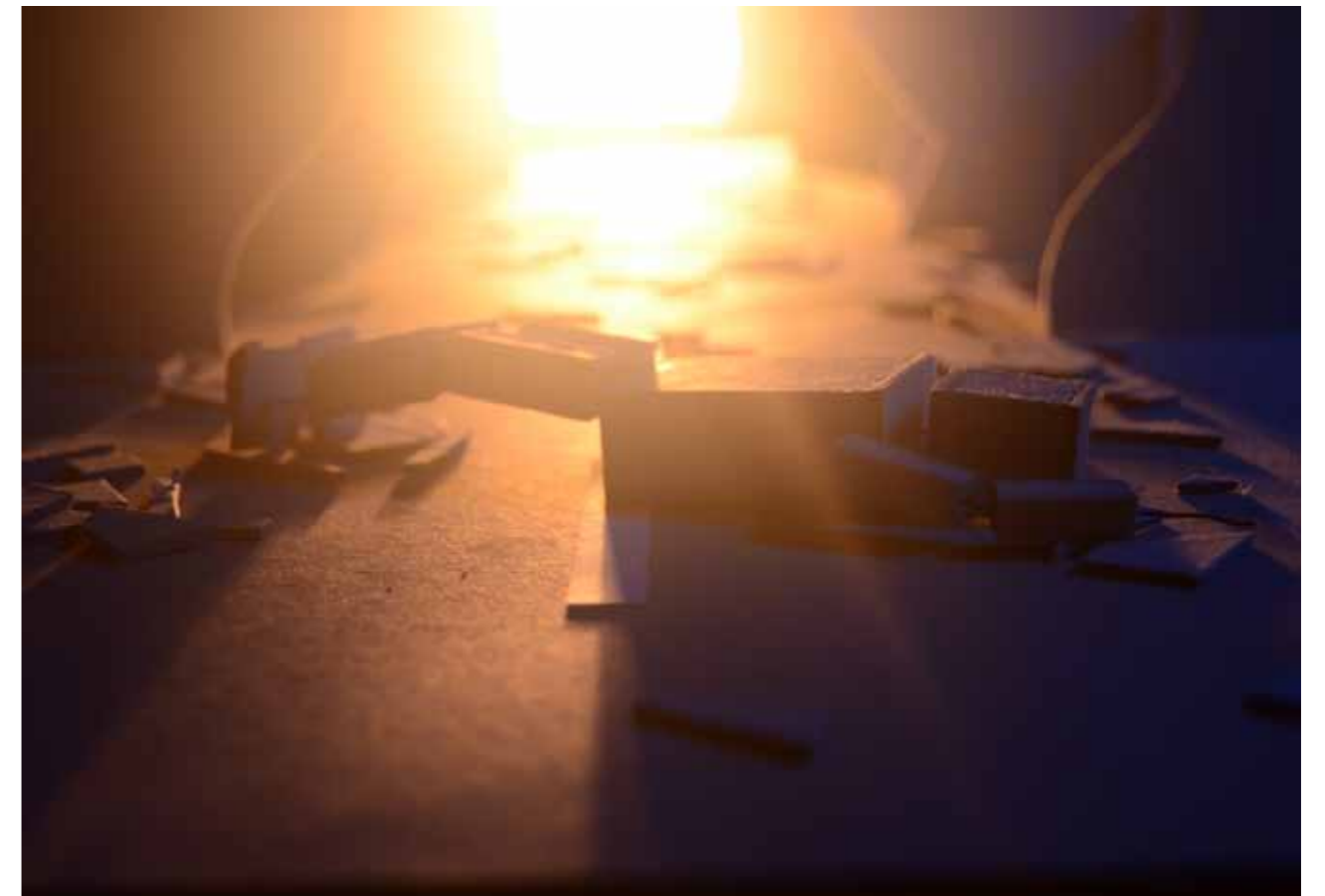
planet:now:here is just a little stop motion film that consists of paper. full of paper. artists of paper. houses of paper. roads of paper. windows of paper. walls of paper. planets consisting nearly only of paper. could you imagine a world that only consists of paper? what ever you think. that isn't possible at all. Paper only can „live“ when it is in the form of a tree standing on a green grassland in the sun. Imagine all this would consist of paper. Lateral to all the „forest“-burns we would have if everything would be made of paper or would grow out of paper. I know that many people would say that thoughts like these are wasted time. But have you ever been thinking about which things in our live are in reality made out of paper or con-

sist of paper? Books. Books. Books. And in our office we can find a lot of paper. Maybe also every morning when we didn't get up too late again, we can read a newspaper made out of paper. And also some of our paintings and pictures haning on our walls are printed or drawn on paper. Everytime we have to make a „big job“ we use toilett paper. Let's think the other way around. Not the way everything consists of paper. No. Imagine what we would do without having the good we call paper. What would we do in the evening, in the morning and nevertheless: what the hell would we do on toilett? Would we use sandpaper instead? Oh no. Not possible. It also consists of some paper on the one side.



the:idea paper in motion.

At the Moment while I am writing this booklet's texts I can't remember how I came to this idea. But I still know what the idea was: I wanted to create a stop motion film. What could be better and more interesting for that than a lot of paper and paperboard? First of all I wanted to make things with little peaces of newspaper-paper and I had in mind that I want to create a character that is the artist in the short film. To create a character I started sketching. Some absolutely different characters were developed and the first character was build. Oh no! It was just rubbish and couldn't move at all. Then I had a new character in mind that I didn't create out of a sketch I made. It just arised from some peaces of bookbinder paperboard and some kilometers of wire. And of course some barrels of glue.



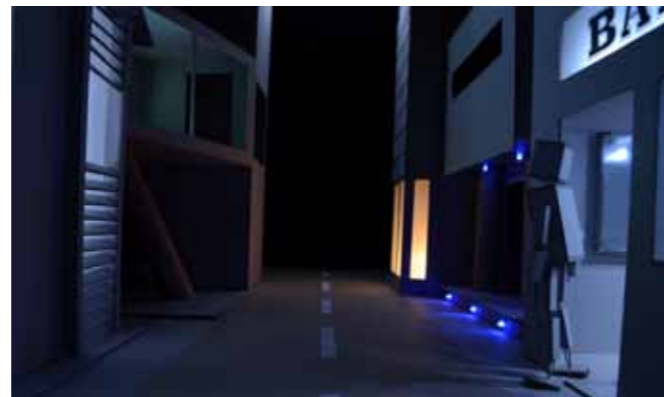
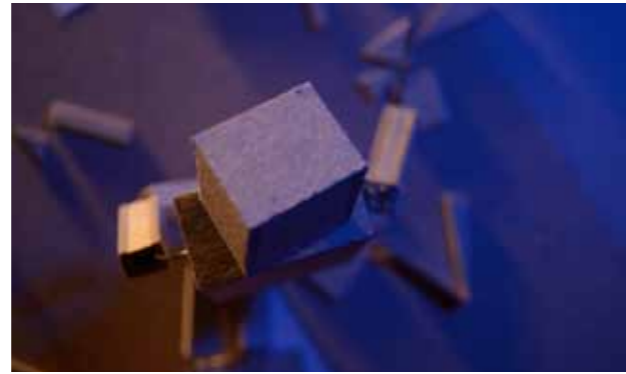


the:character flexible paperboard.

When I developed my first idea for the main character I was absolutely not sure what kind of look he could have. Whether it would look sweet and small or just abstract and a little scary. So the first character was a little chubby. Certainly I was not sure how I could build this kind of character out of papier mâché. Then I thought about the head of the character. Actually the artist should have a removable head so that I can change the character's facial expressions. But in my mind there were also some other videos I've seen before. Some videos where all characters didn't have any „faces“. Their heads were kind of empty. But not empty at all if you know what I mean by that. A teacher at school said a sentence I would rather

never forget: „The film is formed in your head!“. So what about letting everybody think by him- or herself about the facial expression the character could have in the certain scene. So in the end of the character's story he has no eyes, no mouth, no eyebrow, no nose, and no hair which doesn't belong to a person's face but of course to it's character.

The next step I had to think about was how to make it move. How could the artist move in the movie? What kind of material is flexible and doesn't break that fast? To my mind came some basic florist wire. For a very long movie and lots of movements it wouldn't resist all the abnormal bendings but for my small video it should work - and it worked as well!



the:story planet landing.

The story was the most confusing point in my opinion. It was certain that the basics of the story should be that the artist comes from the universe and finds new planets. All made of paper. He comes closer, no matter how he gets there but it should be a crash landing and the artist doesn't know what happened exactly. He only knows that he layed down on the ground in the middle of ruins, wakes up, gets up and the ruins become alive and creep away from him towards the big light that dazzles him. Just a little piece isn't as fast as the others and doesn't creep away. While looking around he couldn't trust his eyes and a little bar was suddenly standing next to him. The only thing he can remember is that he was sitting inside the bar

after a while holding the little piece of ruin in his hands. When he looked out of the window there were suddenly many new buildings around the bar and he walked till the end of the street to see what's happening there. Everything became dark and the big light was there again. When he turned around he saw that all buildings were gone off again. He walked back to the place where the bar was standing and was sad because he left his only piece of ruin inside there and had no more memory of it. Looking down absorted in thoughts he looks up after a while and what was there again? The bar. Being happy again he walked in, sit down and then he saw it: The Planet he landed on was on the screen in the high building across the street.



sometimes you have to take a closer look



the:set:design paper everywhere.

Also many of hours were spend on the set design. Every building was sketched and then built out of paperboard. Nearly only paperboard and glue of course. Other materials are just for small things like the label of the bar which is made out of transparent paper for architects and the letters are printed on it. The building with the lit entrance has two columns made out of an old roll from paper. The ground is also paperboard but the street laying on it is made of recycling paper. The materials were chosen in the fact that I want people to think about paper. Its not the main intention but for me it is important that we don't destroy all tropical rainforest and that we choose recycling paper before „normal paper“.

The next thing I want to say some words about is the light in the movie. Due to the fact that this is a stop motion film instead of a filmed movie there was no need of strong light. Powerful light that is normally used for films would create to much heat and probably will burn down all the paper I used. So I decided to use LED light. Only little light sources with a very low power consumption. Of course I didn't only choose this kind of light because it has a low power consumption but rather because of its size. It is so small that it fits into the buildings in the film and also the most important fact is: it creates a very natural light which makes the observer feel like beeing more inside the movie.



cre:dits made by.

First of all I have to thank everyone who supported me while developing this shortfilm. I needed a lot of space in the cellar, a lot of wood for the set building and also in the fact that I don't own any professional video equipment I needed to build a kind of „rail“ for the camera to make tracking shots.

idea:concept:set:design:camera:cut:editing

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