

THE AMERICAN ANIMATION INSTITUTE CATALOGUE AND CLASS SCHEDULE ❖ Spring 2010

February 16-May 14, 2010

Information and class reservations:
(818) 845-7000

Sponsored by the Animation Guild
and Affiliated Optical Electronic and
Graphic Arts, Local 839 IATSE



Tom Sito

What is the American Animation Institute?	1
What does the American Animation Institute offer?	1
What are the prerequisites for taking AAI classes?	2
Is the Institute accredited? Does the Institute offer degrees or certificates?	2
Will I be hired at an animation studio after I take the AAI classes?	2
✓ How do the class rebates work?	2
How do I register for an AAI class?	3
What other schools in southern California teach animation?	5
Where can I receive computer animation training?	6
<u>Animation Craft Classes</u>	
Storyboarding	7
Character Design	8
Traditional Animation Basics 1:	
Pencil and Paper	9
Animation Addiction - No Cure:	
Intermediate Animation	10
<u>Seminar — Weekends</u>	
Digital Painting With Photoshop	11
<u>Art Classes — Evenings</u>	
Head, Hand and Foot Drawing	12
Gesture Drawing	13
Color and Composition	14
Life Drawing	15
Composition for Animation and Film	16
Drawing for Composition	16
<u>Art Classes — Weekdays</u>	
Head and Figure Painting	17
Painting the Still Life	18
Figure Drawing From Top To Bottom	19
Whats is the Animation Guild? How do I become a member?	20

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 the animated cartoon in the United States through educational and other activities.

Despite ongoing uncertainties of employment in the animation field, as the demand for computer skills increases, the need for basic artistic and technical training 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, the Institute offers professional instruction in the “nuts and bolts” of screen cartooning. Our purpose 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.

What does the American Animation Institute offer?

As well as classes geared to industry professionals, the Institute offers introductory and intermediate classes for persons without previous professional experience who are seeking their first jobs in screen cartooning.

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.

What are the prerequisites for taking AAI classes?

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

Is the Institute accredited? Does the Institute offer degrees or certificates?

No. 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.

Will I be hired at an animation studio after I take the AAI classes?

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.

4 How do the class rebates work?

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.

How do I register for an AAI class?

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 7-19.

The phone number for AAI information class reservations is:

(818) 845-7000

Note that effective summer semester 2008, the reservation and information phone numbers are the same.

***Animation Guild member reservations:** Active members of the Animation Guild may reserve classes *for themselves only* on **January 22, 2010** starting at 8:30 am. Inactive Guild members, members of other guilds or unions, and all others must reserve beginning January 25. Members who have not reserved their classes on January 22 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 2010 must be received at the AAI office on or before 5 pm on February 5, 2010. 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 enrollees' 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.

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:

- Art Institute of Los Angeles* (888) 646-4610
- Art Institute of Orange County* (888) 549-3055
- California Institute Of The Arts*
..... (661) 255-1050 x2242
- Cal State Long Beach*..... (562) 985-4352
- Cal State Northridge* (818) 677-2242
- Chapman College* (714) 997-6765
- Laguna College of Art + Design* (949) 376-6000
- Loyola Marymount University* (310) 338-3033
- Mount San Antonio College* (909) 594-5611
- Academy of Entertainment Technology @
Santa Monica College* (310) 434-3700
- UCLA Animation Workshop* (310) 206-8441
- University of Southern California* ... (213) 740-3986
- Woodbury University*..... (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:

- Rowland High School* (626) 965-3448 x294
- Sierra Vista High School* (818) 355-4908
- Fairfax High School*..... (323) 651-5200
- Animation Creations* (818) 501-1203
- Sheldon's Art Academy*..... (818) 706-9444

BELOW AND RIGHT: 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 URLs of these
AAI instructors:**

- Nicole Duet: nicoleduet.com
 - Karl Gnass: spirit-of-the-pose.com
 - Will Weston: willwestonstudio.com
-



Animation Craft Classes

STORYBOARDING

Karl Gnass 36 hours Fee: \$180.00✓

12 Wednesdays, February 17-May 5,
7 pm-10 pm

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

- Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
- All others beginning January 25, 2010

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: Mike Polvani RIGHT: Alex Topete



CHARACTER DESIGN

Michael Polvani 24 hours **Fee: \$120.00✓**

12 Tuesdays, February 16-May 4,
7 pm-9 pm

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

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

This course will explore the creation of various characters through the use of shapes, forms, basic design principles and the implementation of basic draftsmanship skills as well as exercises that will stimulate creativity, all geared towards use in animation.

**TRADITIONAL ANIMATION BASICS 1:
PENCIL AND PAPER**

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

12 Saturdays, February 20-May 15,
10 am-noon

Note: no class April 3

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

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

This course focuses on in-between and assistant animation skills, guiding the students through the elements of solid drawing, gesture, silhouette, weight, timing, squash and stretch, overlap, follow-through, dialogue and more. Students will be instructed in the principles of classic traditional assistant animation through custom tailored, hand drawn exercises designed to enrich the skills of artists working in traditional or computer animation. Techniques are applicable to CG, Flash, stop-motion and other animation forms used today or into the future.

BELOW: Alex Topete



**ANIMATION ADDICTION - NO CURE
(INTERMEDIATE ANIMATION)**

Alex Topete and Mike Polvani 24 hours
Fee: \$120.00✓

12 Mondays, February 22-May 10, 7-9 pm

Prerequisite: Traditional Animation Basics 1

*To reserve for Animation Addiction - No Cure
(Intermediate Animation), call (818) 845-7000 on
or after:*

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

Students can continue to refine their skills and develop their 2-D Animation Reel. The class will focus on various hand drawn exercises designed to challenge and enrich the skills of artists working in traditional or computer animation.

The course focuses on advanced in-between, assistant and rough animation, guiding the students through projects concerned with weight, change of expression, metamorphosis, walks, pantomime, dialogue and more. Tools required: paper, pencil, erasers and a mind interested in developing a greater artistic and less technical way of approaching the fine art of traditional character animation.

BELOW: ???

Seminar — Weekends

DIGITAL PAINTING WITH PHOTOSHOP

Will Weston 9 hours **Fee: \$60.00**

3 Saturdays, February 20, February 27 and
March 13, 1pm-4 pm

*To reserve for Digital Painting With Photoshop,
call (818) 845-7000 on or after:*

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

This three-session seminar introduces students to Photoshop painting and to concepts required to compose and design the lighting for a painting. Photoshop is simplified to accommodate the beginning Photoshop painter, providing a solid foundation from which to expand as experience allows. Handouts with examples providing guidance for continued learning after the seminar are provided. Students must have access to a computer with Photoshop loaded. Laptops may be brought to class, but are not required.

General working knowledge of Photoshop is suggested, as is general knowledge of composition and drawing. Supply list available at www.willwestonstudio.com.



BELOW: Karl Gnass. BELOW RIGHT: Steve Brown

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, HAND AND FOOT DRAWING

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

12 Mondays, February 22-May 10, 7-10 pm

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

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 22, 2010

All others beginning January 25, 2010

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

Steve Brown 36 hours **Fee: \$180.00✓**

12 Tuesdays, February 16-May 4, 7:30 pm-10:30 pm

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

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 22, 2010

All others beginning January 25, 2010

A life drawing class focused on creating acting and storytelling-oriented drawings. We will be working with models costumed as specific and colorful character types, with quick poses of five minutes or less. Open to all levels of experience.



BELOW AND RIGHT: Karl Gnass

COLOR AND COMPOSITION

Nicole Duet 36 hours **Fee: \$180.00**
12 Wednesdays, February 17-May 5, 7 pm-10 pm

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

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

A color workshop focusing on the basic visual and aesthetic interactions of color. Topics covered include color perception and intensive practice in mixing color. Special focus on color harmony and learning to use color to create effects of luminosity, depth and atmosphere in a painting. Students may work in their choice of gouache, acrylics and/or colored paper to create composition studies from master reproductions and photographs. Call for a supply list.



14

LIFE DRAWING

Karl Gnass 36 hours **Fee: \$180.00✓**
12 Thursdays, February 18-May 6, 7 pm-10 pm

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

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

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.

Materials: see page 12



15

COMPOSITION FOR ANIMATION AND FILM

Will Weston 15 hours **Fee: \$90.00**

5 Thursdays, February 18-March 18, 7 pm-10 pm

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

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 22, 2010

All others beginning January 25, 2010

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.

DRAWING FOR COMPOSITION

Will Weston 12 hours **Fee: \$70.00**

4 Thursdays, April 1-April 22, 7 pm-10 pm

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

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 22, 2010

All others beginning January 25, 2010

Composing scenes for animation requires artists who can draw, compose, and expressively arrange objects in groups supporting the environments being designed. Everything in animation, including props and set dressing must be drawn expressively and help to further the story. Students in this seminar will learn the fundamentals of prop drawing and arrangement for narrative purposes, and the basic elements of style as applied to these critical elements in animation composition. Basic drawing skills are recommended. Supply list available at www.willwestonstudio.com.

BELOW: Will Weston

Art Classes — Weekdays

All weekday classes include a thirty-minute lunch break.

Materials for weekday classes: see page 12

HEAD AND FIGURE PAINTING

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

12 Mondays, February 22-May 10, 9:30 am-4 pm

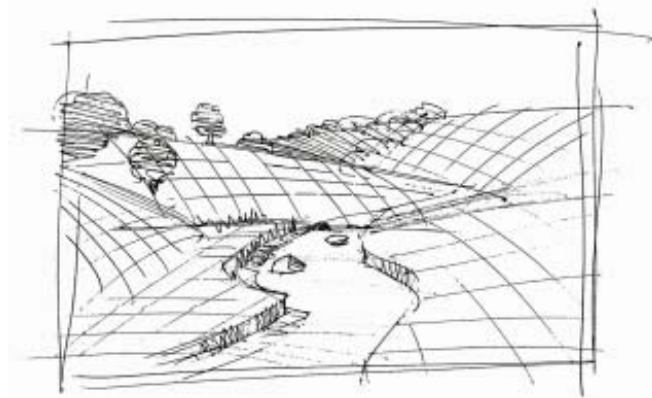
To reserve for Head and Figure Painting, call (818) 845-7000 on or after:

Animation Guild members*

..... beginning January 22, 2010

All others beginning January 25, 2010

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.



BELOW: Nicole Duet BELOW RIGHT: Karl Gnass

PAINTING THE STILL LIFE

Nicole Duet 48 hours **Fee: \$240.00**
12 Thursdays, February 18-May 6, 10 am-2:30 pm

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

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

Painting from the still life is one of the most quietly rewarding ways for students of all levels to develop the skills of a painter. This class covers fundamentals of paint handling and color mixing, and how to create the illusion of light, form and atmosphere. Students learn to see the setup with the eyes of a painter; as a world of color, value, shape, and edge relationships. Special emphasis will be given to the study of color harmony, composition, and the effects of colored light sources. Experimentation and the development of individual vision and expression is encouraged. This class offers five hours of painting per day and can provide either an in depth introduction to oil painting or a deepening of the student’s understanding as a painter. Demonstrations and individual attention will be given. *Call for supply list.*



FIGURE DRAWING FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Karl Gnass 72 hours **Fee: \$300.00**
12 Fridays, February 19-May 14, 9:30 am-4 pm

Note: no class April 2

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

Animation Guild members*
..... beginning January 22, 2010
All others beginning January 25, 2010

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.



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>**

WE'VE MOVED!

***1105 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505**

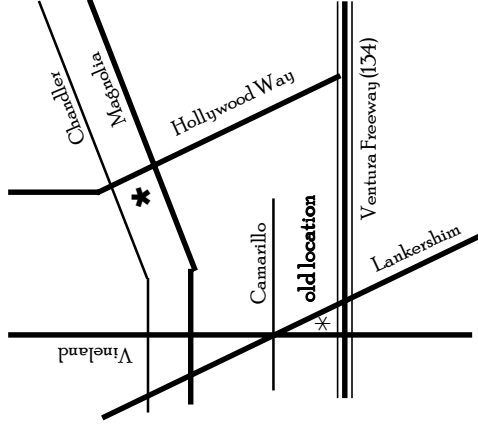
(between Chandler and Magnolia)

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

2.1 miles from 4729 Lankershim to 1105 N. Hollywood Way:

1. ½ mile north on Vineland to Magnolia; turn right
2. 1½ miles east on Magnolia to Hollywood Way; turn left
3. ½ block north; building is on the east side of Hollywood Way

Park in the lot south of the building or on Hollywood Way



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

SPRING 2010 AAI CATALOGUE

First Class Mail
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit 25
North Hollywood, CA