

AAI

THE
AMERICAN ANIMATION INSTITUTE

CATALOGUE & CLASS SCHEDULE

SPRING 2012

FEBRUARY 13-MAY 19, 2012



**Information and class reservations:
(818) 845-7000**

Offered by
THE ANIMATION GUILD
and Affiliated Optical Electronic and
Graphic Arts, Local 839 IATSE

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What is the AMERICAN ANIMATION INSTITUTE?

The American Animation Institute was founded in 1980 by The Animation Guild and Affiliated Optical Electronic and Graphic Arts, Local 839 IATSE, to further the art of animation through observation, demonstration, training and application. As the demand for computer skills increases, the need for basic artistic and technical skills is ongoing..

To help fill the demand for trained talent, the American Animation Institute offers a wide range of classes in various art disciplines. Unlike many universities and graduate art programs, AAI offers professional instruction in the fundamentals of drawing, composition, animation, storytelling and computer programs. Our goal is to provide a reasonably-priced education in the craft of animation, with classes taught by industry veterans who can offer “real-world” training geared to current industry conditions and demands.

In addition to classes for industry professionals, AAI offers introductory and intermediate classes for persons without previous professional experience who are seeking their first jobs in the animation business.

All of the Institute’s classes are offered at the Animation Guild headquarters building at 1105 N. Hollywood Way in Burbank, California. Our facilities include two lecture rooms, an animation work room equipped with lightboards and facilities for photographing and viewing pencil tests, and a fully-equipped studio classroom for art classes.

Prerequisites

You must be eighteen years old and a high-school graduate to take AAI classes.

Accreditation

The AAI is not an accredited school.

Our classes are designed for people interested in animation, to augment their previous or current studies and/or experience in animation, fine arts or film. There is no curriculum of classes; students take as many classes as they wish in the areas of screen cartooning that interest them. Many students take the same classes over again to further sharpen their skills.

High-school graduates should be aware that most persons employed in this field have had some junior-college or college level art training. The Institute encourages college students to take its classes concurrently with their other studies.

Upon request, we will give letters of completion to students seeking employer reimbursement for class fees.

Getting hired

Our classes are neither a guarantee nor a prerequisite for employment. Finding a job in animation depends entirely on skill, talent, perseverance, presentation and luck. Although many graduates of Institute classes have gone on to careers in screen cartooning, the Institute is not a placement service and cannot recommend students to specific employers; nor do we offer financial aid or housing assistance.

✓ Rebates

Active members in good standing of the Animation Guild qualify for a rebate of \$20.00 on classes marked with a ✓ in the catalogue. In order to receive a rebate you must attend at least ten of the twelve class sessions. Rebates will be mailed within a week after the last class session.

Class registration

Because of the great popularity of AAI classes and our somewhat limited facilities, most if not all of our classes are filled to capacity and closed to new enrollees at least one or two weeks before the first class session. **Do not expect to be enrolled in an AAI class if you have not followed the registration procedures exactly, especially regarding prompt payment.**

Reservations. Reservations for upcoming classes will be accepted by telephone or in person only; reservations will not be accepted by E-mail or U. S. mail. Reservations will be taken only at the dates and times listed on pages 5-17.

The phone number for AAI information class reservations is:

(818) 845-7000

***Animation Guild member reservations:** Active members of the Animation Guild may reserve classes *for themselves only* on **January 13, 2012** starting at 8:30 am. Inactive Guild members, members of other guilds or unions, and all others must reserve beginning January 16. Members who have not reserved their classes on January 13 must reserve at the non-members' date and time. *For information on becoming an Animation Guild member, see page 20.*

When you call, be prepared to give your name and daytime telephone number. The operator will not be able to answer questions or conduct any other business when taking reservations. If you have questions, please call (818) 845-7000 before the reservation date.

After you have called to reserve a place in the class, you must pay in full by the due date to guarantee your reservation and complete the registration process. Otherwise, your reservation will be cancelled.

Once the class is full, we will take names and phone numbers for persons to be put on a waiting list. After the reservation date, you may call (818) 845-7000 to check class availability.

Payment. You are not registered for a class until and unless you have paid for it in full. Do not pay for a class until and unless you have reserved a space by the procedures above.

All payments for spring semester 2012 must be received at the AAI office on or before 5 pm on January 27, 2012. If your payment has not been received by the above deadline, your space will be given to the next person on the waiting list.

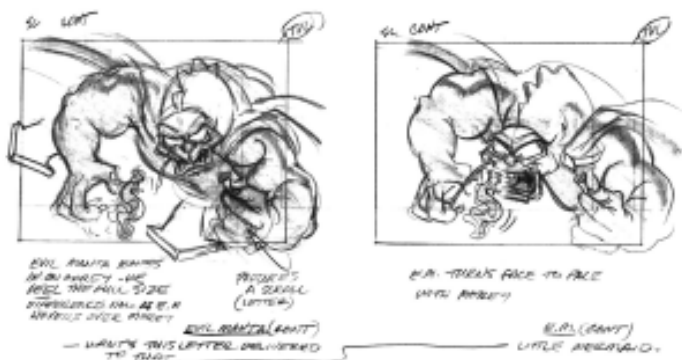
Payments may be made by mail, in person during office hours, or in our mailslot after hours. Payments must be accompanied by the enrolees' name, address, phone number, and the class being paid for.

Payments can be made by cash or check, made payable to the American Animation Institute or AAI; we do not accept credit cards. After office hours you can put class payments in the mail slot next to our front door.

Waiting list: After the due date for payment, any openings will be filled by persons who called during the reservation period and were put on the waiting list. We will contact persons on the waiting list in the order they called.

If you fail to follow the above procedures and do not get into a class, you will have to wait until the next semester and re-register to take the class. You must enroll through the AAI office to be accepted into a class. Teachers are not authorized to accept class payments, nor can they make exceptions to class registration or prerequisite requirements, which are not waived under any circumstances. Auditing of classes is prohibited.

Refunds: We will refund payments for twelve-week classes if the request is received before the day of the second class session. For classes of less than twelve weeks, refund requests must be received before the first class session.



Animation Craft Classes

STORYBOARDING

Karl Gnass 36 hours

Fee: \$180.00✓

12 Wednesdays, February 15-May 2, 7 pm-10 pm

To reserve for Storyboarding, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

Principals of story structure and visual storytelling for television and feature animation.

Exercises stress invention and creativity within the context of a given structure, story mechanics, continuity, staging, gag structure, character, etc. Three storyboard assignments cover a complete range of variables a story artist might encounter.

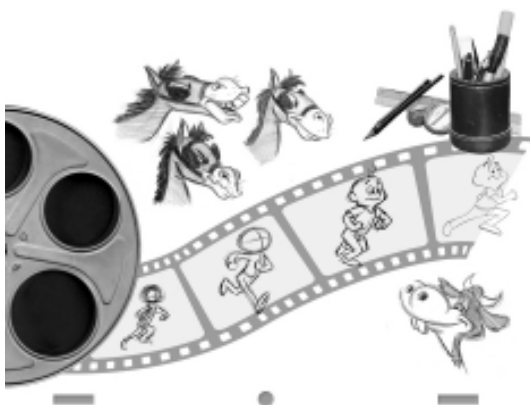
Some understanding of visual perspective is advised.

Materials: The only materials students need to bring to the first class session are a pencil and notebook. The teacher will discuss additional materials, which may be purchased from any local art supply store.

* see page 3

✓ see page 2

BELOW: Alex Topete RIGHT: Maura Maressa



TRADITIONAL ANIMATION BASICS 1 AND 2: PENCIL AND PAPER

Alex Topete 24 hours **Fee: \$120.00✓**

12 Saturdays, February 25-May 19, 10 am-noon

Note: no class April 7

To reserve for Traditional Animation Basics 1 and 2: Pencil and Paper, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

This combined class focuses on in-between and assistant animation skills, guiding the student through the elements of solid drawing, gesture, silhouette, weight, timing, squash & stretch, overlap, follow-through, dialogue and more. Students of this class will be instructed in the principals of classic traditional (assistant) animation through custom tailored, hand-drawn exercises designed to enrich the skills of artists working or pursuing work in traditional or computer animation techniques and is applicable to CGI, Flash, Stop Motion and any other animation techniques used today and into the future.

* see page 3

✓ see page 2

THE ART OF TRADITIONAL EFFECTS ANIMATION

Mauro Maressa 24 hours

Fee: \$120.00✓

12 Mondays, February 13-May 7, 7 pm-9 pm

Note: no class February 20

To reserve for The Art Of Traditional Effects Animation, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

This will be a lecture/lab class that will focus on the development and cultivation of the fundamentals of traditional effects animation skills. The role effects plays within an animated scene, the characters in it and how to design within the context of that scene. Emphasis will be put on understanding of real world Physics and the caricaturization of them in Effects Animation. Analytical observation with an artistic interpretation through timing and realistic behavior, with the goal of preparing the individual in utilizing those skills in a professional career in animation, whether it be in the traditional or digital disciplines.



Art Classes — Evenings

Except as noted, for any AAI art class please be prepared to bring the following materials to the first session: *Drawing board; large pad of newsprint paper; Prismacolor sepia or black pencil; knife or sharpener for pencil; clips for paper.* All of the above items are available at any art supply store.

HEAD, HANDS AND FEET DRAWING

Karl Gnass 36 hours **Fee: \$180.00✓**

12 Mondays, February 13-May 7, 7-10 pm

Note: no class February 20

To reserve for Head, Hands and Feet Drawing, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

This class will develop a subtle understanding of the construction of the head, hands and feet. This will include a study of the planes, forms and volumes and the structure of bones and muscle to show how they interact dynamically, creating action and character.



* see page 3

✓ see page 2

GESTURE DRAWING

Mark McDonnell 36 hours Fee: \$180.00✓

12 Tuesdays, February 14-May 1, 7-10 pm

To reserve for Gesture Drawing, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

The class will help explain how to design and capture the essence of life through the knowledge of gesture drawing, increase observational skills and use basic design principles that will help to fuel the power of your imagination ... all of which are important and necessary skills to have in the animation, illustration and entertainment industries.



BELOW: Karl Gnass RIGHT: Jon Messer

LIFE DRAWING

Karl Gnass 36 hours **Fee: \$180.00✓**

12 Thursdays, February 16-May 3, 7 pm-10 pm

*To reserve for Life Drawing, call (818) 845-7000
on or after:*

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

A basic foundation figure drawing class. Emphasis on fundamentals of seeing and describing form. Procedures used in quick sketch, construction and fundamentals of volume and structure. The goal is to develop the ability to draw with skill and imagination.



PERSPECTIVE

Jon Messer *24 hours* **Fee: \$120.00**
12 Tuesdays, February 14-May 1, 7 pm-9 pm

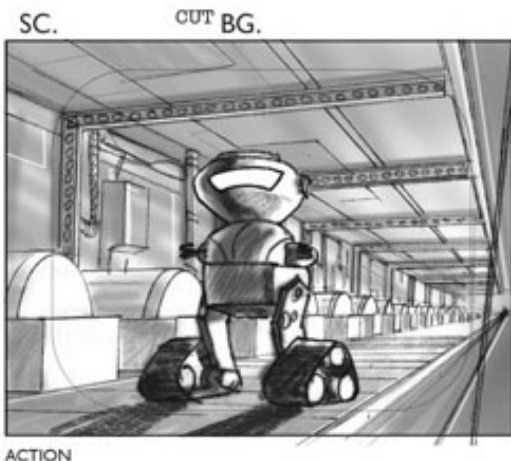
To reserve for Perspective, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

Gain a working knowledge of perspective to enhance your sketching and storyboarding. This is a hands-on course covering quick and useful geometric methods that will help you draw believable and exciting views, objects and figures. Topics will range from the simple to the complex, with an emphasis on proper use of underlying concepts. All concepts will be explained fully, illustrated in class, and applied to interior and exterior scenes.



BELOW AND RIGHT: Will Weston

COMPOSITION FOR ANIMATION AND FILM

Will Weston

15 hours

Fee: \$90.00

5 Thursdays, February 23-March 22, 7 pm-10 pm

To reserve for Composition for Animation and Film, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

This class addresses visual storytelling techniques and compositional requirements for animation, childrens' books and graphic novels. Students often take the seminar more than once, so it functions as an introductory and intermediate course simultaneously. This seminar uses lectures, presentations, assignments and in-class critiques. Reasonable drawing skills are suggested. **Supply list available at www.willwestonstudio.com.**



Art Class — Weekends

DRAWING FOR COMPOSITION

Will Weston 24 hours

Fee: \$145.00

6 Saturdays, February 25-April 14, 1 pm-5 pm

Note: no class March 17 or April 7

To reserve for Drawing for Composition, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

The ability to draw objects (not just characters and figures) is critical to anyone interested in animation or figurative painting. Sketching processes and techniques with perspective are all addressed in the Drawing for Composition workshop, so it is an important course for those interested in developing this critical skill. For people interested in animation careers, this is also a good portfolio-building workshop.

This is an on location drawing class. We meet at the first week at the union to introduce basic drawing processes and discuss materials, then spend the next four class sessions in the field. The weekly progression will be from organic objects to more mechanical objects with each new location. To speed individual development, homework assignments will be suggested but not required. Dress appropriately for outdoor settings, and modest entrance fees are required at most locations. **Supply list available at willwestonstudio.com.**



BELOW: Karl Gnass RIGHT: Glenn Vilppu

Art Class — Weekdays

All weekday classes include a thirty-minute lunch break.

Materials for weekday classes: see page 8

HEAD AND FIGURE PAINTING

Karl Gnass 72 hours **Fee: \$300.00**

12 Mondays, February 13-May 7, 9:30 am-4 pm

Note: no class February 20

To reserve for Head and Figure Painting, call

(818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

Close attention will be given to the fundamentals of anatomy, structure and form followed with emphasis on character, mood and action. We will examine and explore different theories of color, the value scale, direct and indirect light and procedures used by various artists throughout history. Finally, a discussion of personal approach, inviting the student to challenge established norms and limitations.



BASIC FIGURE DRAWING

Glenn Vilppu *60 hours* **Fee: \$300.00**

12 Tuesdays, February 14-May 15, 10:30 am-4 pm

Note: no class March 6 or March 13

*To reserve for Basic Figure Drawing, call
(818) 845-7000 on or after:*

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

This class will cover Glenn's basic approach as illustrated in the Vilppu Drawing Manual. One class session will be devoted to the topic in each chapter, beginning with gesture and continuing with construction, building forms, basic anatomy and different techniques for rendering form.



BELOW: Denise Hahn (*student*) RIGHT: Karl Gnass

PAINTING THE STILL LIFE - AN UNINSTRUCTED WORKSHOP

48 hours **Fee: \$90.00**

12 Thursdays, February 16-May 3, 10 am-2:30 pm

*To reserve for Painting The Still Life - An
Uninstructed Workshop, call (818) 845-7000 on or
after:*

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

This workshop offers a chance to develop painting skills in a collaborative environment. As an informal continuation of the instructed still life class, we will explore fundamentals of paint handling and color mixing in order to create the illusion of light, form, and atmosphere. Experimentation and the development of individual vision and expression is encouraged. The workshop offers five hours of painting a day and can provide either an in-depth introduction or a deepening understanding of the principles of painting. While the instructed class focuses on oil painting, the workshop will be open to all media. **Call for supply list or bring your choice of materials.**



FIGURE DRAWING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Karl Gnass

72 hours

Fee: \$300.00

12 Fridays, February 17-May 11, 9:30 am-4 pm

NOTE: No class April 6

To reserve for Figure Drawing From To To Bottom, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 13, 2012

All others beginning January 16, 2012

Featuring fundamental to advanced techniques using various materials from Conte to brush-and-ink. We will cover key fundamental drawing concepts, structure, observing and organizing form, procedures and approaches, quick sketch, line of action, gesture drawing, line and contour, figure construction and anatomy, figure lay-in/compositional sketches, form and tone, understanding and describing difficult parts, the draped figure, advanced figure - long poses using the basic theories of modeling form, analysis of the old masters - composition and drawing techniques.



BELOW: Karl Gnass

Where can I receive computer animation training?

Many artists seeking careers in computer-related fields have found our classes helpful in polishing their basic artistic and craft skills. Even with the industry emphasis on computer animation, most animation employers would rather hire a skilled and talented artist than a “computer virtuoso” lacking in basic artistic ability.

In addition to the schools listed on page 5, for further information on computer animation training in southern California contact:

Glendale College (818) 240-1000

Gnomon School of Visual Arts (323) 466-6663

LA Valley College - IDEAS Workshop
..... (818) 947-2453

Studio Arts..... (323) 227-8776

Weynand Training International (818) 995-1719



Check out the websites of these AAI instructors:

- Karl Gnass*: spirit-of-the-pose.com
- Mark McDonnell*: cre8tivemarks.com
- Jon Messer*: jonmesser.com
- Alex Topete*: tabclass.blogspot.com
- Glenn Vilppu*: vilppustudio.com
- Will Weston*: willwestonstudio.com



What other schools in southern California teach animation?

Virtually every southern California college with a fine arts and/or film production program offers animation classes. The AAI does not endorse or recommend any particular program.

The Animation World Network has the most comprehensive worldwide listings of animation schools, online at <http://schools.awn.com>.

Among the accredited college-level programs in the area are:

<i>Art Institute of Hollywood</i>	(818) 299-5100
<i>Art Institute of Los Angeles</i>	(310) 752-4700
<i>Art Institute of Orange County</i>	(714) 830-0200
<i>California Institute Of The Arts</i>	(661) 255-1050 x2242
<i>Cal State Long Beach</i>	(562) 985-4352
<i>Cal State Northridge</i>	(818) 677-2242
<i>Chapman College</i>	(714) 997-6765
<i>Laguna College of Art + Design</i>	(949) 376-6000
<i>Loyola Marymount University</i>	(310) 338-3033
<i>Mount San Antonio College</i>	(909) 594-5611
<i>Academy of Entertainment Technology @ Santa Monica College</i>	(310) 434-3700
<i>UCLA Animation Workshop</i>	(310) 206-8441
<i>University of Southern California</i> ...	(213) 740-3986
<i>Woodbury University</i>	(818) 767-0888

We also recommend contacting the junior colleges in your area for information on basic art classes such as life drawing.

Local schools that offer high-school-level classes in animation, cartooning and/or visual arts include:

<i>Rowland High School</i>	(626) 965-3448 x294
<i>Sierra Vista High School</i>	(818) 355-4908
<i>University High School</i>	(310) 914-3500
<i>Sheldon's Art Academy</i>	(818) 706-9444

What is the Animation Guild? How do I become a member?

The Animation Guild and Affiliated Optical Electronic and Graphic Arts, Local 839 IATSE, is a labor union representing the writers, artists, craftspersons and technicians involved in the making of animated cartoons and motion picture computer graphics. The Animation Guild administers the American Animation Institute.

The Guild has contracts with all the major animation studios in Los Angeles County. These contracts guarantee fair wages, hours, benefits and working conditions for Guild members.

To become a member of the Guild, you must get a job with one of the studios with which the Guild has a contract. It is not necessary to join the Guild as a prerequisite for getting a job at a unionized animation studio. A list of Guild shops is available on the Guild's website, or you can call the Guild office for a copy.

The initiation fee is two weeks' scale wages in the job category in which you are first hired. Dues are charged quarterly. When you are hired at a Guild shop, the studio will notify us and we will send you a statement with your initial balance, representing the initiation fee and dues for the current quarter. It will not be necessary to pay the entire amount at once; we will allow you to make reasonable payments towards the balance.

For further information, contact:

**The Animation Guild Local 839 IATSE
1105 N. Hollywood Way
Burbank, CA 91505-2528
phone (818) 845-7500 • fax (818) 843-0300
info@animationguild.org
<http://www.animationguild.org>**

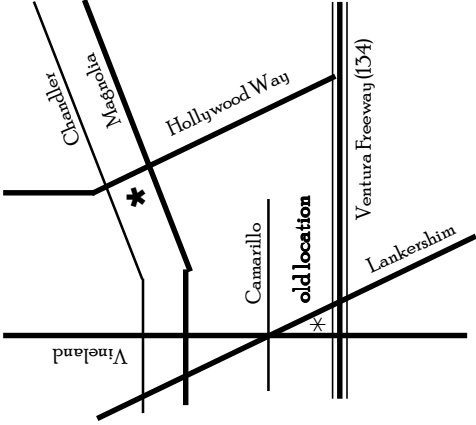
THE AMERICAN ANIMATION INSTITUTE

*1105 N. Hollywood Way

Burbank, CA 91505

between Chandler and Magnolia

Interactive map: tinyurl.com/new-tag-hq



*American Animation Institute
1105 N. Hollywood Way
Burbank, CA 91505-2528*

SPRING 2012 AAI CATALOGUE

First Class Mail
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North Hollywood, CA