



CRISTAL BUEMI



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Cristal Buemi is a Puerto Rican-Canadian, award-winning multidisciplinary artist (stop motion animation, video art/installation, collage and digital design) and educator (OCADU Experimental Animation and YorkU Design). Her work pushes frame by frame boundaries by exploring the diaspora through land and its relation to the body, materiality and inherent beauty found in the minutia. Through a mindful, feminist, experimental, and ecological lens, Cristal focuses on abstract storytelling, sustainability and texture. Her works have been exhibited worldwide including: The NYC Independent Film Festival, Sankofa Square, Animac, Harbourfront Centre, Fashion Art Toronto, Cardiff Animation Nights and broadcasted on AMC, MTV, BellMedia and HBO.

Education

2016 | MA - in Animation - Universidad de Vic-UCC / BAU Design College of Barcelona - Barcelona, Spain

2015 | Ontario College Certificate in Art Fundamentals - Sheridan College - Oakville, ON, Canada

2009 | BA - Radio and Television arts, Specializing in Digital Media (English minor) - TMU - Toronto, ON, Canada

Awards + Grants

2024 | Community Investments - Seed Grant - Ontario Trillium Foundation (Frame by Frame)

2023 | Artists in Communities and School Projects - Ontario Arts Council (Frame by Frame)

2022 | TO Live Explorations Initiative - TO Live (Frame by Frame)

2017 | Most Innovative Film - IndieFilm TO

2010 | Best Films of 2009 - Back to School Online Short Film Festival Special National Screen Institute

2010 | Royal Reel Winners in the Short Film Category - Canadian International Film Festival

2009 | Animation Finalists - National Screen Institute Online Film Festival

2009 | Best Multimedia in a Practicum TMU - TV and Radio Achievement Awards

2007 | Finalist - MTV Art Break Station ID

Academic Positions + Facilitation Experience

Present (2025) | Course Director - Design, School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design - York University

Present (Since 2022) | Sessional Instructor - Experimental Animation, Faculty of Art - OCAD University

Present (Since 2021) | Co-Founder + Lead INSTRUCTOR - Frame by Frame

Present (Since 2020) | Program Developer + Lead Facilitator - The Animation Project - North York Arts

Present (Since 2017) | Instructor - Animation City + Studio Skills - Toronto Animated Image Society (TAIS)

2022 | Art Facilitator - Paper Dreams Workshop - TO Live

2022- 2023 | Instructor - JBGRAPHIC

2021 | Instructor - Communications Technology - Toronto District School Board

2020 | Guest Instructor - Time Based Communication1 - York/Sheridan Design (YSDN)

2020 | Program Developer + Lead Facilitator - Moving Pictures - Canadian Multicultural Heritage Centre (CMHC)

2019 - 2021 | Art Facilitator - "WAY, SHAPE or FORM" + Thorncliffe Park Public School Off Site Program - Koffler Centre of the arts

2019 | Art Facilitator - Sand Animation Exploration Workshop - Riverbrink Art Gallery

2019 - 2020 | Instructor - Animation Workshops - Creative Users Projects

2019 | Art Facilitator - Sand Animation Exploration Workshop - Indigenous Studies - Concordia University

2019 | Program Developer + Lead Facilitator - The Citizenship Project - Ahuri Theatre + Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (JCC)

2018 - 2020 | Art Facilitator - Reel Comfort + Youth and Community Initiatives | Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)

2018 - 2020 | Instructor | Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada

2017 | Art Facilitator - Mixed Media Animation - Reel Asian Film Festival

2016 - 2018 | Multimedia Assistant - Education Technology Office - University of Toronto

Industry Experience + Notable Clients

2024 | Stop Motion Animator + Visual Effects Technician - Stop Motion Department + Google - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Animated moco and objects for Google AI documentary (in production)*

2023 | Stop Motion Animator - Staples Canada + See You On The Moon - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Animated 3 spots using over 60 objects for "Back to School" International Campaign for Social Media, Youtube and TV*

2023 | Graphic Designer - Take Action + Resistance Films - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Designed and created all lower thirds, titles and textured overlays for "100 seconds till Midnight" Documentary.*

2022 (Released 2023) | Stop Motion Animator - HBO - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Animated various sequences and shots using objects and boil swaps techniques for “Great Photo, Lovely Life” Documentary.*
- *Assisted on installation/setup on projection shots, captured through Dragonframe.*

2021 | Stop Motion Animator - Stoopid Buddy Stoodios + AMC - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Animated various moco shots, dialogue scenes as well as special effects for the TV series “Ultra City Smiths”.*
- *Communicated regularly with art, rigging and puppet departments to ensure the needs of each shot were being met and delivered on time.*
- *Responsible for troubleshooting any issues that came up while animating including rig usage and minor puppet/set and prop maintenance.*

2020 | Stop Motion Animator + Art Department - Stop Motion Department + Google - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Designed and constructed elements used in “Slogans Powered by Google AI” spot starring Douglas Coupland.*
- *Animated titles and objects.*
- *Collaborated with Animation and Art Director to support the artistic design objectives and animation style.*

2019 | Graphic Designer / Set Dresser - Wango Films - Carrizozo, New Mexico, USA

- *Created all graphics for film “Wander” including animations, graphics, logos, print and web designs.*
- *Responsible for technical and creative setups for playback during production. Supported on-screen talent with training and customization while using graphics.*
- *Provided additional support to the Art Department in set dressing, design and creative conceptualization.*

2019 | Outreach Coordinator - Toronto Animated Image Society (TAIS) - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Supported the creative and technical aspects of production for various programs and workshops.*
- *Represented TAIS in the Toronto art community and built strong client relationships to ensure future collaborations with various organizations.*
- *Responsible for workshop budgets and administrative/ design duties that supported grant writing, and marketing and promotional materials/assets.*

2017 | Stop Motion Animator - Saved Ground - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Configured and operated Dragonframe for “Rusty Rivets” commercial shoot and show packaging.*
- *Animated and assisted in direction of animation sequences.*
- *Supervised continuity of animation style and resolved technical issues.*

2016 | Assistant Production Designer + Set Dresser - Serendipity Point Films - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Supported conceptualization of overall look and style of the film “Below Her Mouth”.*
- *Assisted in set build and material prep, as well as set dressing each shot.*
- *Coordinated purchases, rentals and construction of set pieces.*

2011-2015 | On-Air Graphics Editor - Bell Media - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Produced info graphics and on-air advertisements for “Business News Network”, a live television news channel.*
- *Liaison between editorial and creative departments for development of new templates and assets.*
- *Consulted for the technical supervision of video servers and various switcher softwares.*

2009 - 2011 | Director + Graphic Designer - Sirius XM + NHL Network - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Directed “The Power Play”, a live-on-location simulcasted sports show.*
- *Created all packaging / design elements and operated graphics in the control room, using photoshop, Insciber and G3D.*

2009 - 2011 | Web Administrator - TO411 + TO411 Daily - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Web maintenance and graphic design including logos and infographics.*
- *Gathering data through Google Analytics.*

2008 - 2009 | Design Assistant - MTV Canada - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Contributed strategies to the early creative development of the station.*
- *Production Assistant on promotional and creative shoots.*
- *Data management and organization of videotape libraries.*

2006 -2009 | Video Production Assistant - TMU - Toronto, ON, Canada

- *Scheduled and maintained all equipment bookings for faculty and student use.*
- *Supported classes and student projects*
- *Assisted faculty and students in troubleshooting equipment and software problems.*

Panels + Conference Presentations

Buemi, Cristal and Una di Gallo (September 27th). "September's TOMO Talk". Toronto Motion (TOMO) 2024 - Toronto, ON

Buemi, Cristal, Holness, Dwayne, Naidu Sid and Nayani V.T. (April 13th). Young Creators Co-Lab / "Thriving as an Artist Panel" Presented by ArtWorksTO and Cultural Hotspot. TIFF Next Wave 2024 - Toronto, ON.

Features + Writings

2024 | International Animated Film Association - ASIFA Magazine v.35- 2024 "Ecological Animation - How six independent artists are encouraging us to live and animate more gently" by Bekky O'Neil November 30, 2024 - Online - Canada
<https://asifa.net/eco-animation/>

2024 | Everyday Talent Podcast by Betty Xie "From Hustling in Broadcast TV To Embracing a Multidisciplinary Art Practice with Cristal Buemi" Online Podcast - Toronto, ON, Canada
<https://www.everydaytalentpodcast.com/s2ep3-from-hustling-in-broadcast-tv-to-embracing-a-multidisciplinary-art-practice-with-cristal-buemi/>

2022 | Animation Industry Podcast by Terry Ibele "Episode 132: How Stop Motion Animator Cristal Buemi Built Her Career in Toronto" Online Podcast - Toronto, ON, Canada
https://soundcloud.com/animation-podcast/cristal-buemi?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=ext&utm_campaign=social_sharing

2021 | Latin Canadian Cinema Research by Cecilia Araneda - Toronto, ON, Canada
<https://www.ceciliaaraneda.ca/cristal-buemi/>

2020 | Stop Motion Magazine "chair - Perception changes through time and use" - Online
<https://stopmotionmagazine.com/chair-by-cristal-buemi-y-ludwig-camarillo/>

2020 | North York Arts "Feature Friday" Facebook - Toronto, ON, Canada
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthYorkArts/photos/a.385308648191817/2926659430723380/>

2020 | TIFF ``Mindful Art- making with Cristal Buemi" Online - Toronto, ON, Canada
<https://tiff.net/events/bell-lets-talk-day-workshop-2020>

2018 | New York City Indie Film Festival - Film Spotlight "chair" - Online - New York
<https://www.facebook.com/nycindieff/videos/interview-with-cristal-buemi/1848710835163701/>

2009 | National Screen Institute - Canada Film Spotlight "Athaumatrope" Online - Canada
<https://nsi-canada.ca/film/a-thaumatrope/>

Residencies

2023 | La Joya Arte + Ecología AIR - Vélez Blanco, Spain

2023 | Stop Motion Department - Toronto, ON, Canada

2022 | Hielo AIR - Miramar, Puerto Rico

2020 | Hielo AIR - Miramar, Puerto Rico

2019 | Artscape Gibraltar Point - Toronto Island, Canada

2010 | CeRCCa Air - Llorenç Del Penedes, Spain

Collectives

Present | co-director of collaboration "anivides"

Present (Since 2021) | Co-Founder and member of "Frame x Frame"

Present (Since 2020) | Animator and member of the animation collective "Rotojam Collective"

Jury + Mentorship + Curatorial Practice

- 2025 | “Textural Tkaronto” Sankofa Square. (Co-Curator)
- Organized Stop Motion Material MashUp student animations for the screens at Sankofa Square (Yonge and Dundas) as part of their UNESCO programming. (Feb 14th to March 16th)
- 2024 | “TAIS Animation Showcase” Toronto Animated Image Society (Jury)
- Served as part of the selection jury for 18th Annual Animation Showcase featuring animations from both international and local animators.
- 2024 | “Expanded Visions” Illuminarium Toronto. (Assistant Curator)
- 360 immersive Exhibition with two separate rooms including a dedicated texture/ Stop Motion Material MashUp focused room and an Abstract Geometric space featuring students from Blurring Boundaries. (September 18th)
- 2024 | “Animated Bodies” Great Hall OCADU. (Curator)
- Exhibition with Interactive Animated works, Installation/ Projection art and Live Performances created by over 100 Experimental Animation - Blurring Boundaries Students. (April 2nd)
- 2024 | Frame by Frame “What art means to you?” Online Exhibit in production. (Curator)
- Animation workshop series in August 2023 at Tangled Arts Gallery.
 - Pairing a group of Professional Animators and a group of Disabled Artists to collaborate on short films.
- 2019 | Artist Health Alliance + Toronto Animated Image Society (Mentor)
- Supported the creative development of six emerging animators on the production of their commissioned short films.
- 2018 | Sketch (Mentor + Jury)
- Supported the creative expression and wellness of participants in the Indie Studios and Media Arts Programs.
 - Provided one on one guidance for participants in idea evolution, business planning and software development. Was a part of the selection committee for the artist residence program.
- 2018 | Bau Design College of Barcelona (Jury)
- Adjudicated final films for the graduating class of the Masters in Stop Motion Animation program 2018, offering industry specific critique.

Exhibition History

2024 | Buemi, Cristal and Duran, Franci “Diario de verano 2024” (Multi- Channel Video) Exhibited as part of “anivides” collaboration launch. (October 3rd, 2024) - Toronto Animated Image Society - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2024 | Buemi, Cristal, “Natural Self-Care” (Multi- Channel Video) Exhibited as part of the Community Kindness collection for MakeRoom Inc, (April 1st-30th, 2024) - Young and Sankofa Square- Toronto, ON, Canada.

2023 | Buemi, Cristal, “Fragments of Me” (Single Channel Video) Exhibited at Bi Bi Baby Pride Art Show, (June 17th, 2023) - HomeCourt - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2023 | Buemi, Cristal “Discovering” (Single Channel Video + Social Media reels) Exhibited online as part of Ah-Mer-Asu (Star) song release as well as Concert Visuals on tour during LA Pride 2023 (June 11th, 2023). - Los Angeles State Historic Park - Los Angeles, California, USA.

2022 | Buemi, Cristal “Untitled” (Multi- Channel Video) Exhibited at Fashion Art Toronto for Neoteny Apparel Fashion Show (May 7th, 2022) - Design Exchange - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2022 | Buemi, Cristal “Breathe Stretch Repeat” (Single Channel Video) Exhibited as part of CoMotion Festival (April 20th - May 1st, 2022) - Harbourfront Centre - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2021 | Buemi, Cristal “Storytime” (Single Channel Video) Exhibited as part of North York Arts 10th Anniversary Online Exhibit (December 2021) - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2021 | Buemi, Cristal “Untitled” (Single Channel Video) Animations created to accompany Ah-Mer-Asu (Star) music set as part of Venus Fest Five (October 22-23, 2021 virtually and in person October 16th-30th, 2021) Plumb Art Gallery - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2021 | Buemi, Cristal “Untitled” (Single Channel Video + Mixed Media Collage prints) Exhibited in multiple locations as part of The Community Cultivation Collection for MakeRoom Inc. (May 2021) CSI Spadina, Remote Gallery and Onyx Barbers. Additionally online as part of The Space Project- Toronto, ON, Canada.

2020 | Buemi, Cristal “Breathe Stretch Repeat” (Single Channel Video) Exhibited as part of Pandemic Postcards Online Series presented by Harbourfront Centre (April 20th -May 1st 2020) - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2020 | Buemi, Cristal Collection of Work (Single Channel Video) Featured as part of Quarantomics Online Artist Series curated by Laura hudspith on Instagram (May 15th, 2020) - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2010 | Buemi, Cristal and Reinhart Kaitlyn. “These Walls Could Talk” (Single Channel Video + Installation) L'Espai d'Art les Quintanes de Llorenç. Exhibited as part of the CERCCA Air residency final show (August 2010). - Llorenç Del Penedès, Spain.

2009 | Buemi, Cristal “Untitled” (Video Installation) Exhibited as part of 4th Dimension group show (May 2009). TMU - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2008 | Buemi, Cristal “Fortune Teller” (Interactive Video Installation). Exhibited as part of the iImagine group show (May 2008). TMU - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2008 | Buemi, Cristal “Untitled” (Video Installation) Exhibited as part of Waves group show (November 2008). TMU - Toronto, ON , Canada.

Directorial Screening History

2024 | Buemi, Cristal and Duran, Franci as anivides “diario de verano” (Single Channel animation + 16mm film) Screened as part of “The Botanical Turn” curated by Dandelion Collective - Playhouse Cinema- Hamilton, ON, Canada

2024 | Buemi, Cristal, “Natural Self-Care” (Multi- Channel Video) Exhibited as part of the Community Kindness collection for MakeRoom Inc, (April 1st-30th, 2024) - Sankofa Sqaure - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2022 | Buemi, Cristal “Breathe Stretch Repeat” (Single Channel Video) Exhibited as part of CoMotion Festival (April 20th - May 1st, 2022) - Harbourfront Centre - Toronto, ON, Canada.

2020 | Bell Let’s Talk A Mindful Art Making Workshop with Cristal Buemi and Screening - presented by Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) - Toronto, ON , Canada.

2018 | Cardiff Animation Nights - Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom

2017 | Eden High School | Artist Community Talk - Niagara Falls, ON, Canada

2017 | IndieFilmTo - Toronto, ON, Canada

2017 | Fest Anca International Animation Festival - Žilina, Slovakia

2017 | Stop Motion MX - Mexico City, Mexico

2017 | Stop Motion Montreal - Montreal, QC, Canada

2017 | Sommets du cinema d'animation - Montreal, QC, Canada

2017 | Montreal International Animation Film Festival ANIMAZE - Montreal, QC, Canada

2017 | Klik - Amsterdam, Netherlands

2017 | Reanima - Bergen, Norway

2017 | 3DWire 9th International Animation Video Games and New Media Market - Segovia, Spain

2017 | Locomocion Fest - Mexico City, Mexico

2017 | World Animation Day Screening - Madrid, Spain

2017 | Lublin Film Festival - Lublin, Poland

2017 | Stop Motion Barcelona - Barcelona, Spain

2017 | Animex Festival - Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire, England

2017 | PLANQO 2017 Mecal y 3Dwire Festival - Barcelona, Spain

2017 | International Animation Film Festival Golden Kuker-Sofia - Sofia, Bulgaria

2017 | New York City Independent Film Festival - New York City, New York, USA

2017 | Animac Monstra Internacional de cinema d'Animacio de Catalunya - Lleida, Spain

2017 | Anim!Arte - 13 Festival Internacional de Animacion Estudiantil de Brasil - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2016 | Balkanima 16 | Student Competition Programme - Belgrade, Serbia

2016 | Gesticulation Rencontre de Stop Motion - Cynar Royal Programme - La chaux de Fonds, Switzerland

2016 | Uruguay International Film Festival of Animation - Montevideo - Uruguay

2016 | Animated Dreams International Animation Film Festival - World Panorama - Tallinn, Estonia

Media Credits

2024 | Google AI Documentary (in production) - Animator + Special Effects Technician

2024 | Diario de verano, Film, Stop Motion + 16mm film. 3:40 - Co-Creator with Franci Duran

2024 | Natural Self-Care, Multi-channel video art, Stop Motion. 01:15 - Creator

2024 | Lucky's Lens, Trailer, Animation + Film. 01:08 - Animator

2023 | Back to School with Staples - Series of Commercials, Stop Motion 0:45 - Animator

2023 | Discovering, Lyric Video, Stop Motion + Live Action. 04:23 - Director

2023 | 100 Seconds Till Midnight Documentary, Live Action. In Production - Graphic Designer

2023 | Great Photo, Lovely Life Documentary, Stop Motion + Live Action. 01:52:00 - Animator

2022 | Rotojam 7 Excerpt for Short Film, Rotoscope. 0:05 - Animator

2021 | Story Time Short film, Stop Motion. 01:00 - Director + Animator + Fabricator + Editor

2021 | Venus Fest Five Multimedia, Video Installation. 11:00 - Animator + Editor

2021 | Ultra City Smiths Stop Motion TV Series. 6 episodes - Animator

2021 | Our Stories Trailer, Rotoscope Animation. 0:20 - Animator

2021 | Douglas Coupland's new slogans powered by AI Commercial. 3:39 - Animator + Designer

2021 | Lickity Split Music Video, Live Action. 3:39 - Production Designer + Set Dresser

2021 | Postcards From My Balcony Short Film, Multimedia. 10:12 - Production Designer + Animator

2021 | All In Visualizer, Multimedia. 0:08 - Director + Animator

2020 | Breathe Stretch Repeat Short Film, Stop Motion Animation. 1:20 - Director + Animator + Editor

2020 | On and On Music Video, Live Action. 3:34 - Production Designer + Set Dresser

2020 | The Isle Music Video, Multimedia. 3:26 - Production Designer + Animator + Set Dresser

2020 | Just Fine Music Video, Live Action. 3:16 - Production Designer + Set Dresser

2020 | Inside Music Video, Live Action. 3:01 - Production Designer + Set Dresser

2020 | Best For You Music Video, Live Action. 3:31 - Production Designer + Set Dresser

2020 | Gaea (Rotojam 6) Excerpt for Short Film, Rotoscope. 0:05 - Animator

2019 | Wander Feature Film, Live Action. 1:34:00 - Graphics / Playback + Set Dresser |

2018 | City Lights Music Video, Stop Motion Animation. 2:55 - Director + Animator + Editor / Composer

2016 | chair Short Film, Stop Motion Animation. 2:14 - Director + Animator + Editor / Composer

2016 | Below Her Mouth Feature Film, Live Action. 1:34:00 - Assistant Production Designer + Set Dresser

2010 | If These Walls Could Talk Documentary for Installation. 10:00 - Director + Animator + Fabricator

2010 | Robot Love MTV2 Station ID, Stop Motion Animation. 0:10 - Director + Animator

2010 | Slow September Music Video, Stop Motion Animation. 4:00 - Director + Animator

2009 | Kloe Collage + Stop Motion Animation. 2:00 - Director + Animator

2009 | Athaumatrope Stop Motion Animation. 3:28 - Director + Animator