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Animated Landscapes: History, Form and Function, "Evoking the Oracle"

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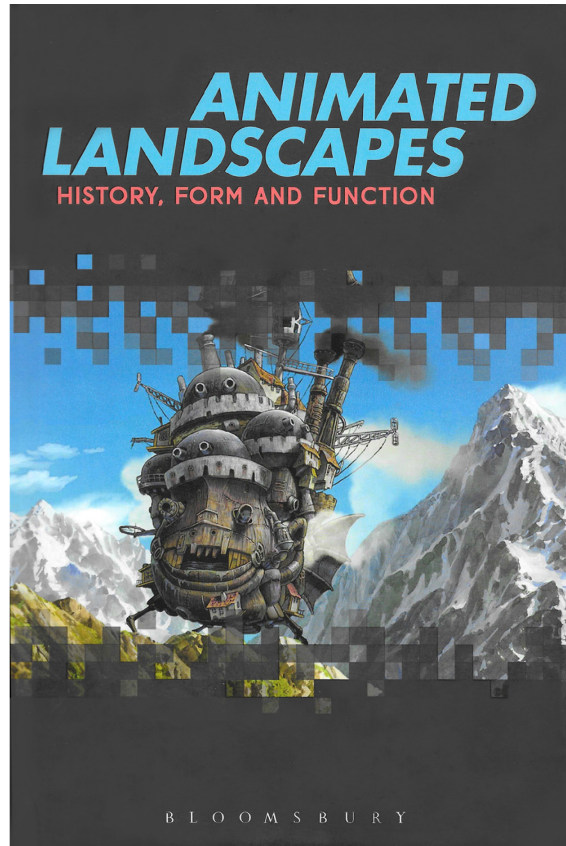
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Faculty Pub Night – Spring 2017

Date: February 21, 2017

Speaker: Tom Klein



About the Author

Tom Klein is an Associate Professor and the Chair of Animation. He is a contributing columnist to the popular website Cartoon Research. His work on the avant-garde mini-films of Shamus Culhane has been written about in *The New York Times* and is the subject of his curated exhibit at Laband Gallery. He has worked at Universal Cartoon Studios and Vivendi-Universal Games. He is the designer of the strategy game *Pirate Ring* for iOS. "Evoking the Oracle" appears within the new anthology *Animated Landscapes*, published by Bloomsbury.

About the Author's Work

The abstraction of animated landscapes can serve as a parable from which viewers may choose to divine a meaning. This in some ways follows in the tradition of Greek Oracles, with answers framed as riddles. The storytelling tradition of animators, which today is exemplified and amplified by its integration into live-action cinema through visual effects, is making this a topic of growing relevance in screen media. When the logic of a story-world can so easily defy reality and in fact becomes like magic, an audience can be made to reflect on themes from outside a normative framework. This challenges them to decode a meaning from something that may feel like it offers a truth. As cinema and games continue to move in this direction, the notion of the ancient Oracle resonates with contemporary nuance, conjuring the mystery and awe of the human condition.