

Trey Houston, Teaching Artist ArtSeed Packet



Bio

Charles “Trey” Houston is a San Francisco-based professional videographer and photographer. As director of Chuck Three Productions, he has worked on commercial productions, short and feature length films, music and live event productions, and photo projects internationally. He studied video and photography at the Savannah College of Art and Design and attended the Vancouver Film School.

Other than family, cinema has consistently been the most inspirational driving force in his life and career. Cinema is a perfect gateway to storytelling and the arts. Aspects of cinema include the writing of a story; theater; the creation of models, paintings or puppets; animation; music; photography; science and technology; illusions and magic tricks; and so much more. The methods and creative decisions to tell stories cinematically are limitless!

ArtSeed Statement: ArtSeed is family.

Trey’s Videos: [Highlights from 2019](#). A link to a post on my website should work.

Title: Hot Potato Story

Date: 7/20 (Week Three) **Time of day:** 1:00 pm - 5 pm

Artists: Trey Houston, assisted by Annika Houston

Materials/Prep:

- Multimedia. Practical or traditional art-making materials (paper, pencils, paint, etc) and/or using a computer to generate your art.
- Access to a camera would be wonderful and the ability to send photos/video.

Introduction/Goals:

- Participants will work collaboratively to create a complete story around one unifying object (like an egg). The unifying object must be used in every scene and be the glue that connects each scene in the story. The object which will be announced on the day. The story will ultimately be presented as a short movie/video.
- Each participant will be in charge of creating their own unique scene in the movie, one part in the sequential story. Each scene is a key component of a creative pipeline.
- The project requires participants to creatively utilize on-hand art-making materials to illustrate their scenes and actions within.
- Each scene could be minimal or as elaborate as a person would like, as long as it can be completed and will be respectful to the overall story.

Activity:

- One person will create a starting point of the story, a scenario where the selected object is key. They will then pass the story, like a hot potato, to another member of the group, who will complement the existing story with an action or insight; then move it forward to another person, and so on, until the last person who receives the story potato will provide a conclusion.
- Each participant will strategize how they can complete their scene with their existing materials, as an illustration, animation, diorama, etc.
- Photographs or videos will be sent to Trey to be edited into a final film completed by the end of the week.

Vocabulary: Sequential, layers, improvisation, setting, character, story arc

Closing: It's fun work as a part of a pipeline to create something collaboratively, which can then be shared and viewed by other friends and family.

Successes: The participants at the Art-a-thon created a lovely story about the journey of an egg. The egg fell in the middle of a forest, by the end of the story, and a dozen scenes later, the egg ended up hatching (with tiny people, no less) in a basket with a large bunny waiting at the bus stop.

Challenges: To create a cohesive story. The methods to create individual scenes could greatly vary from one artist to another depending on their materials, style and time put in.

CA State Standard(s): <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/vapacontentstds.asp>

Relevant Artist(s) and Distinguished People: Was inspired by working with young Baykids filmmakers and ArtSeed volcano animations created with Jan Van Buyten.

<https://www.artseed.org/animation/>