

2006/2007 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

Coyne Family Foundation Award



NANCY PARCZYK

Animation

Senior

California Institute of the Arts

I was born in 1978 in East Germany. I grew up and went to school in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), or what is referred to as “Communist Germany.” At thirteen, I experienced the fall of the wall and the journey of my country into a future promising freedom, wealth and opportunities. I immediately wanted to venture out and see the world, a luxury we were not afforded in the GDR. At sixteen I decided to go to the United States as a high school exchange student. While in the U.S. I started to explore what would ultimately become my passions: Art and music. A year later I returned from America to my home and found that the big euphoria of Capitalism in East Germany had faded. Though capitalism brought Coca Cola (the first bottles I had ever seen in my life), as well as colorful, entirely filled shelves in stores, it also changed the social welfare system, and for the first time I experienced people begging for money in the streets. I can see how my experiences inform others and define my work. Personal in nature, my thesis project is a story of two characters coming together despite their obvious inability to do so. It references my upbringing as a communist youth who dreamed of one day having the experiences I am now able to live, while relating to how different people connect. I believe I can best benefit others as a teacher. Animated filmmaking has a rich history, simultaneously in sound/music, art, cinematography, and other forms of creative expression. Being able to communicate this history, it’s practices and practitioners, is a skill handed down from master to student, celebrating the inherited nature of the craft. This intimacy is how I have been able to grow from instruction, and it is what I hope to impart on others.