FLIPPED STUDIO "SUCCESSFUL INNOVATOR" - NOVA

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Gintaras: "Self-education is what really pushes an artist forward"

Gintaras Jacunskas, Lithuania

Sector: Games & Multi-media

Position: Animator / Motion graphics designer - employee

About me

I was born in Birštonas, Lithuania in 1994. Growing up, I was always surrounded by art, books, music, theatre and video games. This was reflected in my hobbies, after-school activities and favourite topics of discussion.

When it was time to choose my career path, I immediately knew that I want to work in a creative field. I have enrolled into a study program at Vilnius Technical university where we got to try out many different practices - from design and filmmaking to programming, but I was still hesitant to commit to any of those fields until I tried animation.

My way to the CCS and main achievements before the Pandemic

When I got the opportunity to try out an animation software during my university internship, I was immediately thrilled. That is when I realized that self-education is what really pushes an artist

forward and for the next two years I put my free time and leisure on hold and the one thing I cared the most for was improving my skill set so that I could work at one of the great animation studios I have been hearing about.

After two years of hustling I was finally working in one of the best animation studios in Lithuania. I was surrounded by talented, like-minded people and learned new things every day. I was doing projects for multiple well known international brands and was having a great time.

During my time climbing the animation industry ladder, I have learned that knowing multiple software was just a starting-point and there were far more areas to educate myself in such as design/animation fundamentals and the business side of the industry.

I have also learned that while it is always best to believe in oneself, a little help from others can be a great push for further improvement. There are so many successful people who are sharing their knowledge for free, you just have to be curious and be able to learn from other people's mistakes/victories.

Photo by fauxels from Pexels. Source: https://www.pexels.com/photo/photo-of-people-doing-handshakes-3183197/

The challenges faced during the Pandemic and innovation solutions to overcome them.

When the Pandemic started, I knew that our commercial sector would be one of the first ones to be affected and I had a difficult choice to make - work at the studio I really like and face the consequences or find a new way to improve myself and my skill set.

After a long and thoughtful consideration, I have decided that I am not going to let things that are out of my control affect my personal growth. I started researching other industries and one of those industries happened to coincide with one of my favourite childhood hobbies – video games.

INNOVATOR

It just happened to be that a worldwide video game company "Nordcurrent" was looking for a motion graphic designer which matched my skill set so I decided to apply. After a long and careful preparation and help from my friends I managed to get the job where I have been working ever since.

My solution to move forward and keep learning new things was the correct decision to make and I have not once regretted it.

During the Pandemic, I've learned that being successful is not a monetary thing. It is both about having some money and being happy and fulfilled at the same time. It's about surrounding yourself with great people and being a well-rounded person in your personal life while having hobbies to keep yourself occupied and healthy.

Photo - Gintaras working in a worldwide video game company "Nordcurrent"

"The ability to be okay with your lack of skills while actively pushing through until you get better is one of the most valuable lessons you can learn".

Photo - Gintaras Jacunskas working on projects

My future plans and aspirations for developing my career in CCS.

For my future and goals I like to follow the quote "never a master, always a student". As I have already secured a comfortable living for myself, my main goal now is to continue learning, be the best version of myself and focus on the process where the improvement occurs rather than focusing only on the destination.

My suggestion for those who wish to work in CCS

The ability to be okay with your lack of skills while actively pushing through until you get better is one of the most valuable lessons you can learn if you wish to work in CCS. Don't be so hard on yourself, enjoy the process and always keep learning. Complain about the way other people make art by making better art. Be the change you want to see in the world. Draw the art you want to see, play the music you want to hear, write the books you want to read.

Self-reflection questions

1. Should I put my own happiness first or the companies?

2. How to salvage a loss/challenge caused by circumstances as COVID-19?

This good practice story is prepared by Social Innovation fund.