

ryanSmith

**Application for Towson University
Lecturer in Art + Design Foundations/Digital Media
Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education
College of Fine Arts and Communication**

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references

a DVD including a PowerPoint Presentation with videos and links to web pages

vanSmith

ryanSmith: letter of application

About ten years ago, I started studying at Towson University. After completing my undergraduate degree with a Graphic Design Concentration, I earned a Masters in Digital Art, at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and was awarded the Murthy Digital Arts Grant. One year later, I graduated with an MFA in Photographic & Electronic Media, and earned a teaching certificate from MICA. Since then, I have been teaching as an adjunct professor for three years. I have been teaching interactive media, web design, and digital art related classes at UMBC and Towson. This year, I was asked by the Animation & Interactive Media department, at UMBC, to develop and teach a course titled Art on the Internet.

To be honest with you, I do not believe that the average art student at Towson University is producing the best work that they possibly can. I don't think that it is because Towson students are underachievers, or that they are not creative; the expectations of Towson's art students need to be raised. I am not just talking about teachers' expectations, but also our students' personal expectations. Enthusiasm and apathy are infectious. If we can get our students to raise their own expectations, and be enthusiastic about the art they make during the foundation of their educational experience, then it will be easier for these artists to create an exceptional body of work while in college. However, if students are given assignments that do not push them to rise above their own comfort zone, the class will grow increasingly apathetic about their work.

Every student in my class is an individual, who is capable of producing unique artwork. Art students taking foundation level courses should not be asking themselves why their teacher wants them to make a project, instead they should be thinking about what art they want to make for themselves. Seniors in college should not have to struggle to make a cohesive body of work. If art students are encouraged to express themselves and find their own voice as soon as they start their undergraduate career, then it will be easier for them to garner as much as they can from their teachers and their peers.

Seriously, hire me for this job. I am a magnificent teacher, and I am easy to work with. My work ethic is outstanding, and I have a great sense of humor. I have a "strong foundation in a variety of digital and traditional media". I've produced installation art, performed in front of video cameras and live audiences, and experimented with a variety of new media. In addition to teaching art, I produce web sites, photography, videos, and digital art work for clients. Not only have I worked on projects for different people, I have also collaborated with artists from around the world.

If you hire me, I can guarantee that you will not regret it. I have enjoyed every class that I have taught, and I want to continue to inspire the students (and teachers) at Towson University.

ryanSmith: teaching philosophy

It doesn't matter if I'm helping a student build a sculpture, or coding an interactive game with a student, the goal is still the same: to encourage the student to accomplish something they have never done before. It is easy to take great artists, and make them better. I find it more rewarding for myself, and my students, if they are inspired to make something they never dreamed they could do.

Students are more likely to grow through direct interactions with their peers and teachers; I believe that people learn through conversations, and discussions with others. This is why I strongly support class discussions, and one-on-one time with students and teachers. Everyone has their own unique way of learning, and it is important to understand every student's individual needs.

At the college level, students are all struggling to figure out their own identity. They should be encouraged to express themselves in a positive environment, and feel comfortable enough to flourish in their environment. This is why I am constantly urging my students to find their own inner strengths through self-exploration.

As an artist and a teacher, I want to help people of all ages to lower their inhibitions, and challenge what they are comfortable with. By getting to know my students, as individuals with specific needs, I feel that I can help to assist them in pursuing their goals, fantasies, and dreams. If I am successful, my students will leave my class with a higher level of self-understanding, a greater appreciation of their own voice, and something that they can be proud of.

ryanSmith: curriculum vitae

EDUCATION

- 2009 **Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD**
MFA, Photographic & Electronic Media
Teaching Certificate
Graduate Student Union
- 2008 **Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD**
MA, Digital Art
Award: Murthy Digital Arts Grant, 2008
- 2007 **Towson University, Towson, MD**
BS, Graphic Design
Magna Cum Laude
Secondary Area of Study: Visual Communication/Photography

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2010-Present **Towson University, Towson, MD**
Adjunct Professor
Digital Art, and Foundations, Department of Art + Design
courses taught:
 ART 463 Interactive Media: Experimental
 ART 365 Design for the WWW
 ART 363 Interactive Media: Theory and Application
 ART 217 Digital Concepts: Image and Surface
- 2009-Present **University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD**
Adjunct Professor
Animation & Interactive Media, Visual Arts Department
course developed:
 ART 388 Art on the Internet
courses taught:
 ART 382 Interactive Media
 ART 388 Art on the Internet
- 2007-2009 **Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD**
Graduate Level workshops
 Web design, Interactive Media, Motion Graphics

Graduate Teaching Intern
 FF 210 Electronic Media and Culture (4 semesters)

ryanSmith: curriculum vitae (part 2)

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- Present **Freelance Photographer**
Web Designer
Musician
Video Specialist
- 2008-09 **Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD**
Graduate Program Assistant: Photographic & Electronic Media
Graduate Research Lab: Audio & Visual Equipment
- 2007 **Definiens Image Intelligence Company, Reston, VA**
Graphic Designer
- 2001-08 **Chestnut Ridge Country Club, Lutherville, MD**
Designing posters & banners, assisting in party planning, waiting on tables
- 2004 **Kinkos, Timonium, MD**
Managing color printing
designing documents (brochures and business cards)

VOLUNTEER WORK

- 2001-02 **Gallagher Services, Francis Xavier Center, Timonium, MD**
Working with developmentally disabled adults
Award: Anne Lindsey Otenasek Scholarship, 2002

SOFTWARE KNOWLEDGE

- Computer Graphics: **Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Flash, Processing**
- Web Design: **Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash**
HTML, CSS, ActionScript 2.0 & 3.0, Java, JavaScript, PHP
- Design & Layout: **InDesign, QuarkXPress, Pagemaker, TextEdit,**
Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel
- Audio: **Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Studio One - PreSonus,**
Soundbooth, Garageband, iTunes
- Video: **Final Cut Pro, Compressor, DVD Studio Pro, iMovie, iDVD**

ryanSmith: curriculum vitae (part 3)

EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 **Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, DC**
I Am A River, video & music collaborative performance with Alif Laila
- 2011 **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Washington DC**
Art of Peace, video & music collaborative performance with Alif Laila
- Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD**
Out of Order
- 2010 **Lake Mendota, Madison, WI**
Mobile Spaces
- Whole Gallery, Baltimore, MD**
Animal Attraction
- 2009 **BlackBoxArt Foundation, San Juan, Puerto Rico**
La Muerte: Transicion Y Celebration De Vida
- Fox 3 Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD**
Blurring the Line Between Our Waking Life & Dream Life
- Towson University, Towson, MD**
Recycled Art Show
- 2008 **Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD**
Photographic & Electronic Media Group Show
- Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD**
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- 2007 **Center for the Arts Gallery, Towson University, Towson, MD**
Senior Art Exhibition
- Center for the Arts Gallery, Towson University, Towson, MD**
Put Your heART Into It
Juried by Jed Dodds (Creative Alliance Artistic Director)
- Center for the Arts Gallery, Towson University, Towson, MD**
Student Art Show
Juried exhibition

ryanSmith: curriculum vitae (part 4)

CLIENTS & COLLABORATORS

- 2010-Present **Alif Laila, Dhaka, Bangladesh, alifLailaSitar.com**
Hired to create album artwork & graphic design
Update website & redesign webpages
Documentary photography & video
- 2009-Present **Karla Cott, San Juan, Puerto Rico, karlaCott.com**
Assisted in designing website
Collaborated on video and animations for exhibitions
- 2009-Present **Jeff Byers, Baltimore, MD, Var.na**
Album artwork & graphic design for Sadhana Album
Collaborative audio and video performances
- 2011 **Key Turn Project, Portland, OR, keyTurnProject.com**
Collaborative dance and video performance
- 2009-2010 **Joshua Lefchick, Washington, D.C, joshuaLefchick.com**
Hired to photograph artwork, design, and build website
- 2009 **Sarah Jacobs, UK, sarahJacobsArt.com**
Hired to photograph art work for portfolio & website
- Elisabeth Gambino, Baltimore, MD, elisabethgambino.com**
Hired to update website
- Rich McLaughlin, Baltimore, MD, Light Trees**
Hired to produce video projections for live performances
Collaborative audio and video performances
- 2007 **Timothy Messing, Portland, OR, Rotting Sky**
Album artwork & graphic design

ryanSmith: curriculum vitae (part 5)

SELECTED LIVE MUSIC & PERFORMANCE WORKS:

- 2009-Present **Night Flight, creative gatherings**
Organizer & cocreator
- 2010 **Ultima Sigaretta, Music Performances**
The Depot, Baltimore, MD
202, Timonium, MD
- 2009 **Light Trees, Video Projections**
The Otto Bar, Baltimore, MD
The Annex, Baltimore, MD
202, Timonium, MD
- THOTH, Recycled Art Show, Music Performance**
Towson University, Towson, MD
- MFA Thesis Exhibit, Video & Music Performance**
Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 2007 **Nux Vomica (going away party), Collaborative Performance**
Talking Head (Davis Street), Baltimore, MD

ryanSmith: artist statement

Since 2001, I have been creating a body of work, in a variety of media that focuses on the contrasting sides of human emotion, and how to cope with the extremes of our natural instincts. Playing with the physics of reflected and refracted light, I construct installations using photography and video projections to create a psychologically stimulating atmosphere. In addition to my visual art, I am also a musician. My sound recordings and performances are mostly instrumental and improvisational. Like my visual art, my music uses contrasting tones, blending ambient, tranquil sounds with dissonant, primal rhythms.

My art is meant to stir up unused or even unwanted feelings, arouse curiosity, and invigorate the viewer. Encompassing all sides of life's colorful spectrum, I often utilize vibrant colors and playful imagery juxtaposed with dark, unsettling content. This dichotomy is not meant to frighten or confuse the audience; instead it should lessen the discomfort associated with the unfamiliar.

ryanSmith: art work (1&2)



I Am A River, Inaugural Event, 2012
Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington DC
digital video, projections, stage lighting

This year Ryan Smith was hired by sitar player, Alif Laila, to help organize an event at the Embassy of Bangladesh. The event featured digital video/animation created by Smith, and live performances by Laila.

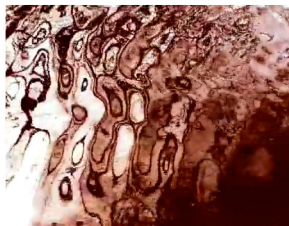
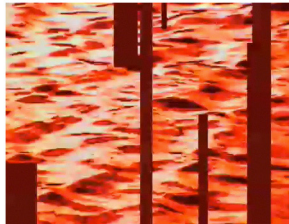
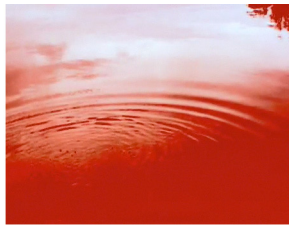
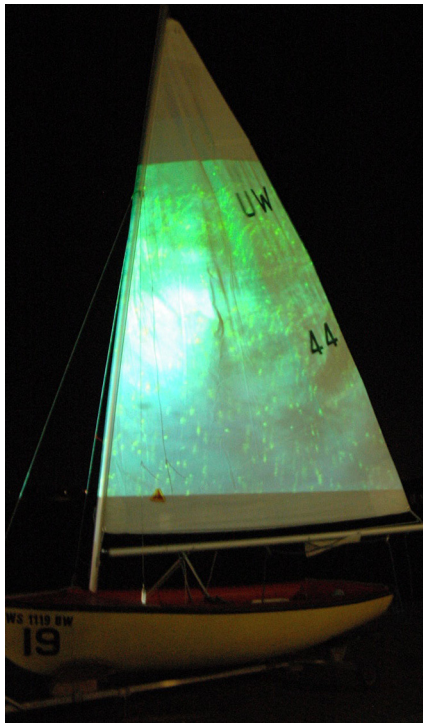
During the performances, Smith was in charge of lighting, and digital projections.



I Am A River, album art, released in 2011
photography & digital art

In 2011, Smith was hired by Alif Laila, to do the photography for her 7th album: *I Am A River*.

ryanSmith: art work (3&4)

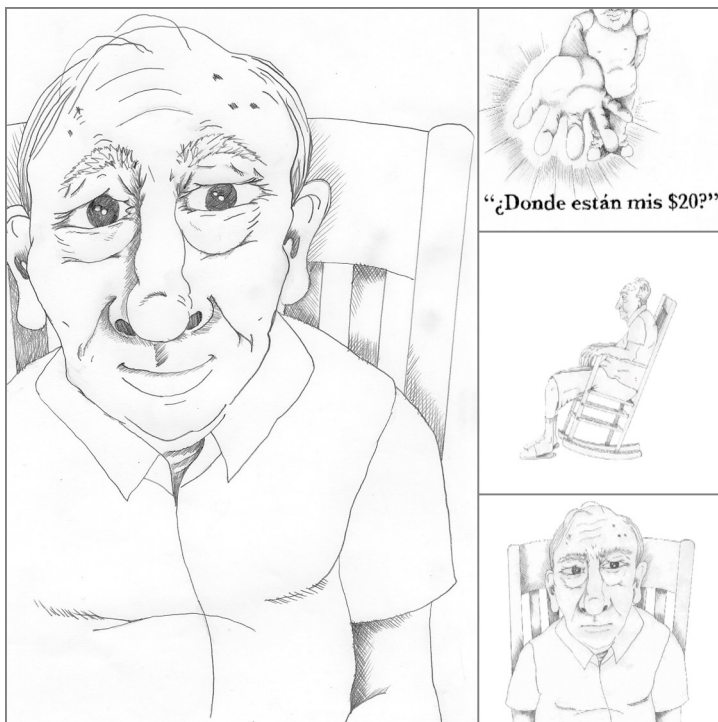


Water Sky, 2010

digital video (7:00)

projected on a sailboat for *Mobile Spaces* exhibit
Lake Mendota, Madison, WI

Multimedia artists, Ryan Smith and Karla Cott, collaborate on a video mixing digital video and motion graphics. Playing with refracted and reflected light on water surface textures, *Water Sky* explores the repetition of geometric shapes in contrast with distorted organic patterns. Videos of water are layered, and digitally manipulated increasing saturation and contrast to create a harmonious blend with the animated geometric shapes.



Anticipación (Anticipation), 2009

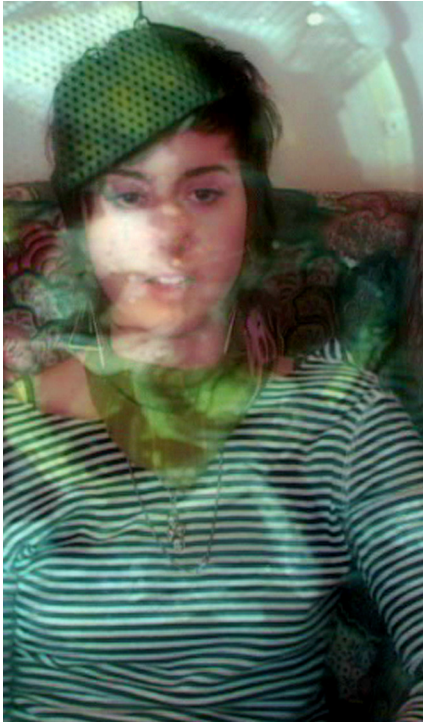
animation (3:00)

for *La Muerte: Transición Y Celebración De Vida*
an exhibit celebrating the Day of the Dead
San Juan, Puerto Rico

For *Anticipación*, Ryan Smith & Karla Cott, mixed traditional frame by frame animation with digital animation. Pencil drawings were scanned in, then animated using Flash, After Effects, and Final Cut Pro.

All audio is taken from original recordings by
Ryan Smith.

ryanSmith: art work (5&6)

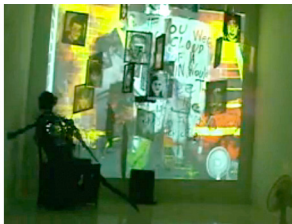


Blurring the Borderline Between Our Waking Life and Our Dream Life, 2009

interactive video (12:00) & installation
installed at Maryland Institute College of Art

The installation included:

- a digital video (with sound) projected on a wall
- suspended transparencies on plexiglass
- a surveillance camera connected to a projector
- a chair for the audience to sit in



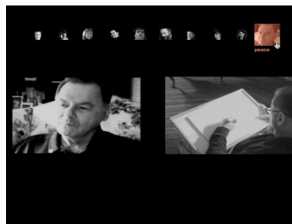
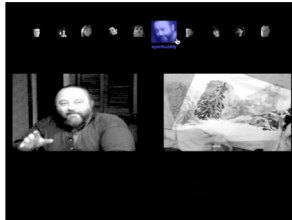
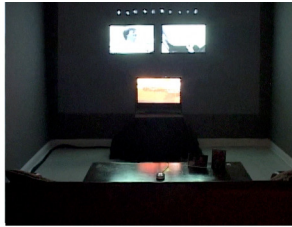
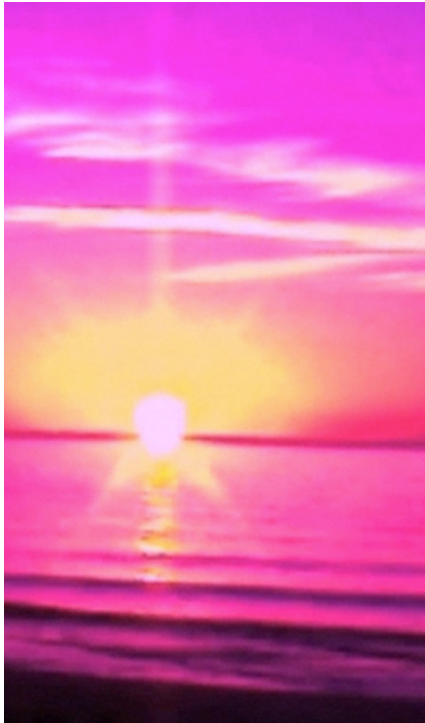
Building a Dream or Dying Satisfied, 2009

video & installation
installed at Maryland Institute College of Art

The installation included:

- a digital video (with sound) projected on a wall
- suspended transparencies on plexiglass
- picture frames
- a mixed media sculpture
- a melted speaker
- an oscillating fan
- hand painted text on the wall

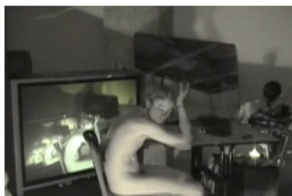
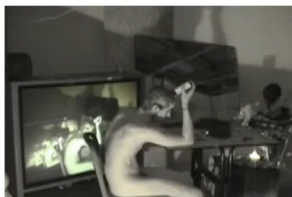
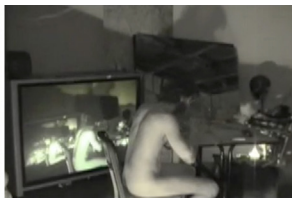
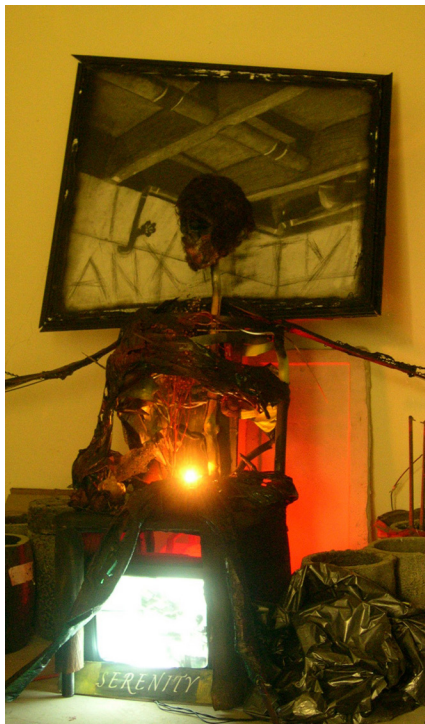
ryanSmith: art work (7&8)



Self-Expression, 2008

interactive video & installation
installed at Maryland Institute College of Art

The installation included:
interactive Flash video projected on a wall
(controlled by a mouse)
a looping video on a flat screen television
ambient music
coffee table
couch
other family room objects

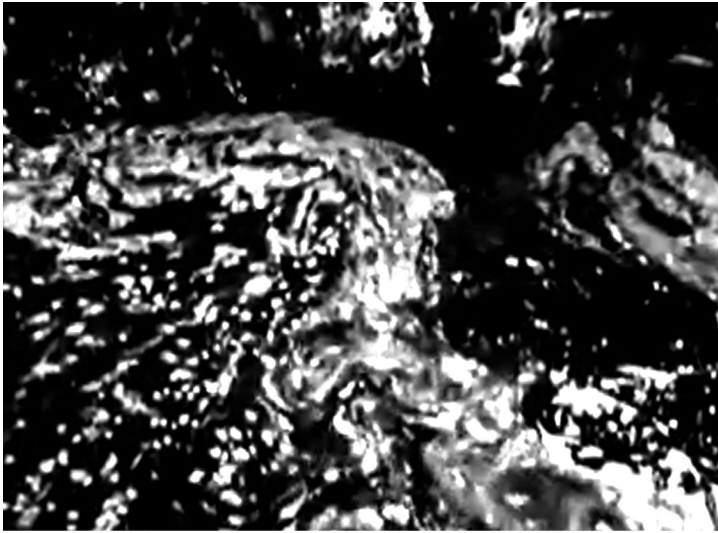


Anxiety & Serenity, 2004

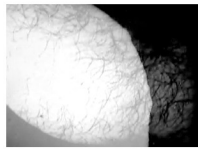
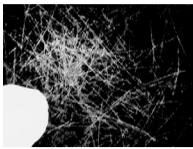
video & installation
installed at Towson University

The installation included:
mixed media sculpture with the artist's hair
charcoal drawing
a candle
lighting
digital video
other various items

ryanSmith: art work (9&10)

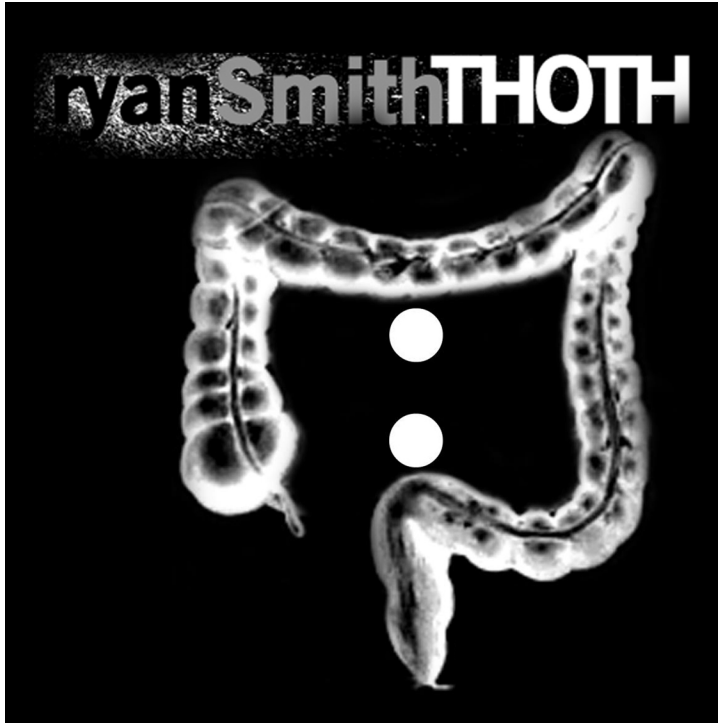


Bad Wet Dream, 2008
experimental video (5:30)



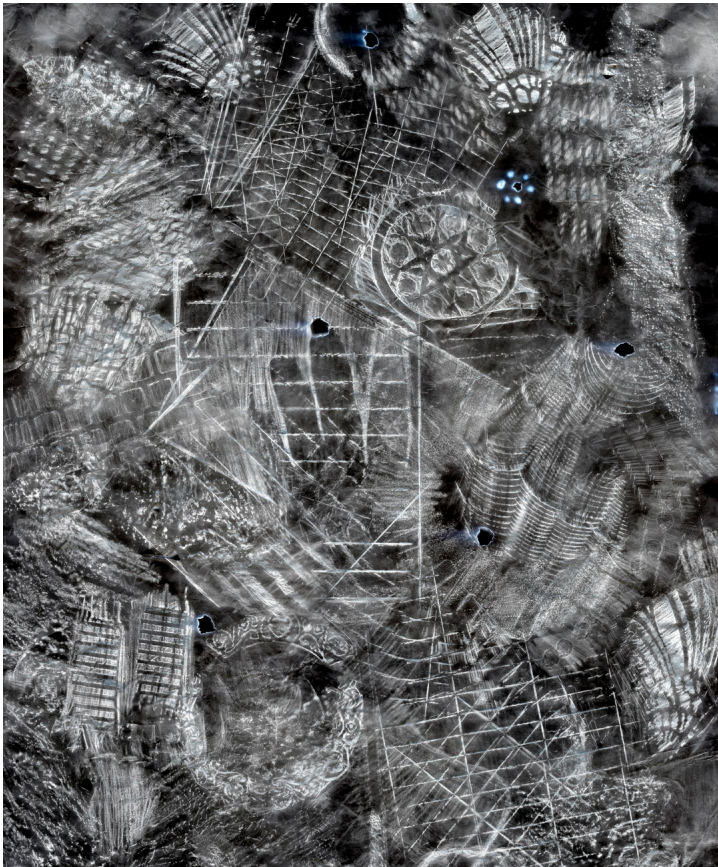
Aperitivo, 2011
experimental video (5:30)

ryanSmith: art work (11&12)



, 2012

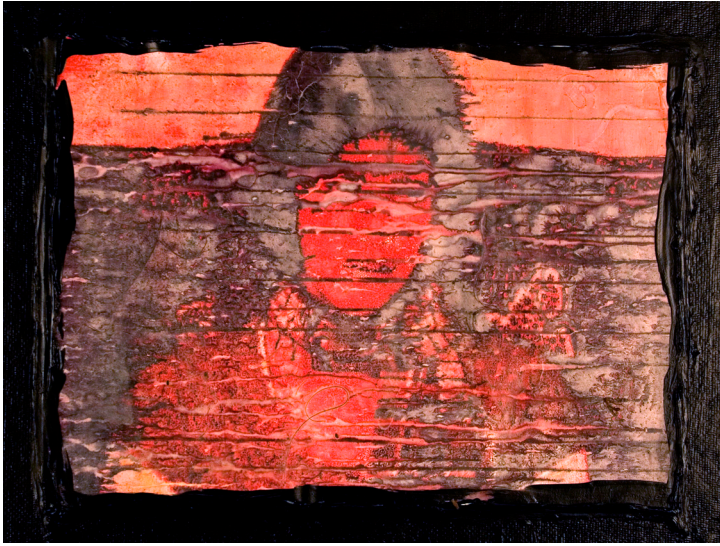
“Colon“, the newest album by ryanSmithTHOTH
all tracks composed & recorded by Ryan Smith



Var.na, 2008

(artwork designed for Sadhana recordings)
digital image, made from frottage
24x30 in.

ryanSmith: art work (13&14)



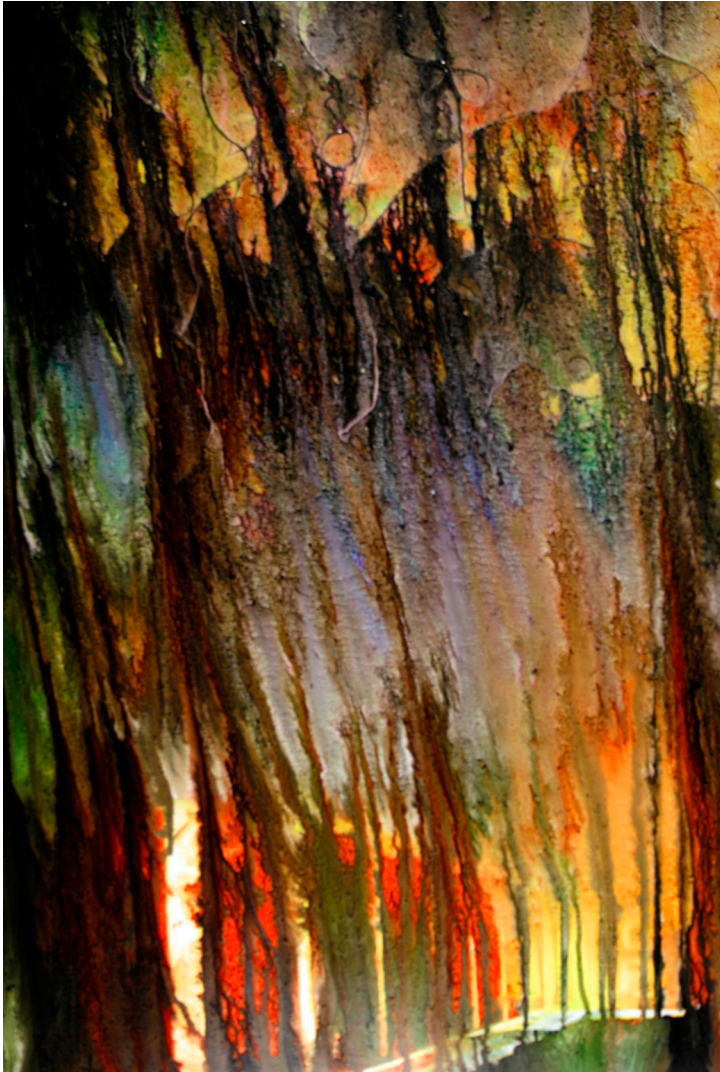
Dream Subject I, 2009
digital photography & mixed media
ink, dust, hair, lacquer, on vinyl
framed with caulk & latex
16x20 in.



Distorted Dream I (3rd of July), 2008
digital photography & mixed media
ink, dust, hair, varnish, on vinyl
13x19 in.

Published in MICA's *Juxtapositions*, 2009

ryanSmith: art work (15&16)

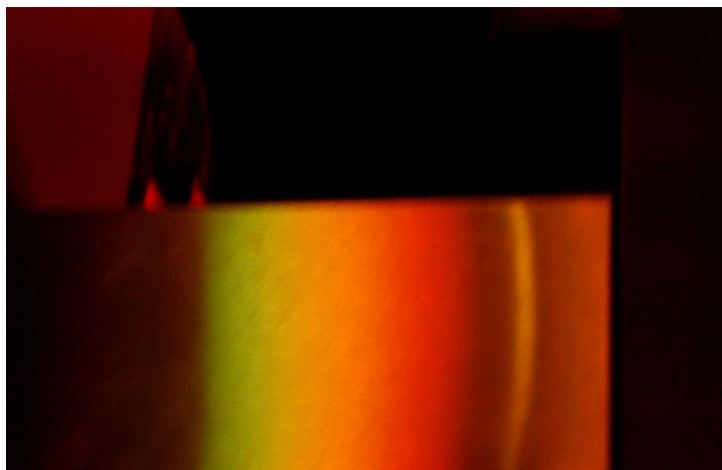


Distorted Nightmare I, 2008
digital photography & mixed media
ink, dust, hair, varnish, on vinyl
13x19 in.



Nightmare I, 2008
digital composite photograph
13x19 in.

ryanSmith: art work (17&18)



Charles, 2009
digital photography
11x14 in.



Ocean Pines, 2008
digital photography
11x14 in.

ryanSmith: art work (19&20)

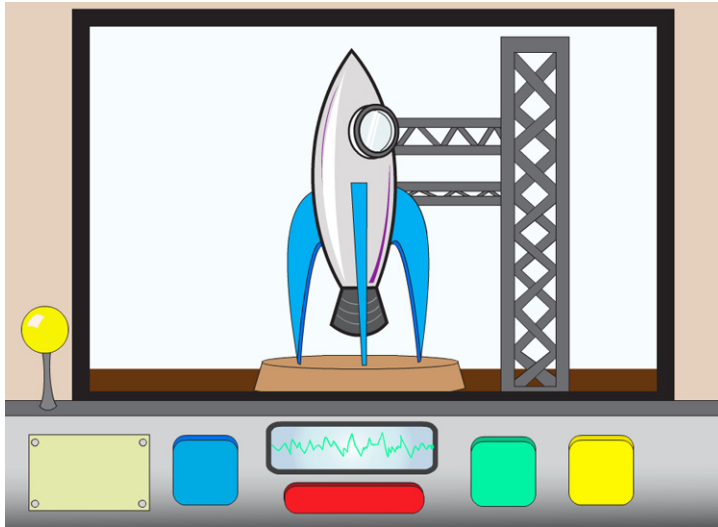


Maroon Paphiopedilum Orchid, 2009
digital photography
18x24 in.



Yellow Lily, 2009
from the Keukenhof Series
digital photography
11x14 in.

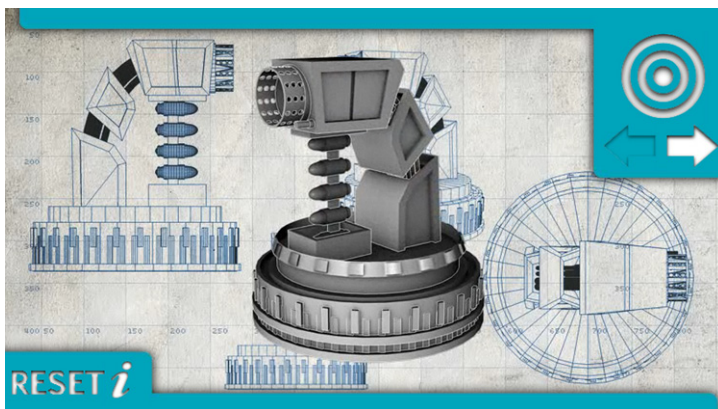
ryanSmith: student work (1,2&3)



Let's Go To Space, 2010
Towson Art 363, Interactive Media
interactive Flash animation

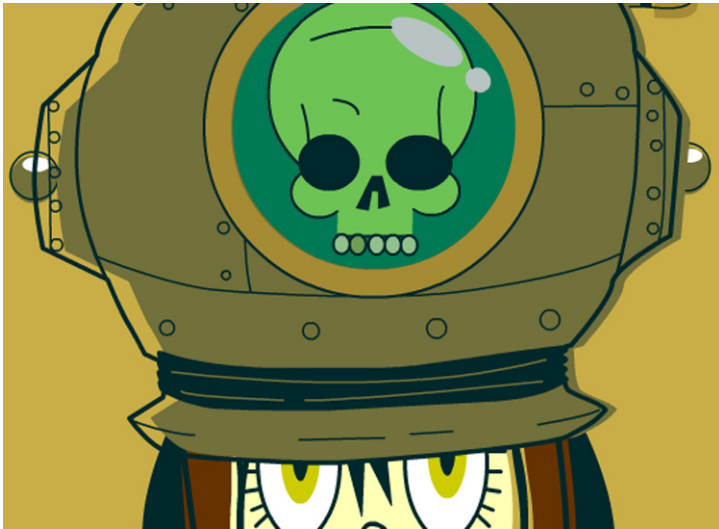


Chicken, 2010
Towson Art 363, Interactive Media
interactive Flash animation



Missile Turret, 2009
UMBC Art 382, Interactive Media
interactive Flash animation

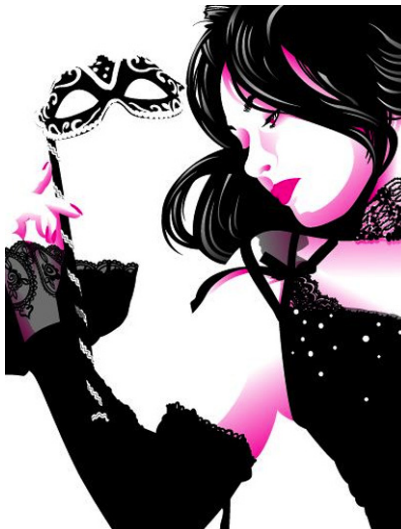
ryanSmith: student work (4,5,6&7)



Telekinetic Helmet, 2009
UMBC Art 382, Interactive Media
interactive Flash animation



Joker, 2010
Towson Art 217, Digital Concepts
vector graphic



Untitled, 2011
Towson Art 217, Digital Concepts
vector graphic

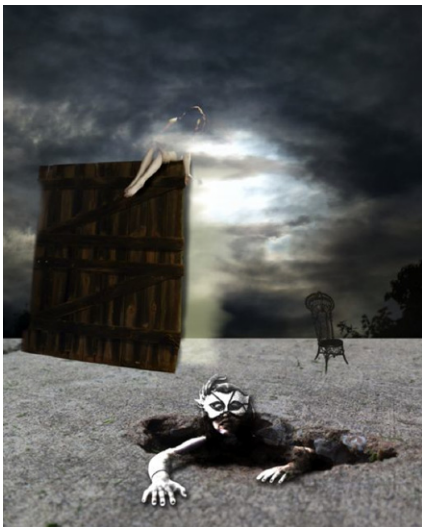


Ravens, 2011
Towson Art 217, Digital Concepts
collage
digital prints, paper, spray paint, on wood

ryanSmith: student work (8,9&10)



Surreal Self-Portrait, 2010
Towson Art 217, Digital Concepts
digital image



Surreal Self-Portrait, 2011
Towson Art 217, Digital Concepts
digital image

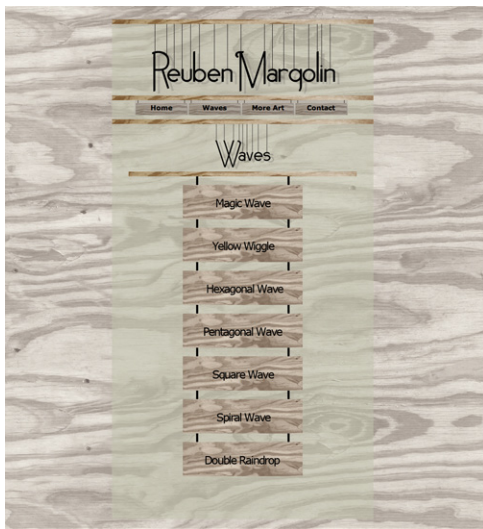


Self-Portrait, 2011
Towson Art 217, Digital Concepts
assemblage
digital images, melted vinyl, paint, found objects

ryanSmith: student work (11,12&13)



Moog, 2012
Towson Art 365, Design for the WWW
web site



Reuben Margolin, 2011
Towson Art 365, Design for the WWW
web site



Alex Ross, 2012
UMBC Art 388, Art on the Internet
web site

ryanSmith: student work (14&15)



Phobias, 2010

UMBC Art 382, Interactive Media
interactive Flash web site



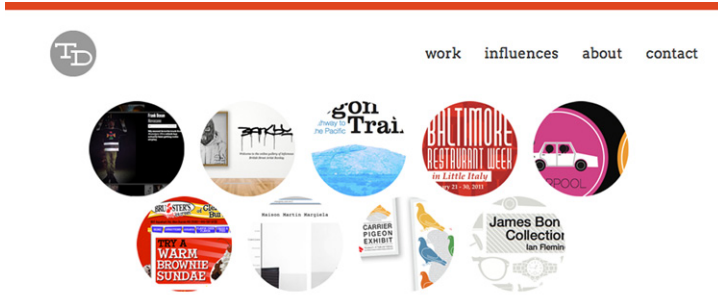
Color Guide, 2011

UMBC Art 382, Interactive Media
interactive Flash web site

ryanSmith: student work (16,17&18)



Self-Promotion, 2011
UMBC Art 382, Interactive Media
web site

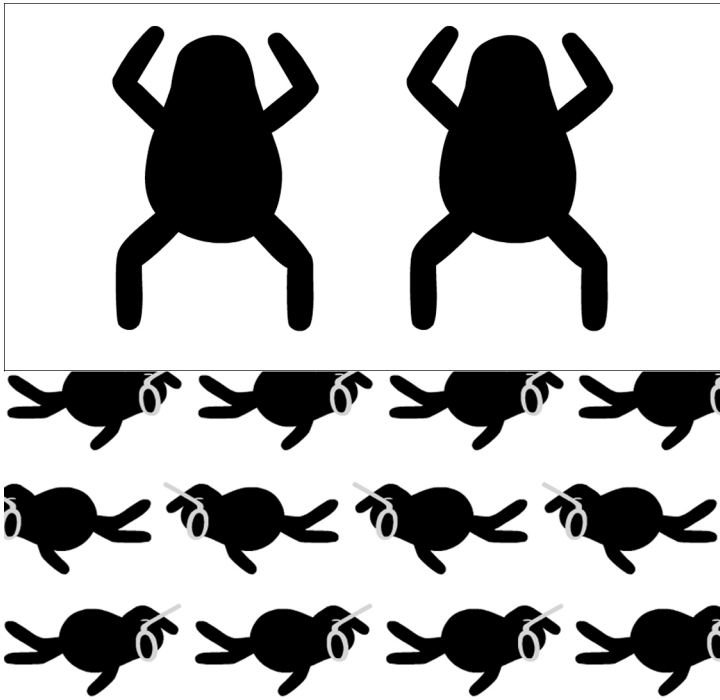


Self-Promotion, 2011
Towson Art 365, Design for the WWW
web site

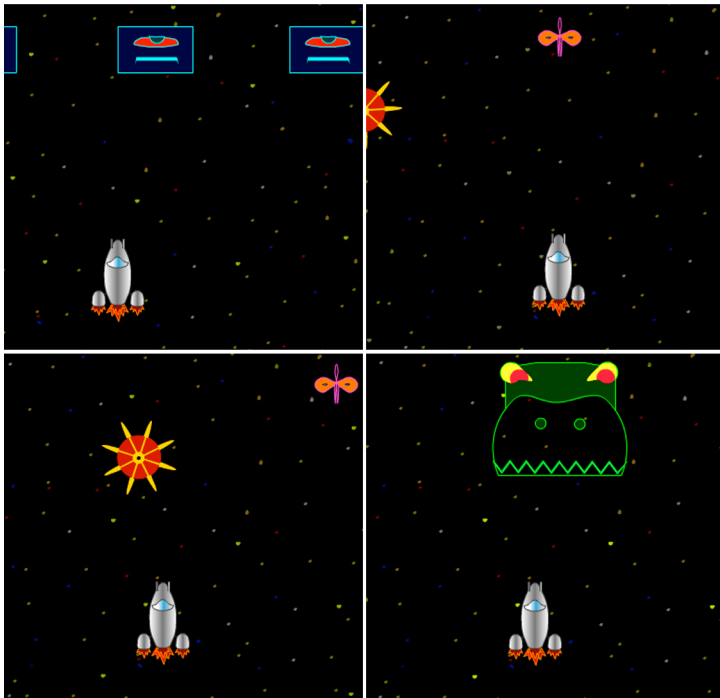


Self-Promotion, 2011
Towson Art 463, Interactive Media Experimental
interactive Flash web site

ryanSmith: student work (19&20)



Interactive Music Video, 2009
UMBC Art 382, Interactive Media
interactive Flash animation



Space Shooter, 2012
Towson Art 463, Interactive Media Experimental
interactive Flash game

ryanSmith: references

Alex Heilner

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Maryland Institute College of Art
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Towson University
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