

Pamela Taylor Turner

Associate Professor | Department of Kinetic Imaging | Virginia Commonwealth University
(with affiliations to Art Foundation department and Media, Art and Text doctoral program)

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Practice/Research Statement

The interdisciplinary nature of animation is integral to my creative work which is situated in human (re)connection with the more-than-human in the natural environment through imaginative use of emerging technology and animation. I am investigating AR/VR/XR as a space for 're-enchanting' the viewer/participant within the natural world.

My scholarly work focuses on an expanded inquiry into animated media, informed by eco-phenomenology and practice. Previous work includes research on independent animation in the United States, following connections to visual effects and new media practices, with a focus on abstraction. I am the biographer of the late animation artist Adam K. Beckett, and director of "The Animation of Adam Beckett" research project in collaboration with the iotaCenter and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Academy Film Archive

Publications

- 2019 [Infinite Animation: The Life and Work of Adam Beckett](#), published by CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group. January 2019.
- 2010 "Blurring the Edges: Animation in the Land of Visual Effects", *Revolution: Technology as Change: The Twelfth Biennial Arts and Technology Symposium at Connecticut College*. (Conference Proceedings) pp 165-171
- 2008 "Early Connections Between Film and Emerging Media as Evidenced in The Animated Worlds of Adam Beckett"; *Animation Studies, Volume 2*; peer-reviewed online journal for animation history and theory.
<http://journal.animationstudies.org/category/volume-2/pamela-turner-early-connections/>

- 2006 "Persistence of Vision: The Value of Invention in Independent Art Animation"; Connectivity: The Tenth Biennial Arts and Technology Symposium at Connecticut College. (Conference Proceedings) pp 201-213
- 2003 "Content and Meaning in Abstract Animation"; included in "Appreciation and Criticism of the Short Animated Film" course notes. Siggraph 2003 Full Conference DVD-Rom, San Diego, California; A publication of ACM Siggraph.1998 "The Language of Cinema and Traditional Animation in the 3D Classroom". *Siggraph 1998 Conference Abstracts and Applications*. Computer Graphics Annual Conference Series, 1998. A publication of ACM Siggraph. (80 - 83) (International, juried)
- 1997 "Art and Hi-Tech in Physics Learning." The Center for Advancement of Teaching and Learning, *Selected Papers from the 9th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning*, edited by Jack A. Chambers. Publication of Florida Community College at Jacksonville, (91 - 98)

Abstracts and Papers Presented

- 2022 "Animating Place: connecting to place through the process of animation" Society for Animation Studies Annual Conference "Animation Unlocked", hosted by Teesside University, UK. June 29.
- 2022 "Sensing Chapel Island; animation as a process of witnessing the ongoing becoming of Place". Ecstatic Truth symposium, Prague. International/juried. April 8.
- 2022 "ANIMATING PLACE: In Search of Chapel Island" SWPACA 2022 Conference (Southwest Popular/American Culture Association) Juried. February, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2021 "Falling Back to Earth: engaging the eco-phenomenological aspects of animation", Society for Animation Studies Annual Conference "Animate Energies", online, hosted by Tulane University. June. (accepted for 2020 conference/postponed)
- 2021 "The Practice of Animation as an Empathetic Seeking and Sensing of the More-than-Human World", SWPACA 2021 Conference (Southwest Popular/American Culture Association) February.
- 2017 "Dream of the Sphinx" Art Brut and the Surrealistic Musings of James Gore", Association of Art Historians conference, Loughborough University. April.
- 2015 "Lines of Illusion; History and Pedagogy of Innovative Animation"; Tectonic Shifts, 2015 annual conference of FATE (Foundations in Art Theory and Education), Indianapolis March.

- 2014 "Independent Animation in the U.S.A.; 'Making Do' in the 1970s"; The Animator, annual conference of the Society for Animation Studies, Toronto, Canada. July.
- 2012 "Dream of the Sphinx: Art Brut and the Surrealistic Musings of James Gore"; The Animation Machine. Annual conference of the Society for Animation Studies, Melbourne, Australia. August.
- 2010 "Blurring the Edges: Animation in the Land of Visual Effects"; Technology Revolution: The Twelfth Biennial Arts and Technology Symposium at Connecticut College.
- 2010 "Experimental Animation and Visual Effects; Illusive Applications of Innovative Visions". Annual conference of the Society for Animation Studies. Edinburgh, July.
- 2009 "From Pythagoras to Pixels: the Ongoing Trajectory of Visual Music"; Siggraph 2009, New Orleans. Presented opening lecture for Visual Music series in conference's Computer Animation Festival.
- 2009 "Innovation in Animation: Exiting the Comfort Zone", Siggraph 2009, presented in a session titled "Education: Learning and the Studio"; with panelists from Rhythm and Hues, and Dreamworks.
- 2007 "Early Connections between Film and Emerging Media as Evidenced in the Animated Worlds of Adam Beckett"; Animation Universe. Annual conference of The Society for Animation Studies, Portland, Oregon. July. (Available through VCU Scholars Compass, online.)
- 2006 "Persistence of Vision: The Value of Invention in Independent Art Animation"; Connectivity: The Tenth Biennial Arts and Technology Symposium at Connecticut College. March. (Available through VCU Scholars Compass, online.)
- 2003 "Content and Meaning in Abstract Animation"; presented in the course "Appreciation and Criticism of the Short Animated Film" organized by Barbara Meier; Siggraph 2003, San Diego, CA. July. (Available through VCU Scholars Compass, online.)
- 2001 "Falling Back to Earth: A Return to the Garden through 3D Digital Animation"; CADE 2001 (Computers in Art and Design Education); Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland, April.
- 2000 "Falling Back to Earth: The Garden as Inspiration for 3D Computer Animation." Women and Creativity 3, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.
- 1998 "The Language of Cinema and Traditional Animation in the 3D Classroom" Siggraph 98. Orlando.

1997 "Art and Hi-Tech in Physics Learning." The Ninth International Conference on College Teaching and Learning, with V. Adam Niculescu. Jacksonville. April.

Invited Lectures

- 2022 "Un-settling/Re-membering: the animation of place" Texas Tech Landmark Gallery - Public talk, Invited.(February 23)
- 2022 The Adam Beckett Project: research behind the book, DVD, and restoration project.Texas Tech -Invited to speak in art history class - February 22, 2022
- 2017 "West Coast Experimental Animation: Adam Beckett and His Peers" with Pamela Turner, March 3, Film Studies Center, Chicago, IL.
- 2016 "Magic and Mayhem in the Art-Centered Experimental Animation Studio", July 9, Seoul, South Korea. Keynote speaker, Seoul Creative Dream forum.
- 2014 "Early Works in Innovative Animation and Visual Effects", Feb. 25, Montclair State University's Film Forum. NJ
- 2009 "The Infinite Animation of Adam Beckett", August 9, Linwood Dunn Theater of the Academy Film Archive, Hollywood, California. Co-hosted event with renowned visual effects supervisor Richard Taylor, and was panel moderator. Panel guests included visual effects supervisors Richard Edlund, and Richard Taylor, experimental filmmakers Pat O'Neill, Roberta Friedman, Chris Casady, and David Wilson.
- 2006 "Adam K. Beckett; Films and Discussion", August 26th, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Presented lecture on the animation artist Adam Beckett, and introduced his restored films.
- 2006 "(re)Discovering the Work of Adam Beckett"; October 8th, REDCAT Theater, Los Angeles, CA. Presented lecture on the animation artist Adam Beckett, and introduced his restored films.

Panels

- 2015 "Reframing gender in animation, education, and production: A roundtable discussion", Beyond the Frame, 2015 annual conference of the Society for Animation Studies. Invited.
- 2015 Marcia Powell Festival of Religion and the Arts; moderated "Art Reconstructing the Sacred" panel, April.
- 2010 "Interpretive Variations: New Technology Art Inspired by the work of Dziga Vertov, John Whitney, and Adam Beckett", moderated by Allison De Fren, Ammerman Center Mellon Fellow; Panel members: Pamela Taylor Turner, Perry

Bard, Bill Alves New London, Connecticut.

2008 “Everyday Ephemera”, presented “Slightness of Being: Fresh Ideas in Animation Art” session Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC), New Orleans, LA.

Exhibition of Work

- “Seeking/Sensing” Augmented Reality print
 - Environment at Risk; organized by the Virginia Sierra Club. Project Space @ Plant Zero, Richmond, VA. January 24 - March 22, 2020. Invited.
- “Water’s Edge” (augmented reality photograph/animation).
 - Environment at Risk. organized by the Virginia Sierra Club. Project Space@Plant Zero, Richmond, VA. Invited.
- [Between Frames](#) (animation)
 - “Females and the Frame”. Studio Two Three, Richmond, VA and the BantamTheater, Charlottesville, VA. Curated by Mary Beth Reed. March, 2013.
 - “Her Shorts”, Plugged Women’s Video Collective’s international women’s video festival, Tuscon, AZ. May, 2007.
 - Madcat Women’s International Film Festival, San Francisco, CA. Part of month-long video installation at Artists’ Television Access. September, 2005
 - BAC (Brooklyn Art Council) 39th International Film and Video Festival, Brooklyn, NY; Brooklyn Museum’s Cantor Theater. May 21, 2005
- [Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo](#)
 - daVinci Film and Video Festival, Corvallis, OR. Featuring the “Best of the Best” from the first 5 years. July 15-17, 2005
 - Underground Film Revolution's New Year's Edition, Boston, MA; included in 10 shorts provided by Independent Exposure. January 7, 2002
 - Ojai Film Festival; Ojai, CA; [Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo](#). November 2-4, 2001
 - Hope and Dreams Film Festival, Hope, NJ. October, 2001
 - Convergence Film/Video/Animation Festival, Providence, RI. September 15, 18 and 20, 2001

- o Riverrun International Film Festival; Brevard, NC. August 29 - September 3, 2001
- o Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films; Palm Springs, CA. August 11, 2001
- o Long Island International Film Expo; Malverne, NY. July 15, 2001
- o Nashville Independent Film Festival; Nashville, TN. June 8-10, 2001
- o SCIndy, the South Carolina Independent Film Festival – “The Best of Colossal Film Crawl” program; Columbia, S C. May 31, 2001
- o Worldfest Houston; Houston, TX. April 26 -29, 2001
- o Durango Film Festival, Durango, CO. March 10-18, 2001
- o The Eighth Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology at The Connecticut College Center for Arts and Technology; New London, CT. March 1, 2001
- o Microcinema’s Independent Exposure, Seattle, WA. January 25, 2001
- o Ajijic Festival Internacional de Cine 2000, Ajijic, Mexico. November 8 - 12, 2000
- o FirstGlance LA, Los Angeles, CA. November 14-16, 2000
- o Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL; "Science/Fiction" exhibition. October 13-November 10, 2000
- o Mill Valley Film Festival, Mill Valley, CA. October 7, 2000
- o Colossal Film Crawl, Columbia, SC. September 14, 2000
- o The Brooklyn Film Festival, Brooklyn, NY. September 8, 2000
- o daVinci Film and Video Festival, Corvallis, OR. July 15, 2000
- “Solstice”. looping animation
 - o Urban Lightworks, “Illumination” Richmond, VA. December 3, 1999

Awards for Exhibited Works

- Best Editing/Short Experimental award, BAC (Brooklyn Art Council) 39th International Film and Video Festival, Brooklyn, NY; Between Frames. 2005
- Director’s Citation, 21st Annual Black Maria Film and Video Festival competition; Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo. 2002
- Best Animation - Riverrun International Film Festival; Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo . 2001
- Gold Award in category of Experimental Video and Film - Animation; Worldfest Houston; Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo. 2001
- Finalist Award, 33rd New York Exposition of Short Film and Video; Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo. 2000
- Sponsor Award from Nutrition Warehouse, The Colossal Film Crawl; Falling Back

- to Earth: Tomatillo. 2000
- Best Animated Narrative Award - The Brooklyn Film Festival; Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo. 2000
 - CiNY Award for Outstanding Filmmaking in Animation - presented by Cine WomenNY, The Brooklyn Film Festival; Falling Back to Earth: Tomatillo. 2000

Awards, grants, fellowships and other honors

- ArtLab program (residency) at Mountain Lake Biological Station, University of Virginia College of Arts and Sciences, selected by nomination and application. Summer 2021 (selected for summer of 2020/2021, postponed due to COVID)
- School of the Arts Distinguished Achievement in Teaching Award, 2008.
- Center for Teaching Excellence, Small Grants Program, Spring 2007, for training in Max/MSP/Jitter software and integration of program into teaching. (Virginia Commonwealth University).
- School of the Arts Research Reassignment Award – Spring 2007 and Spring 2016, for writing of artist monograph on animator Adam K. Beckett.
- School of the Arts Faculty Research Leave Award – Spring 2003, for research on Visual Music and work of Dr. William Moritz. (Led to Adam Beckett project.)

Professional Affiliations:

Society for Animation Studies (Chair, Board of Directors)

The iotaCenter (Member, Board of Directors)

ASIFA Animation Educators Forum

ASIFA East

ACM Siggraph

Rhizome.org

Academic Appointments

Undergraduate and Graduate faculty, and affiliated faculty for Media, Art and Text Doctoral Program.

Courses taught include animation (2D and 3D, digital and tactile, experimental emphasis), data culture and new media arts; history of animation and media arts.

1997 - current Virginia Commonwealth University, School of the Arts
Department of Kinetic Imaging

- Associate Professor, 2003 – current

- Department Chair, 2010 – 2018

Department of Communication Arts and Design

- Assistant Chair 1998 – 2001
 - Assistant Professor 1997 – 2003
- 1997 Visiting Assistant Professor; Mary Baldwin College. Art department. Design instructor, undergraduate visual design, digital emphasis.
- 1995 - 1997 Adjunct faculty, Virginia Commonwealth University, Communication Arts and Design department. Animation and computer graphics.
- 1995 - 1997 Adjunct faculty, Virginia Commonwealth University, Community Programs department. Computer graphics, photography.

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

MFA, Visual Communication; Electronic Media; 1988.
Thesis – “Intermediary: A Computer-Generated Visual Communication Environment”

BFA, Art History with Studio concentration; 1984. Cum Laude.

Certificates and continuing studies

Pacifica Graduate Institute
Certificate in Enchantivism, June 2019
Online course with instructor Craig Chalquist, PhD.

Pacifica Graduate Institute
Certificate in Ecopsychology, April 2019
Online course with instructors Craig Chalquist, PhD., Linda Buzzell, PhD, and Andy Fisher, PhD

Teaching

Art Foundation (freshmen), Kinetic Imaging (sophomore - senior) and Media, Art and Text (dissertation committee)

- **Animation - 2D expanded animation, all levels**
 - Material practice of animation including shooting under the camera using DragonFrame (primarily) and working with stop motion, drawing, printmaking, and painting.
 - Digital animation using a variety of software programs with emphasis on the use of Adobe After Effects for sequencing, compositing and editing.
 - Animation and phenomenology; animation as a practice for connecting to the natural environment.
 - 360 animation and video
 - augmented reality
- Research and concept - Senior thesis
- Introduction to animation, video and sound (Art Foundation)

Early Screening, Exhibitions and Presentations Prior to Fall 1997

- 1992 Cyber-Sex Twist to the Song O'Solomon; digital animation and video installation.
Included in "Droit de Regard" exhibition, Artspace Gallery, Richmond, VA.
- 1992 We, the Women (selection from No Brief Candle), "Truth or Dare" exhibit at Images Gallery, Cincinnati, OH.
- 1991 No Brief Candle, Three-part computer animation/video installation, Key gallery, Richmond, VA.
- 1988 Intermediary: A Computer-Generated Environment; Paper published and video of installation presented at SCAN (Small Computers in the Arts Network) conference; Philadelphia, PA.