VISUAL DEVELOPMENT "ME MIND MIRROR"

BY

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ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY

APPROVES THAT THE ART THESIS

IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE BACHELOR OF FINE AND APPIED ARTS DEGREE

(..)

DEAN

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ABSTRACT

I had a dream to make my own animation, to create my own world. Back to when I was still a sophomore, I visited Visual Communication Arts thesis exhibition and I interested in a senior's project. A Visual Development which was created using Adobe Photoshop and After Effects. That made me want to make my own concept art a type of art which people can really enjoy. Even it has been very hard and challenging because back then I didn't know about how to draw a good background and paint but I still had a dream and I promised to myself to achieve it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1

Introduction

Background of the project

The original idea of this animation came from the quote of Ernest Holmes "Life is a mirror and will reflect back to the thinker what he thinks into It". So I researched more about the meaning of mirror and I arrived to the topic that I chose which is social phobia and family problems.

Nowadays in our society there are many people who have problems with their family that might cause dissatisfaction regarding how they feel or what they want. They just quietly doing nothing or speak to themselves. Also the kids who have social phobia symptom, in this case they will not good or quite bad at communicating with others because they are scared and feel doubtful when they face with problems or they feel incongruous with their friends. They do not open their mind to anyone, and they like to be alone. These problems might cause a violence in the family and, as a result, some families finally break up. These kind of problem can be seen in our country and it had a lot of problem and continue to increase every day. The aftermath of these problems can be wider and lead to crime problems.

The inspiration of this animation came from the artwork and photographs that I saw in the internet because, in the picture that I saw the reflection of the person or cartoon in the mirror is different from the real one was looking at. So I use the mirror to show the real character's emotions, and also show what she wanted to be as the clothes that, in the mirror, will not be the same in the reality and each mirror shows different cloths.
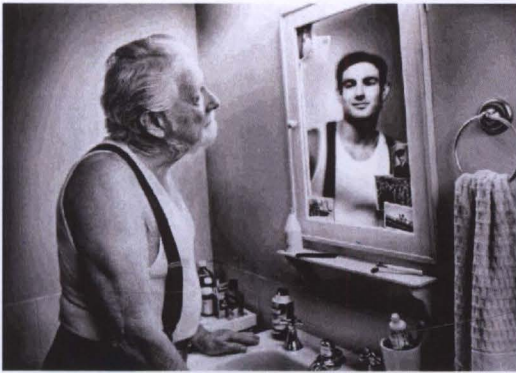
Pictures that show the reflection of emotions

Pictures of shadows that show their feelings

These picture inspired me in terms of the conflict in human minds because many people cannot show their real emotion in front of another people, so they hide what they feel or what they really want to do and just act like they do not care or are not interested in having a relationship with other guys.

Objective of the project

1. Create the animation to encourage those kids or who are facing with a situation in which their parents are hiding something from them or who have problems with each others and that might develope symptoms of social phobia.
2. Emphasize the problem of the parents who try to avoid to talk to their kids.

Scope of Study

- Visual Development 10 artworks
  Teaser Duration: 1 Minutes

What I expect communicate to the audience is to let them know that nobody can live in this world alone. People should open their mind and stop wearing their mask, they must communicate with each other, try to understand each other. Sometimes what we think may not be like that. I also want the audience to try not to make the things wrong, like the parents in the story did. I hope that most part of the audience will understand what I want to convey to them and really hope that most the ones of parents or children who watch my project will not end up with this type of problems like the main character in my thesis project.

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE AND TECHNICAL REVIEWS

Chapter 2

Literature Review and Technical Review

Literature Review

Creative process

1. Research:

- Department of Mental Health 02-149-5555
- Call: 1323 Hot Line Mental Health Problems
- TV [รายการสุขภาพจิตเพื่อชุมชน]
- Forum web board
- YouTube Chanel: โรงพยาบาลสวนปรุง กรมสุขภาพจิต กระทรวงสาธารณสุข

I tried to find more details for my thesis because I thought that just the internet would not be enough so I called the Department of Mental Health and the Hot Line Mental Health Problems, but as a result I didn't receive more details and they told me that I could find more pieces of information on the internet.

Social phobia [Social anxiety disorder, SAD]

-Social phobia is a strong fear of being judged by others and of being embarrassed. This fear can be so strong that it gets in the way of going to work or school or doing other everyday things. It is the most common anxiety disorder and one of the most common psychiatric disorders, with 12% of American adults having experienced it.

Signs & Symptoms

People with social phobia tend to:

1. Be very anxious about being with other people and have a hard time talking to them, even though they wish they could.
2. Be very self-conscious in front of other people and feel embarrassed.
3. Be very afraid that other people will judge them.
4. Worry for days or weeks before an event where other people will be.
5. Stay away from places where there are other people.
6. Have a hard time making friends and keeping friends.
7. Blush, sweat, or tremble around other people.
8. Feel nauseous or sick to their stomach when with other people.

9. Expecting the worst possible consequences from a negative experience during a social situation.

Family & Relationship Problems

All relationships and families go through difficult times and experiencing occasional problems and conflict in personal relationships is normal. However, sometimes these problems can become overwhelming.

Family problems can manifest in the healthiest of families, resulting in challenging, frustrating, and painful interactions among family members. From little irritations to buried resentments, from dramatic arguments to feelings of guilt, disappointment, and anger we did not even know we had, our families often bring up the most intense emotions we experience, for better or worse.

Signs of family and relationship problems
- Frequent arguing
- Disagreements
- Breakdown in communication
- Angry outbursts
- Avoidance
- Physical conflict

Triggers for family and relationship problems
- Difference in opinions, personalities, beliefs, values or goals
- Change in family circumstances e.g. new baby, divorce/separation, blending families
- Financial problems
- Stress
- Issues related to sexuality
- Alcohol or drug use
- Gambling problems
- The onset of mental health problems
- Bullying/harassment
- Natural disasters
- Lack of trust/respect in a relationship

The impact of family and relationship problems

Often family are the most important people to you so relationship problems can be considerably distressing and can lead to:

- Negative emotions – anger, sadness, anxiety
- Stress
- Exhaustion
- Confusion
- Feeling isolated, alone or withdrawn
- Lack of concentration
- Difficulty eating or sleeping
- Problems with friends, colleagues or your children
- Using alcohol or drugs to cope or escape

DIFFERENT KINDS OF FAMILY PROBLEMS

SEPARATION

Separation can often be a couple's first step towards trying to improve their relationship although it can also be the first step towards a breakup or divorce.

Don't blame yourself for your parents' separation. They are adults and are trying to work out problems between them the best way they know how.

DIVORCE

Divorce of your parents may leave you feeling anxious, withdrawn or depressed. These intense feelings may express themselves as shame, anger, grief or poor performance in school.

Some kids describe their parents' divorce as the most painful experience of their childhood. So allow yourself to feel the pain, but try to keep making the best choices you can to take care of yourself and also to be fair to your parents.

Remember that your parents are also going through a difficult time. Both of them are still your parents and you should never have to take sides if you don't want to.

It helps to talk. If you can't tell your parents how you feel, find another adult you can trust like a friend's parent, school counsellor or relative.

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AN ALCOHOLIC OR DRUG ADDICTED PARENT

An alcoholic or drug addicted parent can make you sad or anxious. If they are struggling with addiction, they are probably not able to care for you well or give you much attention. This can be very difficult to deal with.

Remember, it's not your fault – even if your parent tries to blame you for their problems. The best way to cope is to talk to someone you trust who might convince your parent to get help.

Take care of yourself as well, and try to talk to someone about how the problem has been affecting you.

AN ABUSIVE PARENT

An abusive parent has no right to abuse you. Child abuse is against the law. This includes abuse of any minors (under 18).

No parent, step-parent, relative or friend of the family is allowed to abuse you – physically, sexually or emotionally.

Don't feel badly about looking out for yourself. Tell someone right away – an adult you trust. If they don't help, tell someone else until you find help. Remember that it is never your fault when someone abuses you. Their behaviour is wrong, and not related to anything you did.

PARENTS WHO ARE OVERPROTECTIVE

Parents who are overprotective usually make rules because they love you and don't want you to get hurt. Keep them up on the important things going on in your life and introduce them to your friends.

Show them that you understand their fears. For example, "I understand you think it's not safe for me to go out late on Saturday night but I promise to tell you where I'm going and who I'm going with."

If you can't talk to them without getting upset, write a letter. Let them know you are thinking about how they feel, and then spell out your own point of view.

A PARENT'S REMARRIAGE

A parent's remarriage can be confusing and stressful. It might help to do something nice for your step-parent, to break the ice. Let them know you understand that they are in love and need time alone with your parent. If you feel left out, talk to your parent and find a compromise.

Remember that your step-parent is not replacing your other parent. This can be a difficult time for your other parent, but try not to get caught up with their feelings too much. You shouldn't have to take sides between your parents if you don't want to.

If your step-parent is unkind or disrespectful to you, talk to your parent or an adult you trust.

PARENTS WHO FIGHT

Parents who fight can be upsetting or disturbing. When they are calm, tell your parents that their fighting bothers you. Try to understand each parent's point of view – don't feel you have to take sides. If they are insensitive to your feelings, go for a walk, phone a friend or do something else to avoid watching them fight.

If their fights are physical, you should talk to an adult you trust like a relative, a counsellor or a family friend before it gets out of control – especially if there is a danger that you or your siblings will get hurt.

Things you can do if you are having family/relationship problems

Talk - communication is the key and often the first step to finding solutions. Be calm and honest about your concerns when discussing your problems with a loved one.

Accept your differences - it can help avoid unnecessary conflict if you can recognize that people have different ideas, opinions and beliefs and you may not always be in agreement.

Have fun together - even when things are tough, it's important to find the time to have fun with your loved ones.

Make a plan - it can help reduce stress and give common goals to work towards. For example if you are having financial problems it can help to create a budget.

Get help - you may not always be able to solve your problems yourself so you may need some external help.

Reference:

I use a lot different type of reference and time to design all the characters and scene because I wanted all the character in my style. Some of my references could not be found on internet so I went to find them by myself taking a photos or buying some art books (such as Wreck it Ralph, Inside out, Frozen and Animator kid survival).
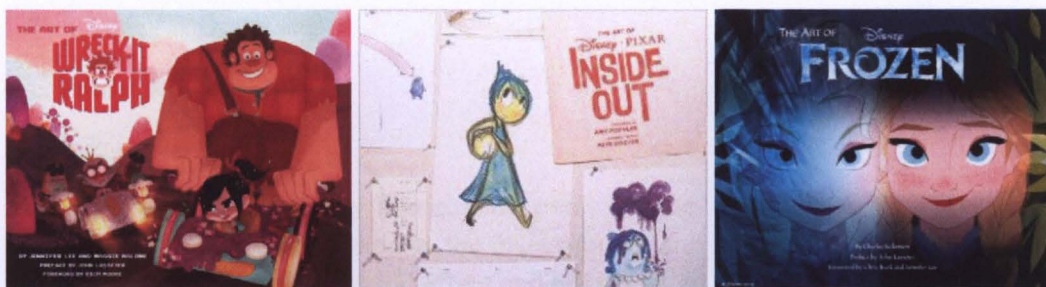
These are example of pictures that I use to be my references, all of them helped me a lot to develop characters and scene. While I was taking the Design Seminar course I thought my background drawing was my weak point, so I tried to work hard on this part, but the output was still not good enough. Then, I went to look for places where I could study more about the Background drawing and painting. I hope that, before the real production starts, I would be able to paint a good background for my thesis.

Technical Review

    I drew a picture frame by frame, and I paint it using Adobe Photoshop and then I used Adobe After Effect to compose the background and the characters that had already animated; then I added the sound effect and effects using After Effect. The tools that I used in my thesis are a computer and Wacom tablet.
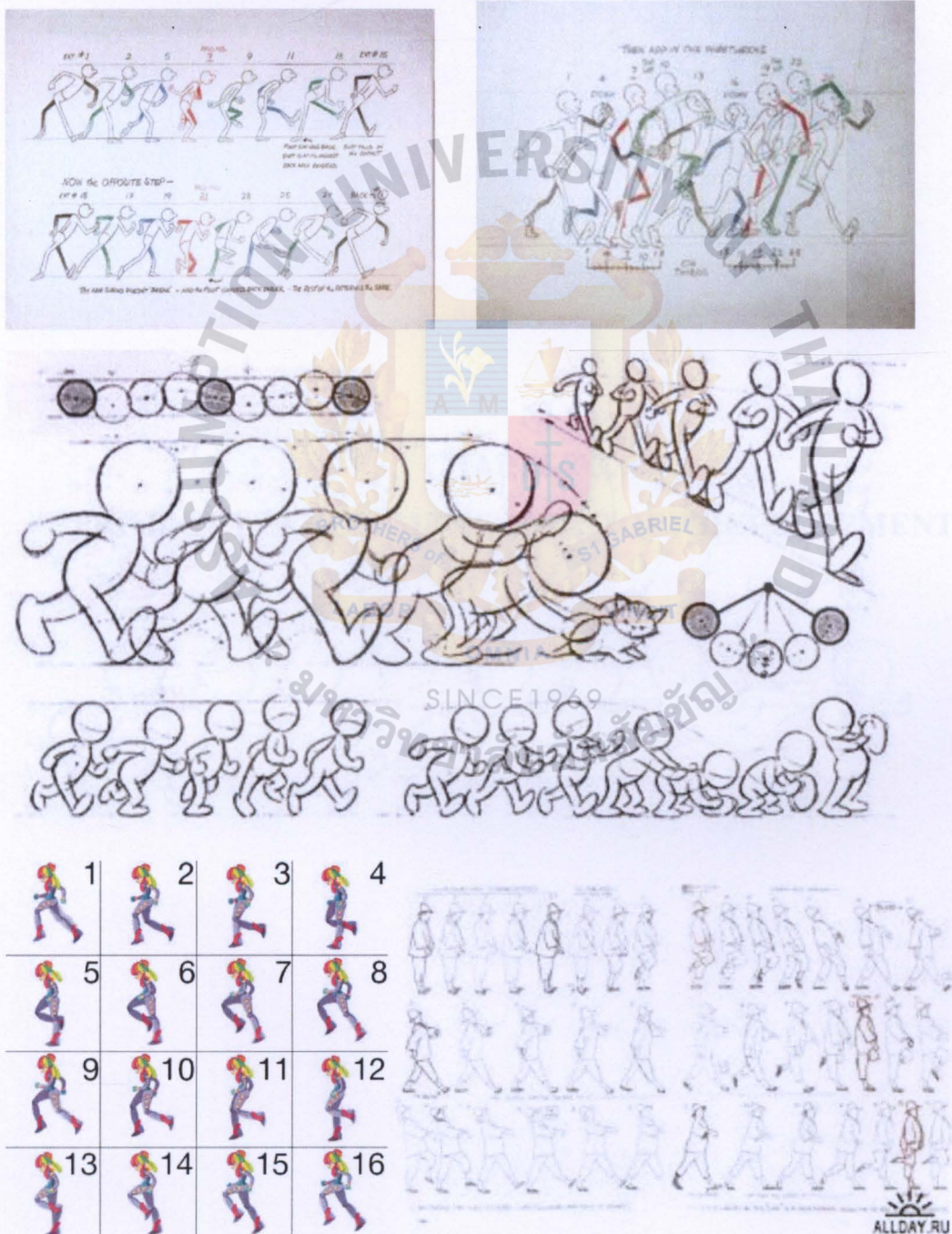
CHAPTER 3
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND STORY DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 3

Project Development and Story Development

	GA4531 Design Seminar	Week														
	Working Process	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Research and Creative thinking for concept	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
2	Screenwriting and Story development (2 stories)							✓								
3	Storyboarding								✓	✓						
4	1st draft Storyboarding development										✓					
5	2nd draft Storyboarding development											✓				
6	Character, scene, prop design												✓	✓	✓	
7	Final Present Animatic / Design														✓	✓
	GA4602 Art Thesis	**Week**														
	Working Process	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Production in Progress I	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
2	Production in Progress II							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Production in Progress III												✓	✓	✓	
4	Art Thesis Exhibition															✓

This semester is the semester that I call the pre-production process. I did the research about social phobia and family problems in order to use it in my artwork. I also read a lot of articles related to the people who have this kind of symptoms in Thailand.

Finally, I came up with an idea of the story for my project as follow:

Synopsis : Me Mind Mirror [2015]

Mood& Tone: [Glum, Sadness until the climax is met. Bright, Happy and Appreciative after the climax.]

The scene starts with a girl who's afraid of shadows coming closer until there is the sound of broken glass and it cuts into the logo. After the logo has disappeared the scene starts with the picture of a happy family that shows a young girl growing with her parents. Then it cuts to a young girl who wakes in bed under a blanket, she get up and do her daily activities, as usual, and goes to the mirror to check and tie her hair. She tries to hide her face and took it to be done and she look like it was good enough but in the mirror reflects the image of a girl who looks very sad and depressed, in reality the images are absolutely opposite. Later, she walks down the stairs and, while she is walking through the framed family picture that is mounted on the wall. After that, she says goodbye to her parents and she walks out of the house to go to school. [This scene shows that her father is not much interested in answering to her because, while her father is waving goodbye, he is still reading a newspaper.]

So she goes to school, during the lunch break her classmates try to invite her to play with them, but she turns her face because she is scared she doesn't know how to refuse. After that, she comes back home in the evening after school. [Every time she walks pass a mirror her reflection shows that she is dressed like someone she wants to be or she wears what she would like to wear but it is just in the mirror.]

Then, she goes to bed and wakes again it is day 2; she does the same things as she did on day1, but, on the day 2, while she is walking down the stairs she hears her parents start fighting in the kitchen. She walks down to the kitchen and hides behind the wall and she looks at what they are doing, then she makes some noise to make them know that she is coming down, so they stop to fight. On day 3, when she is walking down the stairs, she stops at her family picture. On this day, she hears that her parents are fighting more violently so she chooses to hide again, but her father shakes his arm make the mirror fall so it breaks into pieces. A piece of the mirror slightly injures her mother.

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The girl is shocked and she cries. Her cry makes her parent know that she saw what has just happened. As they don't want her to know about this, they try to walk to her to explain it. The little girl panics and fears that her parents will blame her so she runs away out of the house.

While she is running away her parents try to stop her and tell her not go on the street. She listen to them, she turns back to go toward her parents, but, as she turns back, she is in the middle of the street and she sees a bus which is going to crash into her [This scene zooms into her eyes, the bus appears as a reflection in her eyes.] and then it fades into a black scene.

When she opens her eyes she sees the world in Black&White and distorted, she sees people like shadows with smiley faces and it look like herself. [Every time she walks pass a mirror her reflection shows that she is dressed like someone she wants to be or she wears what she would like to wear but it is just in the mirror as it was the day before.]. The shadow tries to walk around and catch her this makes her run away back to her house. Now it cuts into her parents' part, the scene is in the hospital, her parents run after patient is bed of their daughter.

The story cuts back to the runaway scene of the girl that appears in front of her house and opens the door, she sees that in her house everything is distorted like another thing around here but she has no choice, so she runs into the house. Then it cuts to her parents that listen to the doctor in front of the ICU.

Back to the girl part, a shadow runs after the girl to her room on the second floor. She hides by the side of her bed fearing that she will be caught and at the end, the shadow finds her.

The scene cuts to her parents who try to wake her up by shaking her and shouting at her.

Back to the girl, she is going to be swallowed by the shadow, her body starts to crack like glass.

Then it cuts to her parents that take and hold her hands and shout at her.

Back to the girl, the girl and her shadow hear her parents voices, in the meanwhile the background around her starts to crack and a light comes into the dark. The sound of cracking and breaking makes the light more shining and erases the shadow. At the same time the girl sees her parents silhouette send their smile to her. The scene becoming more bright, the girl sees her memories of her family happy to be together and everything becomes white.

She wakes up and sees her parents be with her, she starts crying. Her parents sees that she is crying they give her a hug and they cry with her.

The end credits show the picture that tells the story after a girl came out of the hospital until she grows up to be an adult.

Meaning of the element:

- The girl in this story takes the role of a girl who has the symptom of social phobia, because, even if in the past her family seems very happy and perfect, one day her parents start to argue and fight. One day she sees with her own eyes her parents who start to fight and she fears to be caught so, she hides from her parents. Her parents don't want their child to know that they have a problem so, when the girl shows up they act like nothing happens, but in reality their child has already seen what they are hiding. They do not pay attention to her. That's why the girl starts to have some symptoms related to social phobia. These symptoms can disappear, she just needs help from her social peers, starting from the smallest society which is her own family.

- The mirror in the story shows her real emotions that she hides by keeping on smiling. It shows what she really wants to do and shows how she feels, but in reality she acts in the opposite way. When she walks pass mirror it always show the reflection of her emotions.

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- The girl's parents in the story represent the source and solution of the problems. In the first part of story they fight and don't focus on their child this makes her start to have symptoms. After the middle part of the story, they know that they made mistakes and try to solve them but at that time their daughter's life is in danger.

- The shadow in the story represents the facts that she's scared of people. The shadow points at the girl or faces her when she looks at it because it represents all her thinking. She scared of people who can judge her and see her as the wrong one, while she did not do anything wrong.

- The light in the story represents the way to solve the problem. So this light can erase the shadow that is her problem in the story. [The light comes when her parent arrive to save her.].

- The location in the story is a place in Thailand, so I referred to the primary school uniform of the main character to be close the real one.
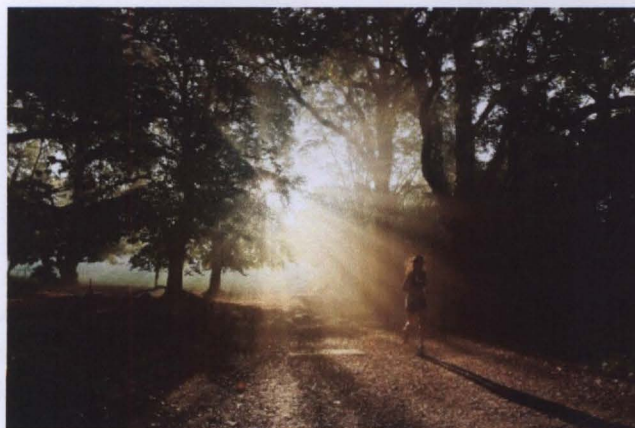
Design:

Character Design: Care

1.

2.

In the first and second drafts is quite hard to bring out her personality, emotions and it is hard to animate. They are also a lot of detail in her hair is too much in front of her face.


3.

The third draft is the draft in which I decided the costume of Care. I chose student uniform and I drew Care in many student uniforms. [As you see form the examples in the picture above] As the last decision, I selected the uniform that has bibs and I decided the color of bibs and skirt to be red.
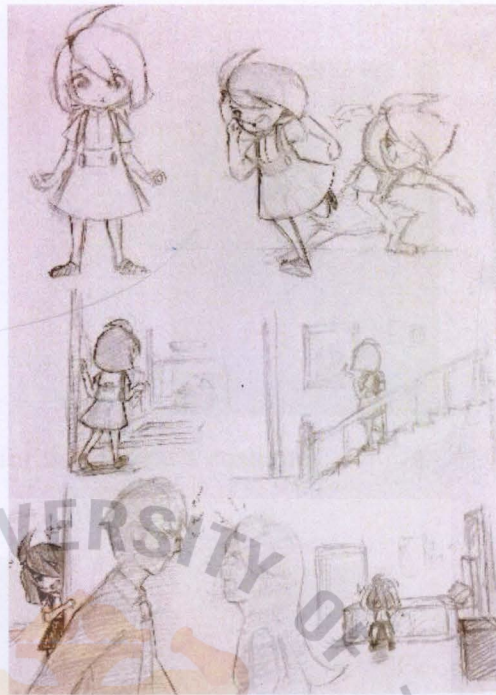
4.

The fourth draft is close to I wanted to create but her body looks older than the one of 9 years old. Care's still too tall for her age. In this draft I tested the color that I will use for Care by using a color pencil.
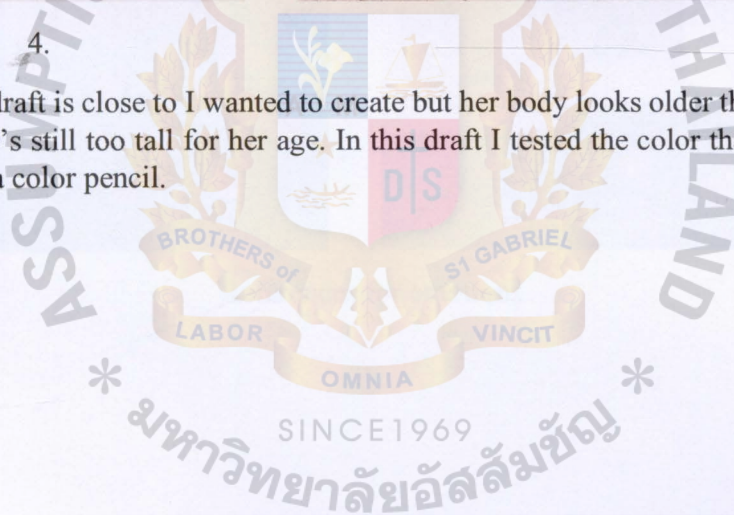
Example of references for Care's design

References for the student's costume

References for emotions
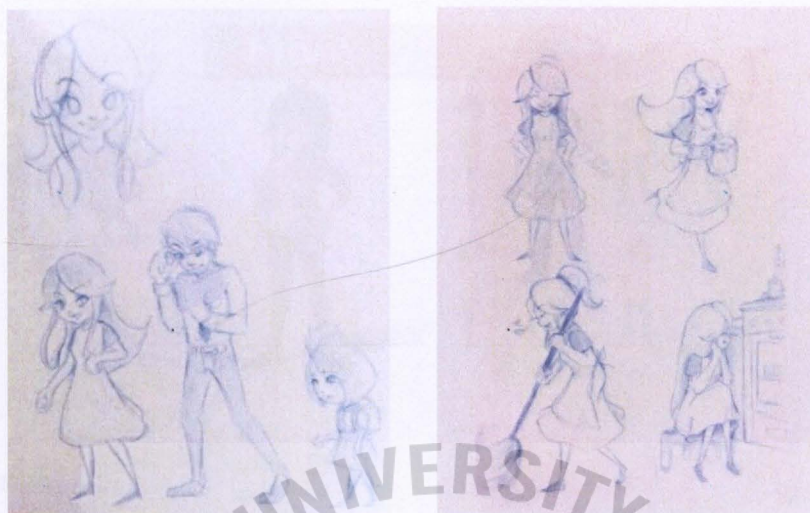
Old design

Latest design

Characters' Descriptions: Care

Care is a little girl who studying in a Primary School that is near her house and her age is 9 years old. Her hair is always tied up in a ponytail. Most of the time in the story, after she has known that her parents started to fight, Care's face like she is sad or scared of something.

Character Design: Dear [Mom]

1.

2.

In the first and second drafts I tried to make her look like a kind mother and make her like doing housework and cooking for her family, but then I chose her job to be a graphic designer so these two drafts cannot be used to match up with the job and the character that I want. The committee advised me that she looks too young and her hair and her costume are too vintage.
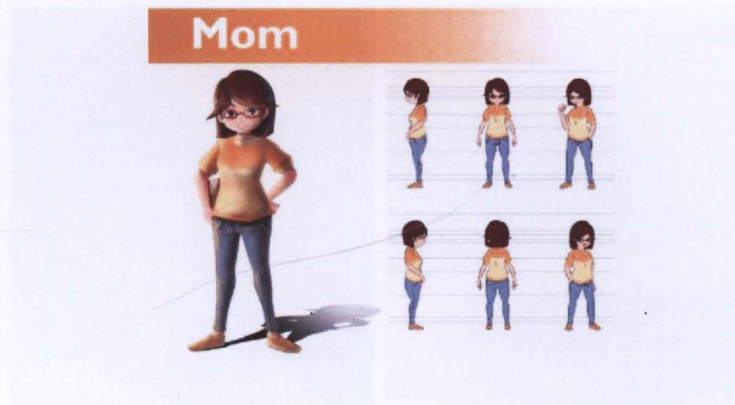

3.

4.

The third draft is close to what I wanted to create but in fact she is still too young to be Care's mother. The committee advised me that she is still too young and looks like Care's sister more than her mother.

In the fourth draft I tried to make her older than in the one before and change the costume to catch up with the fashion trend around the years 2012-2014

Old design

Latest design

Character Descriptions: Dear [Mom]

Dear is a graphics designer for a publishing company and her age is 36 years old. She always wears her red glasses. Regarding Dear's personality she is a kind mother to her daughter and a good wife for her husband but sometimes she has a fight with her husband because she wants everything to be perfect for her family. The committee advised me to make her hip bigger to make her look older.

Example of references for Dear's design

References for emotions

References for the costume

Character Design: Max [Dad]

1.

2.

In the first and second drafts I tried to make him look like a serious father and a businessman but someone who really loves his family. In these two drafts his face and hair style are too young. The committee advised me that he look too young.
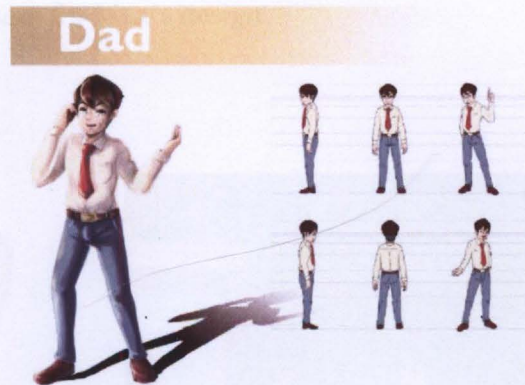

3.
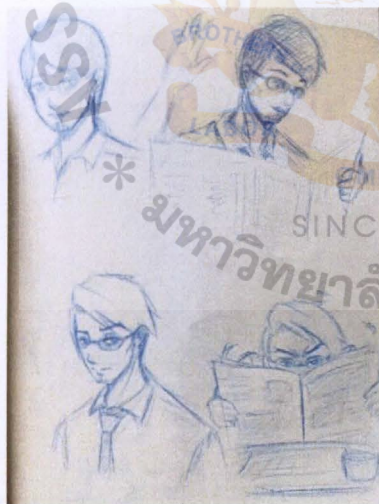
The third draft is closer to what I wanted to create but in fact he is still too young to be Care's father. The committee advised me that he is still too young.

Old design

Latest design

Character Descriptions: Max [Dad]

Max is a businessman at a well-known company and his age is 37 years old. He always wears his company uniform. Regarding Max's personality, he is a serious father to his daughter and a good husband to his wife, but sometimes he has a fight with his wife because he does not have enough time to pay attention to and concentrate on the family. The committee advise me to make him fatter to make him look older because this time he looks too smart.

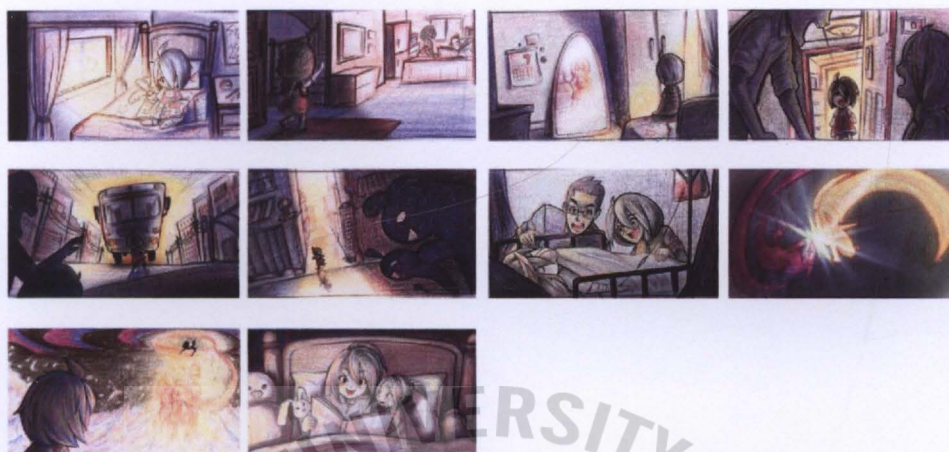Example of references for Max's design

Old Comparison

This picture compares the height of the three main characters.

Latest Comparison

This picture compares the height of all the main characters.

Color Script

Book Cover Design

CHAPTER 4
DESIGN WORK

4.1. Final Work

Visual Development: Me Mind Mirror

Mood & Tone: Digital Paint

Detail   :   Concept Art, Video Presentation
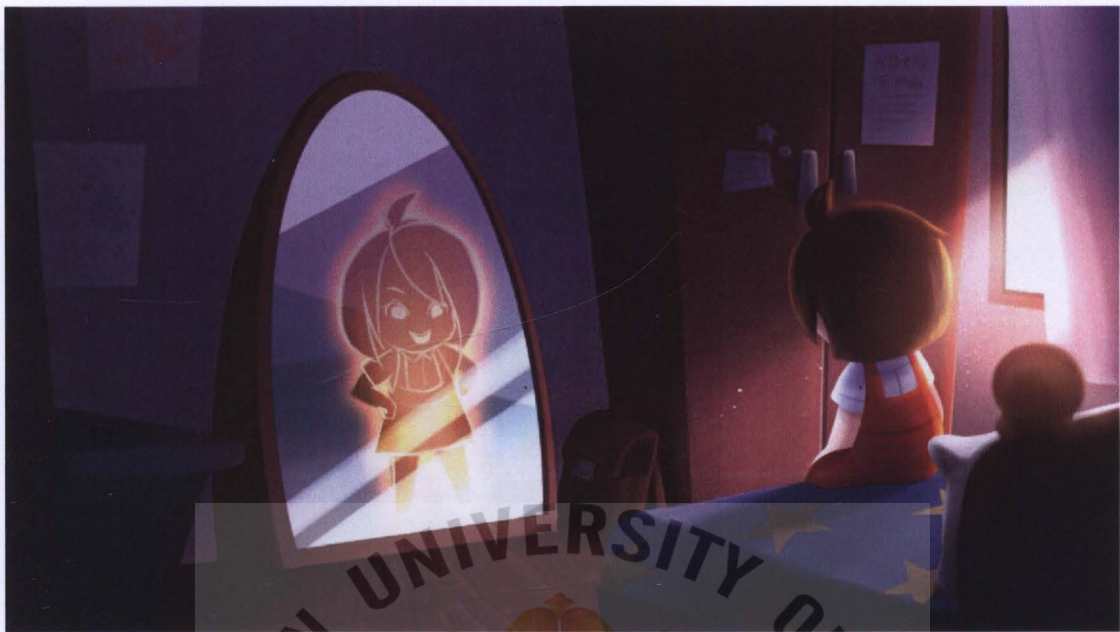
Technique   :   Photoshop, After Effect

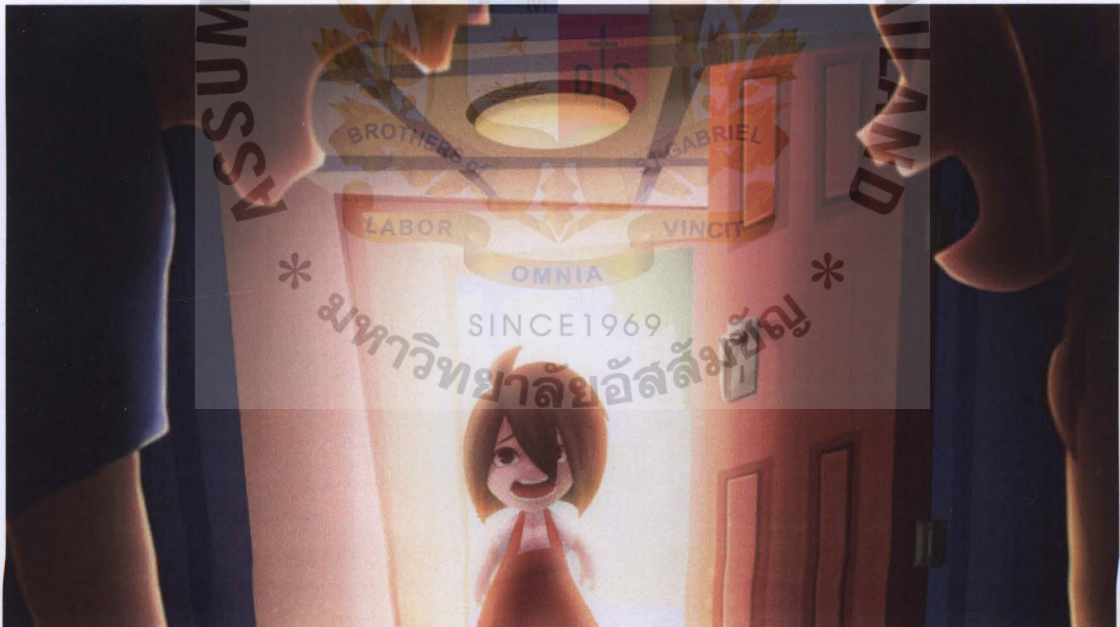1. Care is sitting on her bed and she looks at her family album.

2. Care says goodbye to her parents before going to school.

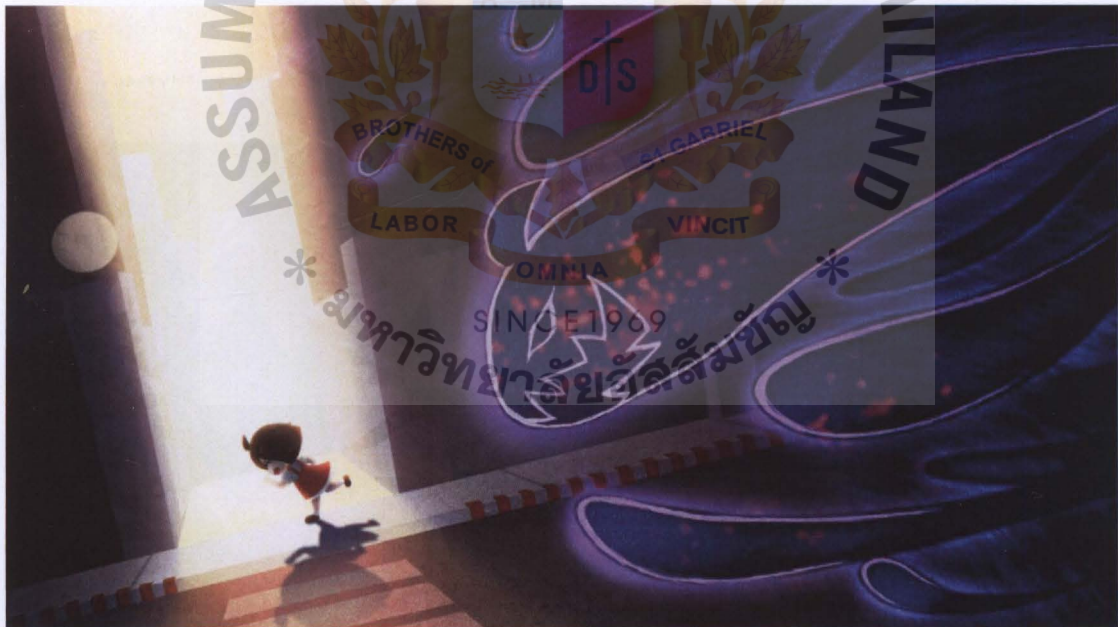3. Care is looking into a mirror and sees her reflection.

4. Care finds out that her parents are having a fight.

5. Care runs out of the house and is crashed by a bus.

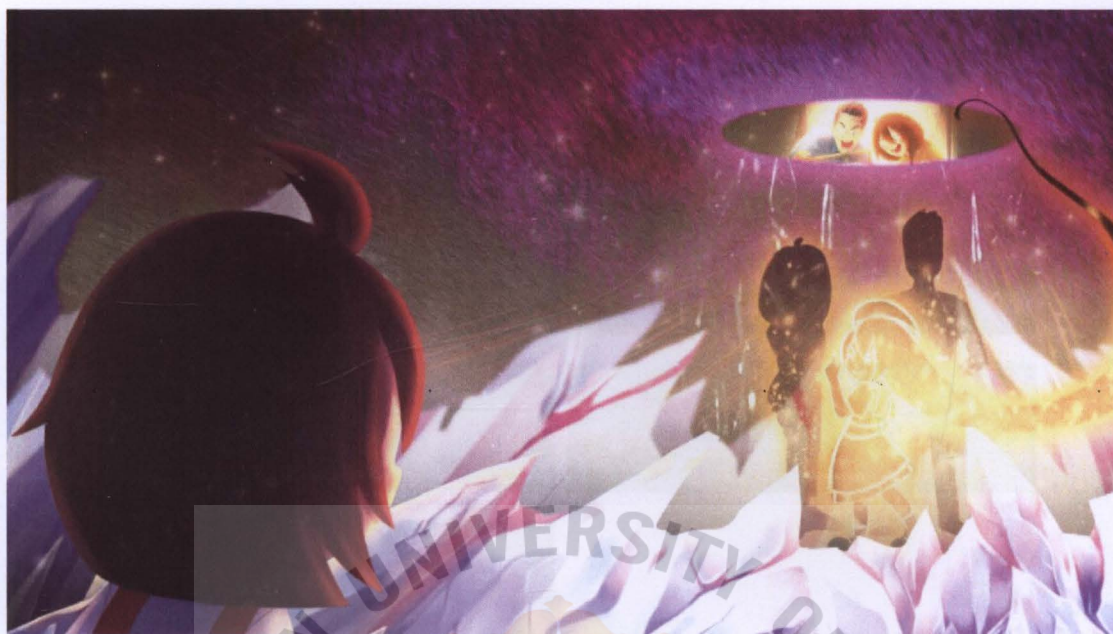6. Care is chased by the shadows' gang in the mystic world.

7. Max and Dear call Care's name.

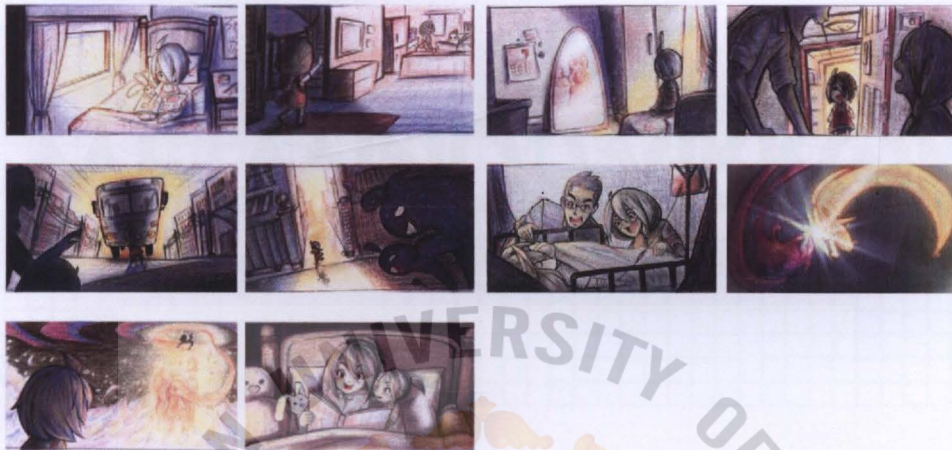

8. The fight of light and shadows.

9. Care hears her parents' voice and the light guides her to go back to the real world.

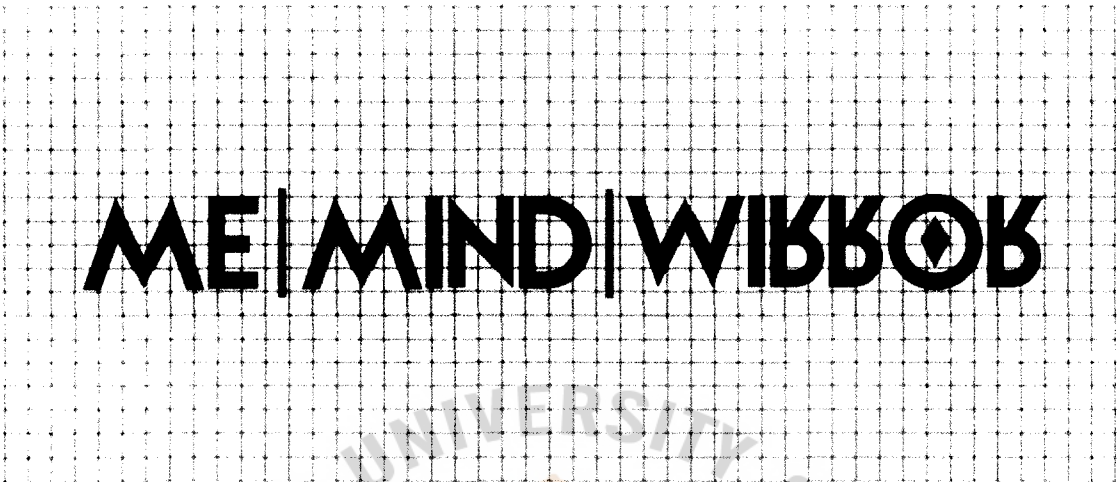10. Care is reading her story as a bed time tale to her daughter.

Color Script

Final Work

Logo Design

ME|MIND|WIRROR

FONT : NOVA

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Book Cover Design

Final Book Cover

Art Work for Book Cover

4.2   Problems & committee's suggestion

   The committee seem to be satisfied with my final work, but I just need to add
more details and change the cracking mirror scene and also correct the sound of
the video.

4.3   Solution

   I spent more time adding more details and correcting scenes.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion and suggestions

At the very first, I thought this project was easy. Every committee warned me about the project, but I did not listen to their warnings. I just thought "I want to do it, it's my dream" and then I failed, but I did not want to stop the project. I knew that it was going to be a very difficult thing and the biggest project in my life. I went to thank to committees that give me a chance to make my dream come true, even I had to change from animation to visual development.

This project is not only just design and painting. It is about managing the times that is used for work in every part. The main mistake in this project is that I focused on sketching more than on painting. I did so, because I wanted my work to be good, but the committees wanted to see overall first. That made me failed.

The last thing I want to tell is very important for every thesis project and it is that everyone has the same problem concerning the time. You need to be prepared in every step of your work. Don't waste too much of your time on your Facebook or other social networks or playing games. You just need to spend 3-4 hours to do your project every day. DO NOT rush your work only when the deadline is coming. Plan carefully and do according to your plan, and never give up.
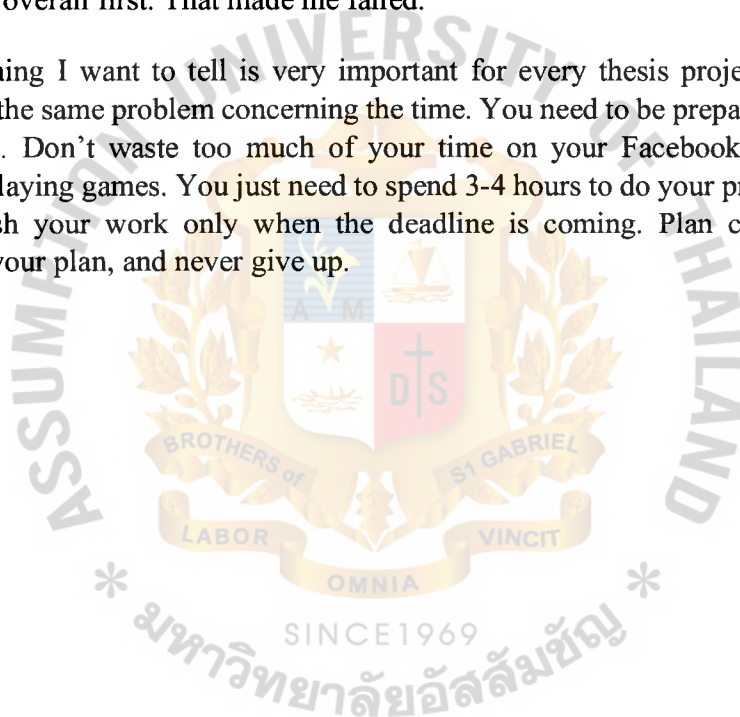
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Website

www.conceptships.blogspot.com

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BIOGRAPHY

Personal Data

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E-mail : offline_paradise@hotmail.com

Date of Birth : 5 February 1991

Age : 26

Education

June 2009 – 2015 : Department of Visual Communication Art, major of

Computer Graphic, Albert Laurence School of

Communication Art, Assumption University

1997 - 2009 : Assumption Commercial College

Working Experience

July – August 2015 : Internship at The Monk Studios

Skill and Expertise

- Autodesk Maya 2013
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe After Effect
- Adobe Premiere Pro

Estimated Budget

Presentation 1	500	Baht
Presentation 2	650	Baht
Presentation 3	500	Baht
Presentation 4	2,000	Baht
3 Art books	4,000	Baht
Printing cost for Exhibition	800	Baht
Art Thesis Exhibition	5,000	Baht
Final Report	3,000	Baht
TOTAL	**16,450**	**Baht**