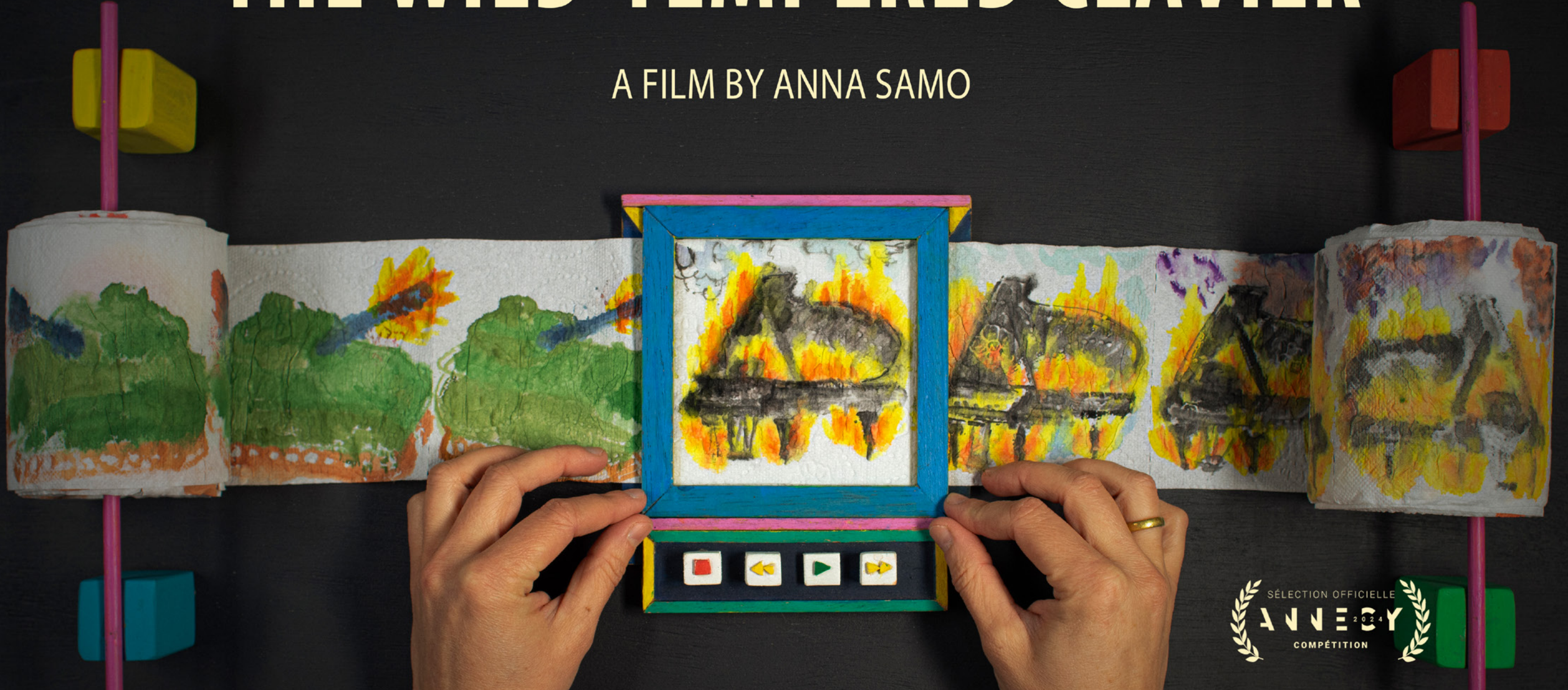


THE WILD-TEMPERED CLAVIER

A FILM BY ANNA SAMO



SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
ANNÉCY 2024
COMPÉTITION



SYNOPSIS

Despite the world's disasters, an artist insists on playing. A story inspired by Bach's immortal music and painted onto toilet paper rolls as a tribute to the tradition of painting directly on 35mm film.

ANNA SAMO /// DIRECTOR'S NOTE

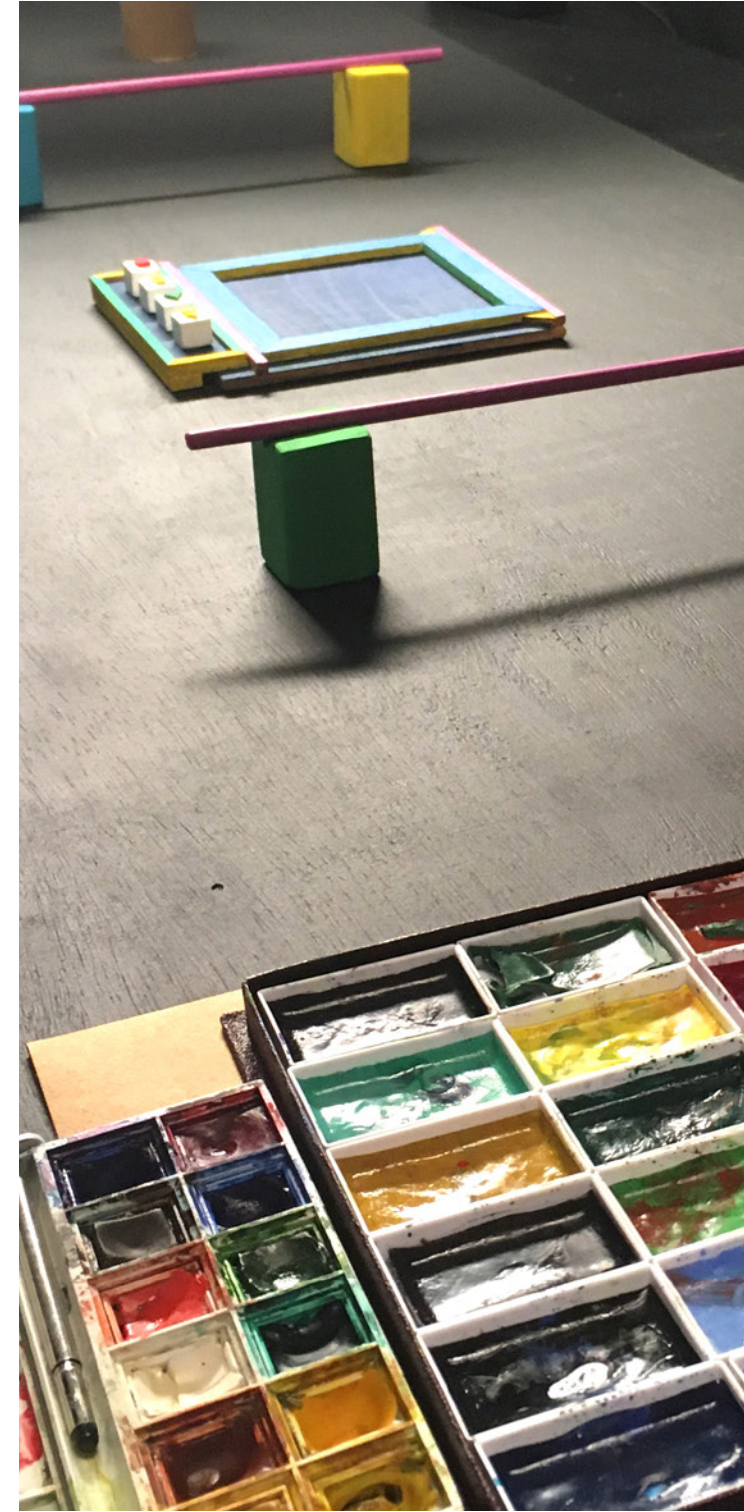
The Wild-Tempered Clavier was born out of the desire to play and the urge to think with my hands. This film is my reaction to the chaos around me in the past four years — an escape from and a confrontation with myself and with the world, which constantly seems to break apart.

The idea to use toilet paper as a canvas came from my fascination with cameraless animation. Though I never had a chance to experiment with drawing or scratching on film stock, I like the thought of the uncertainty and the loss of control that comes with it. When the first wave of the pandemic hit NYC and toilet paper became a valuable commodity, I had my inspiration. During the sleepless nights of the lockdown, I often listened to J.S. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier while trying to work. The transcendent beauty of Bach's music gave me something to hold onto in the tumult of momentary dramas.

One night, I built my version of an editing machine and began animating on toilet paper. It was my reaction to everything that was in the air — the uncertainty, the erratic human behavior and the overwhelming feeling of being lost. I created my set of rules, which helped me imitate the process of animating directly on film stock. One such rule was to not watch the animation in progress until an entire roll of toilet

paper was completely filled with images. I did not use a storyboard or follow a specific idea; instead, I followed the feeling that I need to animate another roll of toilet paper, and then another and another. As the animation progressed, a theme crept in: An artist tries to play as a war rages somewhere — abstract at first, before it actually enters their realm.

I left Russia nearly twenty years ago, but I still have family and friends living there. The Russian invasion of Ukraine became a sore spot in conversations with my parents and I have seen many friends and fellow artists faced with the difficult choice to leave their country or to stay and to adjust to the new reality. I don't think that art can be disconnected from the world in which it is created. The work of an artist is always impacted by the circumstances and by the society surrounding the artist. The past four years have been marked by the pandemic and wars and the feeling of impending doom. I've found myself questioning the relevance of my work and my obligations to the world outside my studio. The Wild-Tempered Clavier is my attempt to express all the confused feelings about being an artist living here and now, struggling to make their work and to defend their right to play.





*I have it here, under Duties of the Artist: Put fresh
water in the dog bowl. Work. [...]*

No, “WORK” crossed out, “PLAY”

From Six Drawing Lessons by William Kentridge





ANNA SAMO /// VITA

Anna Samo was born in 1980 in Moscow, Russia. On her first animation job in Moscow she scanned and colored hand drawn animation for director Ivan Maximov. For the first time she witnessed how thousands of separated drawings put together suddenly turn into a living character. She experienced the tickling feeling of surprise and wonder. This feeling has not left her ever since.

Anna studied animation in Moscow and Berlin. She was a master student with Professor Gil Alkabetz who encouraged her to create very personal work and to strive for her own authentic voice. As an independent filmmaker she uses a variety of analog animation techniques to create her own films.

Anna's films have been screened and won awards at highly acclaimed festivals around the globe such as Berlin Film Festival - Berlinale, Annecy Film Festival, Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Films, Animafest Zagreb, Aspen Shortsfest, Sundance and Palm Springs, among others.

Anna is a fellow of Toepfer Stiftung, the Rotary Foundation and The Jerome Foundation.



ANNA SAMO /// FILMOGRAPHY

- 2024 **The Wild-Tempered Calvier**
7:20min | stop motion, pixilation, water color painting
- 2020 **Conversations with a Whale**
8:45min | stop motion, pixilation, cut out, drawing
- 2019 **The Opposites Game** (together with Lisa LaBracio)
4:00min | stop motion | drawing
- 2018 **OBON** (co-directed with Andre Hörmann)
15:00min | animadoc | hand drawn in TvPaint
- 2016 **The Man is Big**
9:30min | paint on glas
- 2013 **Fish**
2:00min | Animadoc | hand drawn animation
- 2012 **Eyes Closed**
6:00min | Animadoc | hand drawn animation
- 2012 **Little Plastic Figure** (together with Veronika Samartseva)
3:10min, pixilation, stop motion, clay
- 2010 **white no white**
7:00min | sand animation
- 2009 **Hokus-Pokus**
4:12min | hand drawn animation
- 2008 **Hello Antenna** (together with Veronika Samartseva)
4:40min | cut out animation



FESTIVALS

Festival International du Cinéma d'Animation – Meknès, Morocco
International competition, May 2024

Annecy International Animation Festival – Annecy, France
International competition, June 2024

Guanajuato International Film Festival – July 2024, Mexico

Countryside Animafest Cyprus – August 2024, Cyprus

Imaginaría International Animated Film Festival – Aug 2024, Italy

Drama International Short Film Festival – Sep 2024, Greece

ANIMADEBA International Animated Film Festival – September 2024, Basque Country

Animator Fest - European Youth Festival of Animated Film – September 2024, Serbia

VAF Viborg Animation Festival – September 2024, Denmark

Anim'est International Animation Film Festival – October 2024, Romania

Woodstock Film Festival – October 2024, USA

DOK Leipzig – October 2024, Germany

Big Cartoon Festival – October 2024, Russia

New Chitose Airport International Animation Festival – November 2024, Japan

ANIMAGE - International Animation Festival of Pernambuco – November 2024, Brasil

Interfilm - International Short Film Festival – Nov 2024, Germany

Manchester Animation Festival – panorama section – November, United Kingdom

TOFUZU International Animation Festival – Nov 2024, Georgia

Izmir International Short Film Festival – panorama section – November 2024, Turkey

Du Grain a Demoudre – November 2024, France

Short Film Festival Cologne – November 2024, Germany

Leuven International Short Film Festival – Animated Nations (non-competitive section) – November 2024, Belgium

ANIMATEKA International Animation Festival – Dec 2024, Slovenia

Bogota Short Film Festival – December 2024, Colombia

StopTrik International Film Festival – September 2024 in Slovenia and December 2024 in Poland

Les Nuit Magiques – December 2024, France





CREDITS

art, direction and animation by

ANNA SAMO

produced by

TOM BERGMANN

sound design

ANDREA MARTIGNONI

sound mix

YAN VOLSY

music

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

music performed by

DANIEL REGENBERG

colorist

JULIEN ROUGIER

executive producer

MARC FAYE

production managers

MARC FAYE, OLIVIER CATHERIN

a production by

TIGER UNTERWEGS FILMPRODUKTION

TECHNICAL INFO

Animated Short | Germany 2024 | 1:2.35 | 7.20 min | DCP

Other formates available: ProRes 422 HQ | H264 | Dolby Digital 5.1

Software

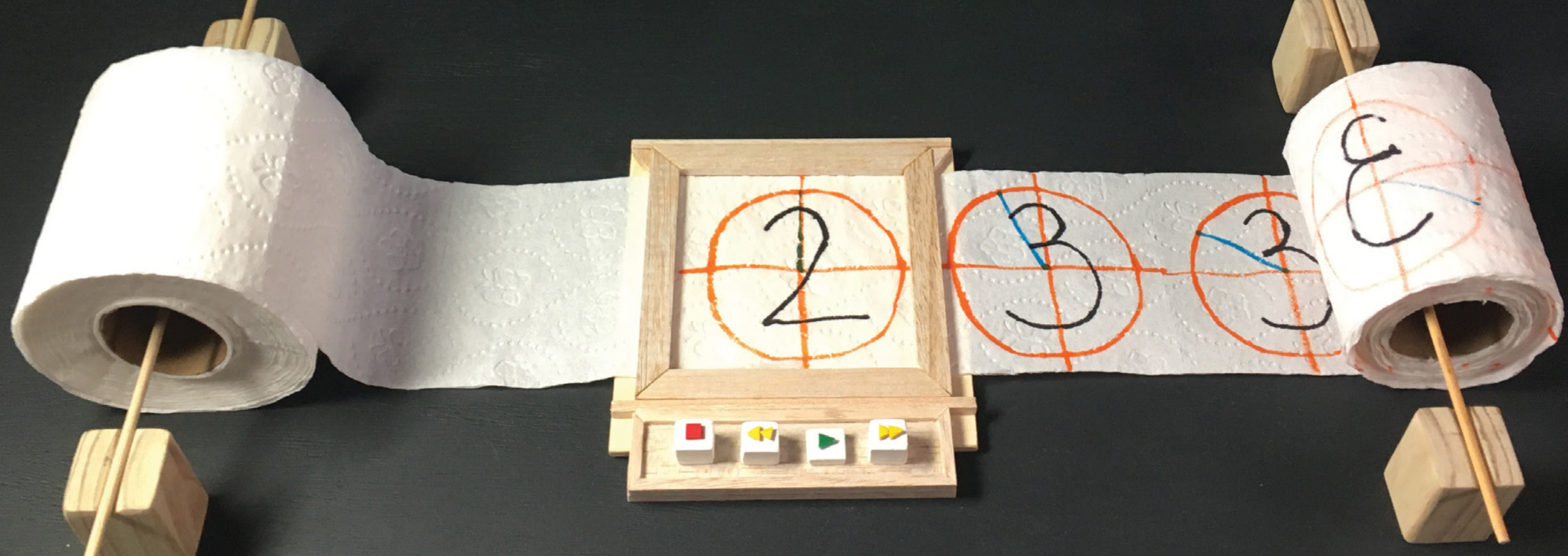
Dragonframe, Adobe Premiere, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe After Effects

Camera – Nikon D800 Lens – Zeiss 50 mm

Animation techniques

stop motion, pixilation, water color on paper





Distribution

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