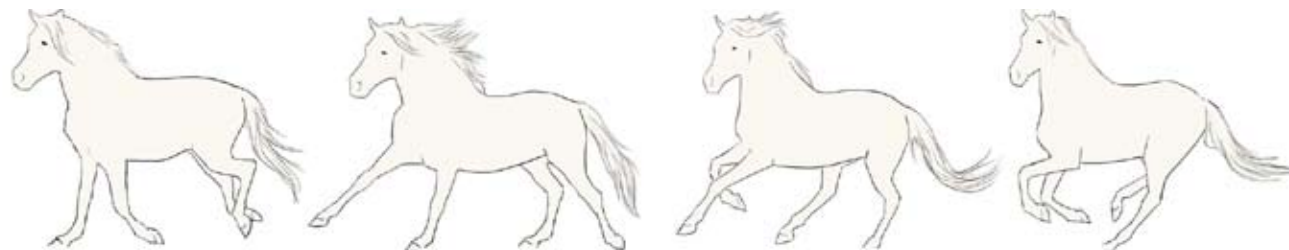


amanda apparius | Dandelion Animation Process



amanda appiarius | Dandelion Animation Process

Objective

This was a personal project I took on during co-op quarter. With all of my extra free time I wanted to teach myself more about hand-drawn animation. After researching some books, watching the motion pieces of some of my favorite companies, and studying some other videos online, I decided to create a visually and contextually interesting animation.

My passion for horses and nature are what inspired the content of this piece. I've always been fascinated with the power and grace of horses and wanted to explore and expand my knowledge of their movement. On the other hand, the dandelion, the weed, the flower, is a symbol of nature and release. Blowing the tufts off dandelions is a whimsical visual that has fascinated me since childhood.

In Dutch, paardebloem, or dandelion, means "horse-flower" and so I decided to take an imaginative look at the flight of a dandelion tuft.

By combining these two interests, I portray the idea of dandelions soaring and journeying from the sky back to the earth in a cycle that sustains them. They leave the stem and in a quick whirlwind of time end up back on the ground, planting new seeds.

amanda appiarius | Dandelion Animation Process

Concepting

To start out I sketched, colored, scribbled all over and came up with a concept that was visually appealing and appropriate for my animation. I decided to use a sketchy, rough approach to the character and animals within the piece.



amanda appiarius | Dandelion Animation Process

Final Concept and Story

This drawing was my final concept board. Its rough textures and simple yet earthy colors acted as inspiration for the rest of the piece. The dog was added to act as a catalyst for the brief story which I fully developed after completing this image.

The girl is walking her dog and he stops as he comes across a dandelion in the grass. It catches the girl's attention and she picks up the dandelion, blows it, and the tufts are released into the wind. They twist and turn into birds, flying across the sky until they combine into one entity, a horse. This horse carries the dandelion's seed to new ground. The birds and horse are both representations of flight and freedom. While the birds act as the initial carriers, a more powerful vessel drives the dandelion tuft to the ground where it will continue its cycle.

The goal of this piece is for it to be an imaginative interpretation of a natural cycle. Although my animation is about an everyday occurrence, I hope to emphasize its enchanting qualities through motion and texture.



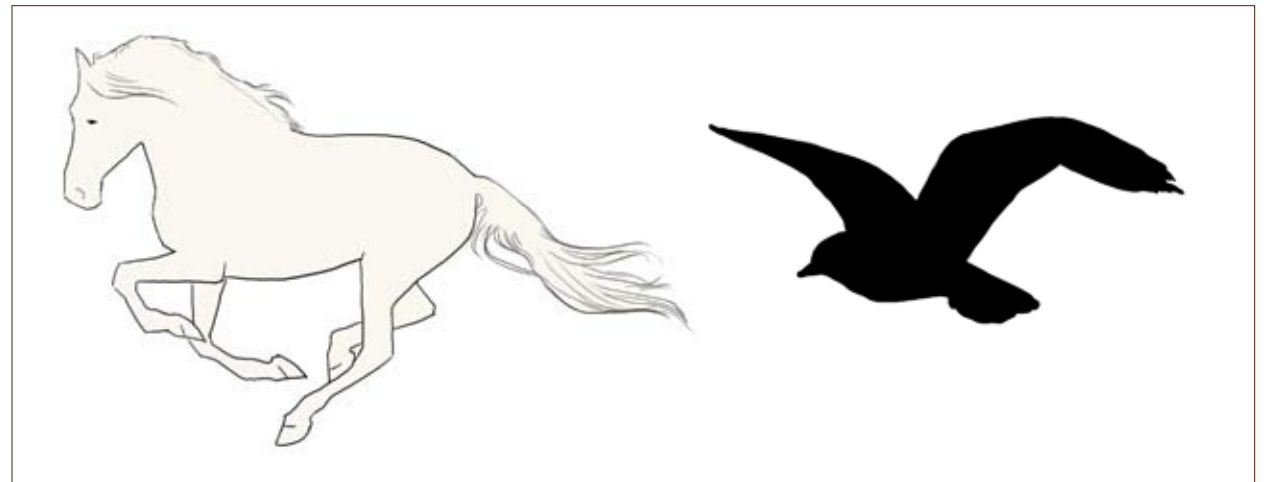
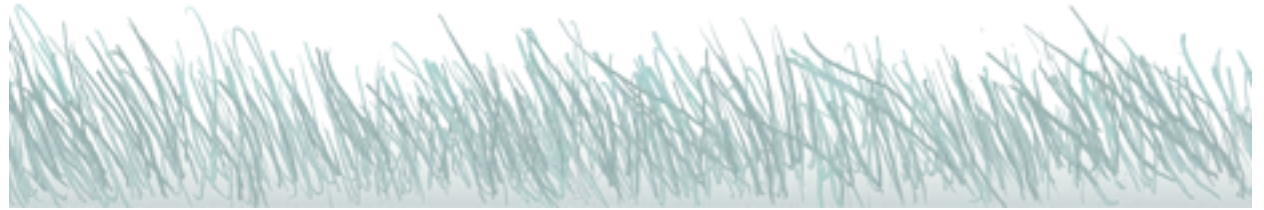
amanda appiarius | Dandelion Animation Process

Background & Animals

I chose the simple background of a blue sky and a field of green grass for my animation so that more emphasis can be placed on the dandelion and the transitions that take place. Below is the style of the horse and bird. Both are illustrative, simple, and sketchy to coordinate with the original concept board.

Music

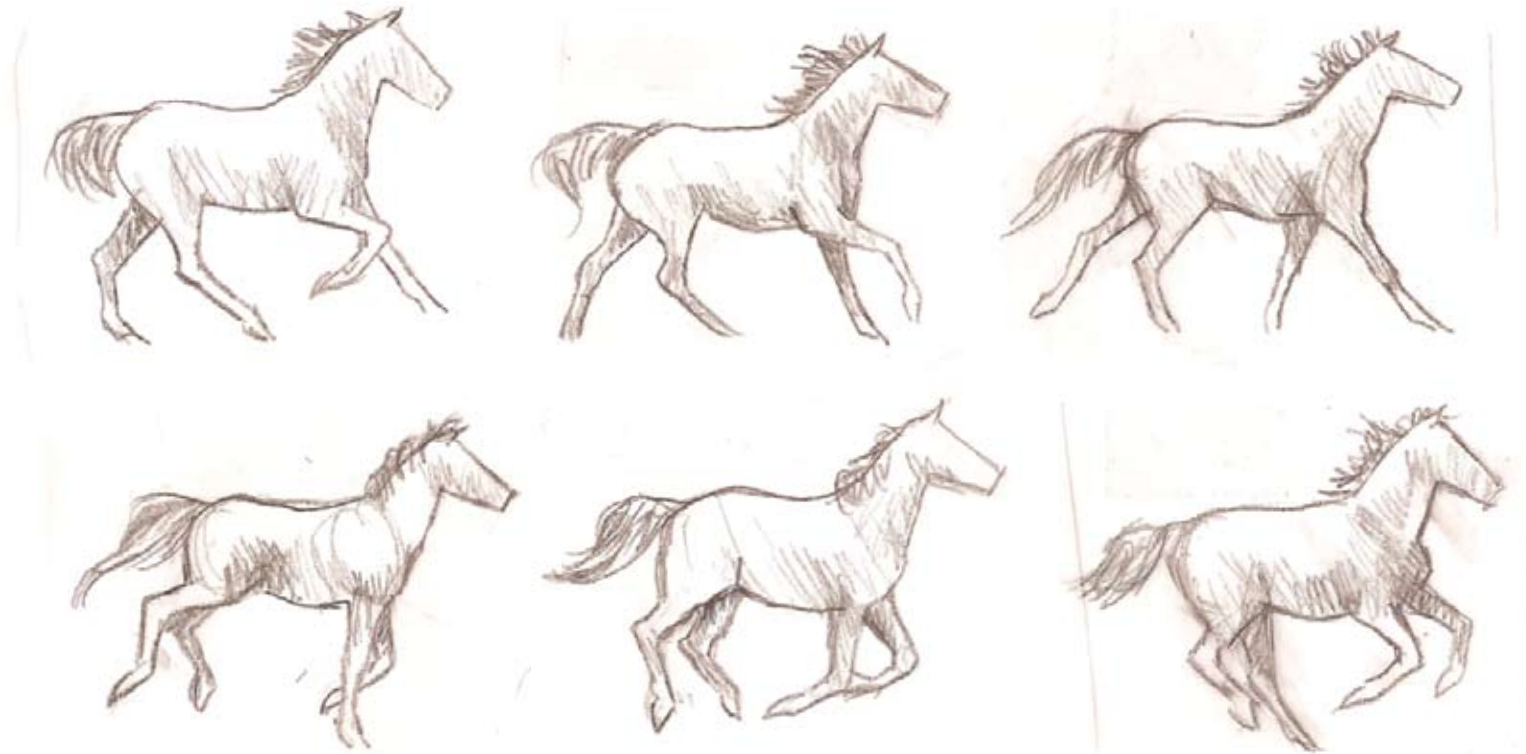
I wanted to find instrumental music with an appropriate mystical tone and rhythmic beats to sync with the running horse and drifting birds. Because I lack the resources to create my own soundtrack, I searched my music library and found “Kecharitomene” a song by Loreena McKennitt.



amanda appiarius | Dandelion Animation Process

Storyboarding

I started this process by drawing sketches upon sketches of different angles and approaches for each scene. After scanning in a couple of ideas, I digitally sketched some refined storyboards and began production. (Right: transformation from dandelion to bird.)



amanda appiarius | Dandelion Animation Process

Storyboarding & Production

After completing this final storyboard, compiled from more detailed sketches, I set out to begin filming and collecting what I needed to start drawing for the final animation.

I visited CCA, the stable I've been riding at since I was ten, and had no problems taking footage of some of the horses there. I also shot footage of myself and my dog. For the video I couldn't shoot myself, I pulled resources from online to reference while drawing.

Before setting out to do the final frames of the animation, I practiced by sketching out the sequence of a horse running as well as a variation of a girl blowing a dandelion. Both of these I posted on my blog as progress work.

After I felt comfortable enough working in Photoshop and After Effects, I delved into rotoscoping and drawing the final artwork.



amanda appiarius | Dandelion Animation Process

Final Animation

