

HARSHAL PILANIA

Creative Technologist

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RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant - Creative Technologist

Institute for Creativity, Arts, & Technology

May 2023 - Present

Virginia Tech, USA

- Conceptualized the storyboard & installation of a 15-minute immersive experience for the D-Day Memorial's 80th Anniversary
- Modelled and printed a light-weight 3D prototype of the D-Day Memorial utilising photogrammetry, for projection mapping tests
- Designed an interactive ensemble using Motion Capture, Spatial Audio, and Projection Mapping for the Cube (5-story immersive research studio)
- Enhanced GPU load by 50% for an interactive projection mapping for the Smithsonian Museum of American History
- 3D printed a scale model of the VT Lane Hall for permanent projection installation

Co-founder & Multi-media Designer

Vanvaasi

Jul 2020 - May 2023

India

- Co-founded and expanded a charitable design agency, serving over 10 high-profile clients, including state tourism boards, celebrities, and healthcare firms.
- Led the creation, collaboration and implementation of branding, film production, web design, multi-media design, and content creation
- Coordinated a creative mentorship program engaging 60+ students and 30+ mentors

Technology Assistant

IPURELAND Experience

Sept '22

Blacksburg, USA

- Engineered a green room setup for volumetric video capture of Nikki Giovanni for a literature study Augmented Reality application
- Installed and calibrated Azure Kinects with Depthkit Studio

New Orleans Film Festival

Oct '22

New Orleans, USA

- Co-ordinated a 360° Film-making workshop for 20 filmmakers at the festival
- Developed an innovative, on-the-spot projection mapping installation with a team of student volunteers and faculty

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Intro to Cinema

School of Performing Arts

Aug 2022 - Apr 2023

Virginia Tech, USA

- Instructed and guided student understanding of film-making principles
- Managed a comprehensive database on Google Sheets to track student progress
- Organised film screenings for enhancing weekly theory comprehension

Team Leader & Filmmaker

Kirloskar Vasundhra International Film Festival

Jul 2019 - Jan 2020

Pune, India

- Led a team of 20 students from SCMS at KVIFF 2020, overseeing execution of 3 campaigns: Water Footprint Awareness, Ram-Nadi River Conservation, and Cost Benefit Analysis of upgrading on-campus pottery technology
- Director, Scriptwriter, Cinematographer, and Editor for 2 documentary films.

Content Specialist Intern

Walnut Folks Pvt. Ltd.

Apr 2019 - Jun 2019

Nagpur, India

- Executed video interviews with social media influencers for a digital trends study
- Authored 30+ research-driven blog articles and info-graphics for online platforms

I ENJOY

conceptualizing and prototyping. Looking to work across experience design, storytelling, and interactive new media technologies.

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Creative Technologies

Virginia Tech

Aug '22 - May '24

Blacksburg, USA

Relevant Coursework: 3D Soft Modelling, 3D Worldbuilding, Human Centered Design, Models of HCI, Creative Coding, New Media Art Theory, Interactive Learning Media Design, Digital Fabrication

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Touchdesigner/Max
- Blender/Maya/Rhino/Fusion 360
- Disguise/Madmapper
- Javascript/HTML/P5/Node/Wix
- Adobe Suite-PR/AE/PS/LR
- Qualysis/Neuron
- RealityCapture
- Afinia/Crealty/Ultimaker
- Digital Fabrication-CNC/Laser/...
- Miro/Notion

RESEARCH & PROJECTS

- Interactive Immersive Dance Installation
- AR/ VR for Healthcare Education
- AR Board Game for Primary Learning
- A.I. Art: Stereotyping Native Americans

CERTIFICATES

- Human Computer Interaction
- Future Professoriate
- Visual Storytelling

ACHIEVEMENTS

Azadi - Interactive Projection Mapping

June '23 - Gray Gallery, Meadowsbrook

Nov '23 - Shawsville Fine Arts Centre, Pulaski

Bloom - Interactive Light Sculpture

Nov '23 - Media Annex, Virginia Tech

Student Initiated Research Grant

Nov '23 - College of Architecture, Arts, & Design, VT

Roger & Debbie West Student Grant

Oct '23 - Institute for Creativity, Arts, & Technology, VT

Manhattan - Photography Collage

June '23 - Silhouette Magazine

Runner Up - 48 Hour Pitch Competition

Jan '23 - Innovate, Virginia Tech