

HARSHAL PILANIA

Creative Technologist

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I AM PASSIONATE

about experimenting with interactive technologies. I conceptualize and prototype their applications for experiential installations and activations.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant - Creative Technologist

Institute for Creativity, Arts, & Technology May '23 - Present

- Conceptualized the storyboard & installation of a 15-minute immersive experience for the D-Day Memorial's 80th Anniversary
- Modelled and printed a light-weight 3D prototype of the D-Day Memorial utilising photogrammetry, for projection mapping tests
- Prototyped, troubleshot, and documented an interactive projection mapping for the Smithsonian Museum of American History
- Executed a projection mapping miniature installation of the VT Lane Hall for Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

Co-founder & Multi-media Designer

Vanvaasi Jul '20 - May '23

- Co-founded and expanded a charitable design agency, serving over 10 high-profile clients, including state tourism boards, celebrities, and healthcare firms.
- Led the creation, collaboration and implementation of branding, film production, web design, multi-media design, and content creation
- Coordinated a creative mentorship program engaging 60+ students and 30+ mentors

Production Assistant

IPURELAND Experience Sept '22 - Sept '22

- Engineered a green room setup for volumetric video capture of Nikki Giovanni for a literature study Augmented Reality application
- Installed and calibrated Azure Kinects with Depthkit Studio

Production Assistant

New Orleans Film Festival Oct '22 - Oct '22

- Co-ordinated a 360° Film-making workshop for 20 filmmakers at the festival
- Developed an innovative, on-the-spot projection mapping installation with a team of student volunteers and faculty

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Intro to Cinema

Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts Aug '22 - Apr '23

- Instructed and guided student understanding of film-making principles
- Organised weekly film screenings for enhancing theory comprehension

Team Leader & Filmmaker

Kirloskar Vasundhra International Film Festival Jul '19 - Jan '20

- Led a team of 20 students from SCMS at KVIFF 2020, overseeing execution of 3 campaigns: Water Footprint Awareness, Ram-Nadi River Conservation, and Cost Benefit Analysis of upgrading on-campus pottery technology
- Director, Scriptwriter, Cinematographer, and Editor for 2 documentary films.

Content Specialist Intern

Walnut Folks Pvt. Ltd. Apr '19 - Jun '19

- Executed video interviews with social media influencers for a digital trends study
- Authored 30+ research-driven blog articles and info-graphics for online platforms

EDUCATION

M.F.A. in Creative Technologies

Virginia Tech Aug '22 - May '24

Graduate Certificate in Human Computer Interaction

Virginia Tech Jan '23 - Dec '23

Bachelor of Business Administration

Symbiosis, Pune Jul '17 - May '20

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Interactivity** - Touchdesigner/Max
- **3D** - Blender/Maya/Rhino/Fusion 360
- **Projection** - Disguise/Madmapper
- **Code/ Web** - Javascript/HTML/Wix/Python
- **Adobe Suite** - PR/AE/PS/LR
- **Motion Capture** - Qualysis/Neuron
- **Photogrammetry** - RealityCapture
- **3D Printing** - Afinia/Crealty/Ultimaker
- **Digital Fabrication** - CNC/Laser/...
- **Brainstorming** - Miro/Notion

RELEVANT RESEARCH

AR/ VR for Healthcare Education

AR Board Game for Primary Learning

A.I. Art: Stereotyping Native Americans

PROJECTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Darśan - Interactive Immersive Installation

May '24 - Moss Arts Center, Blacksburg

Azadi - Interactive Projection Mapping

June '23 - Gray Gallery, Meadowsbrook

Nov '23 - Shawsville Fine Arts Centre, Pulaski

Bloom - Interactive Light Sculpture

Nov '23 - Media Annex, Virginia Tech

Student Initiated Research Grant

Nov '23 - College of Architecture, Arts, & Design, VT

Roger & Debbie West Student Grant

Oct '23 - Institute for Creativity, Arts, & Technology, VT

Manhattan - Photography Collage

June '23 - Silhouette Magazine

Runner Up - 48 Hour Pitch Competition

Jan '23 - Innovate, Virginia Tech