

curriculum vitae

CÉU D'ELLIA

personal information

site: ailhadoceu.com.br

profession: animation film director & narrative visual artist

specialization: producer, director, animation visual development artist, animator, storyboard artist, screenplay-writer & animation teacher.

extra cv specialization: awarded environmentalist, meditation teacher

central topic of interest: socio-environmental

born: February 1st, 1963

citizenship: Italian & Brazilian

usa work permit visa: O-1 Extraordinary Ability



overview

Céu D'Ellia is an Italian Brazilian, fluent in English, Portuguese, and French.

His professional experience, in Brazil, the United States, France and England, is in all areas of animated film production, working as a screenwriter, animator, designer, director and producer. He began his career directing and animating commercials for the biggest advertising agencies in Brazil, for which he won important awards.

In 1988 he released his first experimental short film, *FAREWELL*, which received many awards and was chosen by the Clermont-Ferrand Festival in 2004 as one of the most outstanding Brazilian shorts of all time.

He began his international career in 1989, working in London, on animation clips and on the animated feature *FIEVEL GOES TO THE WEST*, produced by *Steven Spielberg*.

Céu is passionately involved in environmental issues, which emerge as a theme throughout his work. Awarded the *Rockefeller Foundation VITAE Art Scholarship* in 1994, he began researching environmental themes since 1990. In 1996, he received the international scientific award *Hopes for The Future for a Sustainable World*, through *IUAPPA/IAS*, for proposing a set of ethical principles in the relationships between mass communication, culture, and the environment.

From 2009 to 2012, with the support of the *São Paulo Municipal Department of Culture*, he created and directed *NUPA*, a center to encourage the development of Brazilian animated cinema, producing films with content based on socio-environmental issues.

From 2019 until today, he has developed *METRÔTOON*, a communication campaign, through animations, illustrations, and visual design, for the *São Paulo Metro*. The subway operation involves 7.8 million passengers per day, and the campaign carried out by Céu is considered, according to a survey carried out with users, one of the most efficient actions carried out since the service was founded.

Other highlights are animation supervision for *A GOOFY MOVIE* (Disney, Paris, 1994-95), the comic album *ZU KINKAJÚ* (2013), the independent animated short *LOVE WILL RESCUE YOU* (2015), about trafficking (slavery) of children in Burma and Thailand, and art direction, directing consultancy, and episode direction for *P. KING DUCKLING* (LAP & UYoung, NYC, 2015-17).



main awards

- **METRÔTOON**, highlighted in **marketing campaign, international award UITP** (Union Internationale des Transports Publics) **Awards**, Barcelona, Spain, 2023
- **METRÔTOON**, **Silver Columnists award, design category**, Brazil, 2021
- **SEVEN-STAR (HAVE A PLACE) - best plot**, award for script development, best score in São Paulo and second-best score in Brazil, among more than 1200 entries, Brazil, 2017
- **Honored Artist ANIMA MUNDI**, Brazil, 2014
- **PAULICÉIA SING, TY-ETÊ! (direction & production)**, animated short film, choice of the audience as best film, Brafftv/ UP to 3 Brazilian Short Animation Exhibition of Toronto, Canada, 2013.
- **ZÚ KINKAJÚ (story & art)**, comic book for children, São Paulo State Culture Department edition award, Brazil, 2011.
- **MÃMMÃBUGES (screenplay, direction & design)**, animated

series TV pilot, São Paulo City Culture Department development award, Brazil, 2008.

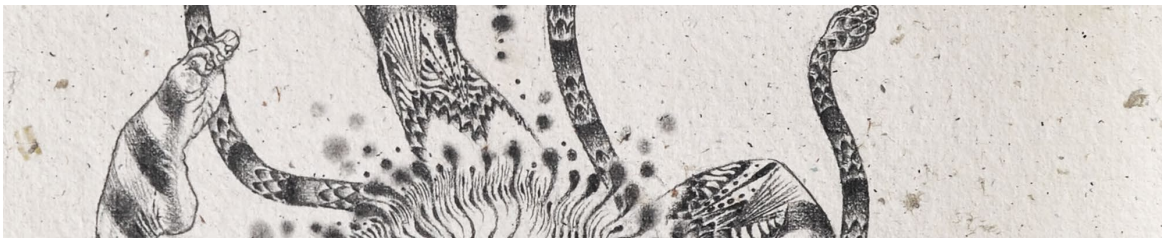
- **CHICA BANANA (screenplay, design & production bible)**, feature animated film animatic, São Paulo State Culture Department development award, Brazil, 2005.
- **D DAY (screenplay, direction & design)**, Suvaca di Prata music video, CINEMARK/ ABD award, best short film, Brazil, 2004.
- **THE CIVIL SERVANTS THAT WERE HEARING VOICES CASE (screenplay, direction & design)**, animated short film, UNESCO environment educational award category, Brazil, 2002.
- **YANDÚ AND THE YAUARETÊ (story & art)**, comic book, IX International Press Art Hall award, best comic book, Brazil, 2001.
- **WATER-BIODIVERSITY-EQUILIBRIUM (story & art)**, comic books collection, Fernando Pini award, best children's book graphic design, Brazil, 1999.
- **SUPER ECO COMMUNICATION & ENVIRONMENT (paper author)**, IUAPPA/IAS "Hopes for the Future for a Sustainable World" award, Brazil/ South Africa/ Switzerland/ United Kingdom, 1996.
- **MÃMÃBUGÉ YANDÚ (story plot & design)**, content research, Rockefeller Foundation VITAE Grant, animation content research grant, Brazil, 1994.
- **FAREWELL (screenplay, direction & animation)**, animated experimental short film, Havana Festival White Coral award, best short film, 1991. Los Angeles, Utrecht, Tampere, Annecy and Bologna Festivals finalist, 1989-1991, among many others. Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, 2004, considered it as one of the best 25 Brazilian short films ever.
- **PLOC MONSTERS (creation & art)**, illustrations collection, Marketing Top award, Brazil, 1988. In a single month, 78 million units were sold
- **TOVEX DUPONT (creation & art)**, cartoon series, Golden Columnists award, best advertising illustration, Brazil, 1985.
- **MONTERREY LIGHTS NEON (screenplay, direction & design)**, advertising films, Golden Columnists award, best advertising film, Brazil, 1985.

scientific-environmental
award

in partnership with biologist Andréa Vieira

- 1998 SUPER ECO COMMUNICATION & ENVIRONMENT:** Progress Report at the 11th World Environment Congress, IUAPPA/National Clean Air Association of South Africa, Durban, South Africa
- 1996 SUPER ECO COMMUNICATION & ENVIRONMENT: Hopes for the Future for a Sustainable World Special Award,** IUAPPA/IAS (Switzerland, United Kingdom) Presented at USP (University of São Paulo), São Paulo, Brazil

After studying more than 1,000 competitors from 50 countries around the world and analyzing Vieira and D'Ellia's project, the selection committee came to the conclusion that the creation of a new special award would be the best way to honor their work, which, **according to Austrian scientist Walter Kofler of the University of Innsbruck**, "makes it clear that it is not just science, technology and economics that will save the planet, but also education." aihadoceu.com.br/the-hopes-for-the-future/



1979-today / brazil

advertising artist

His professional career began in Brazil in 1979, directing and animating advertising, institutional and informative films. He also created characters and illustrations for several campaigns. Since then, he has been producing award-winning works for clients such as: *Banco Itaú, Carrefour, Cinemark, Coca-Cola, Flix, Fuji-Films, General Motors, Gessy Lever, Kraft Foods, Nestlé*, among others.

1988-today / farewell

experimental animation filmmaker

In 1988, he completed his first experimental animated short, *Adeus (Farewell)*. Intended for an adult audience, the film generated controversy, but also received national and international awards. Sixteen years after its release, it was chosen by the acclaimed *Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival* as one of the 25 best short films ever produced in Brazil. And in 2018, by *ABRACCINE (Brazilian Association of Film Critics)*, as one of the 100 essential Brazilian animated films. As in other experimental films that he would produce, he experimented in *Farewell* with narrative, editing, animation technique and visual innovation.

1989-today / worldwide

international animation filmmaker

Céu moved to London from 1989 to 1991, where he worked as designer and animator in commercials for *UK TV* and music videos for *MTV Japan*. He joined *Spielberg's* animation studio as animation supervisor working for *Amblimation*, a company that would be renamed *Dreamworks* a couple of features later. Since

then, Céu has worked with other studios and artists in many productions: *Disney Studio*, *Dudok de Wit*, *Joanna Quinn*, *Little Airplane*, *Matthew Kelly & Uli Meyer*, among others. Céu has also lived in Paris, Rio and New York City, and currently moves between São Paulo and Brussels.

1992-today / vitae

story artist

His interest in ecological themes, children and cultural matrices motivated him to create stories and characters for children. In 1994 he received his first research grant, the *VITAE Grant* from the *Rockefeller Foundation*. Over the years, inspired by his travels in the wild regions of South America and his experiences with indigenous people, Céu created characters such as *MãmMãmBugé Yandu*, *Nana Banana* and *Zu Kinkaju*, featured in pilot films, comics, and documentaries.

2015-2017 / little airplane

episode director, art director & advisor for direction and animation of animated series

From 2015 to 2017 Céu worked as Episode Director & Art Director in New York City, at *Little Airplane Productions*. He also provided consultancy in animation and direction, fully participating in the first season of the TV animated series for children, *P. King Duckling*. The series, 52 x 13, was released in November 2016 at *Disney Jr.* According to *Eurodata TV*, in December 2016 the show was already among the ten most popular programs for children in the USA television.

2014 / anima mundi

honored artist

In 2014, the *International Animation Festival* in Rio, *Anima Mundi*, chose Céu D'Ellia to be one of the 2014 Honored Artists. The others were *Bob Balse* (*Yellow Submarine*), *Eric Goldberg* (*Aladdin*) and the *Guillaume Brothers* (*Max & Co*).

2009-2012 / nupa

art and culture promoter

NUPA (*São Paulo Animation Center*), an animation production house fostering a free school-studio center, was created, and directed by Céu, along almost four years. The center was at *CCJ Youth Cultural Center*, in the suburbs of São Paulo. It provided an opportunity for students without money to become animation professionals. Its production was quite successful, with all film content discussing and developing awareness about social-environmental issues in São Paulo

1996 / hopes

award for scientific paper

Motivated by concern for children and environment issues, as well as his experience of how consumer habits are influenced by

advertising and film entertainment, Céu wrote a paper with a proposal for ethical principles for mass media communication. In 1996 it won the Hopes for the Future for a Sustainable World award, from IUAPPA/IAS. Initially with ten principles, after tests were conducted, Céu summarized it to only three: Eco Efficiency, Biophilia & Key Question.

1993-2012 / education

teacher

At the time Céu started to work, there were no animation schools in Brazil. Even the English Bibliography was quite short. He is a self-taught artist who learned mainly from frame-by-frame observation of old super-8 films. In 2008, Céu received a bachelor's degree from *Braz Cubas Brazilian University*, with recognized merits for knowledge. But even before that he was working as a Guest University Instructor in *Santa Maria* (design, 1993), the *ECA-USP University of São Paulo* (introduction to animation, 2002) and *PUC, Catholic University of São Paulo* (in the semiotics postgraduate course 2007, 2011 and 2012).

1985-today / ngo

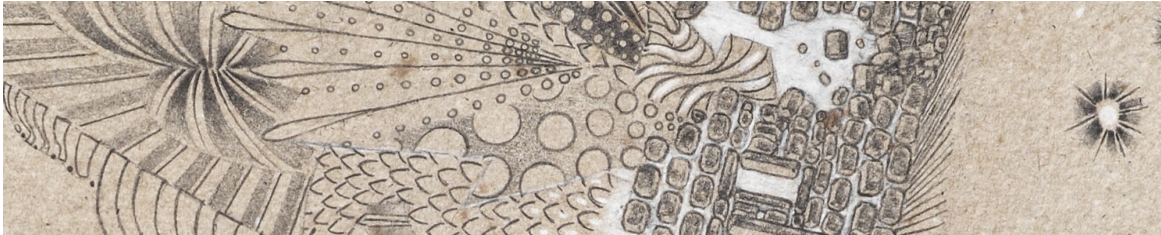
volunteer work

Since 1985 Céu has dedicated part of his time to volunteer in social causes. Besides personal aspects involved, Céu believes that such activities contribute to his experience improving the application of human values and emotions in his work. Céu started working with health care activities for poor families in rural areas of Brazil. From 1994 to 2003, he participated in an ecological NGO, and from 2001 to 2014, in an NGO that develops activities to stimulate self-esteem and the positive potential of children at social risk.

basic chronology

- 2018-today** Between Europe and Brazil, he continues to serve clients in different parts of the world and creating his own work.
- 2015-2017** Art Director, Consultant of Direction and Animation & Episode Director of Animated Series at Little Airplane Productions
- 2014** Honored artist at Anima Mundi Festival
- 2009-2012** NUPA (Brazilian animation cinema fostering free school) director at CCJ Youth Cultural Center, São Paulo city.
- 2004** Céu begins to adapt his own stories and characters to animation films.
- 1998** Céu's own stories and characters on comic books first release.
- 1994** Animation Supervisor at Disney Paris

- 1991** First environmentalist actions, with national and international scientific congresses participations and publications, as well as media communication and education tools production.
- 1988** International career begins in London, UK, directing and animating commercials, musical promos and as Animation Supervisor at Steven Spielberg's feature crew.
- 1979** Professional career begins in Brazil, directing and animating commercials as well as experimental short films.



other motion highlights

institutional

- **METRÔTOON (screenplay, production & direction)**, series of short films for the São Paulo Metro. A.S. Céu D'Ellia. Brazil, 2019-today
- **ANIMA MUNDI 2018 (screenplay, direction & animation)**, festival animated film vignette based on concept design of Michaël Dudok de Wit. Brazil, 2018
- **RABBIT & WOMAN ITAÚ BANK (screenplay, production & direction)**, training short film. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2012
- **WEBTOONS ITAÚ BANK (screenplay, production & direction)**, training films. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2009-2012
- **ANIMA MUNDI 2005 (direction & animation)**, festival animated film vignette with Joanna Quinn's character design. Brazil, 2005.

short films

- **LOVE WILL RESCUE YOU (screenplay, production, direction, animation, design & editing)**, documentary poem. Amicus Foundation + Seecord Sun. USA/ Thailand/ Brazil, 2015
- **BICYCLES IN SÃO PAULO (production & direction)**, animated short. NUPA. Brazil, 2012
- **SING, TY-ETÊ! (production & direction)**, animated short. NUPA. Brazil, 2012

- **PAULICÉIA MÁRIO DE ANDRADE (production & direction)**, animated short. NUPA. Brazil, 2011
- **LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY (animation)**, short film. First full dome (360°) traditionally animated movie, for AV-Imagineering. Guest Animator. Directed by Eddie Pittman. USA, 2003.
- **FAREWELL (screenplay, production, direction, design and animation)**, experimental short film. Cigarra Inquietante. Brazil, 1988.
- **EARTH PLANET (animation & creation coordination)**, short film to United Nations, Peace International Year. Embrafilme. Brazil, 1986.

feature films

- **A GOOFY MOVIE (supervising animation)**, feature film. Walt Disney Pictures. France, 1994.
- **FIEVEL GOES WEST, AMERICAN TAIL II (senior animation & sequence supervising)**, feature film. Universal Pictures/Amblimation. UK, 1991.

tv series

- **P. KING DUCKLING season 1 (art director, consultant of direction and animation & episode director)**, TV animated series, 52 x 11. Little Airplane + UYoung. USA/ China, 2016
- **ANIMATED KABARET (screenplay, production, design & direction)**, TV animated series pilot. NUPA + Second Sun. Brazil, 2012-2014

musical promo

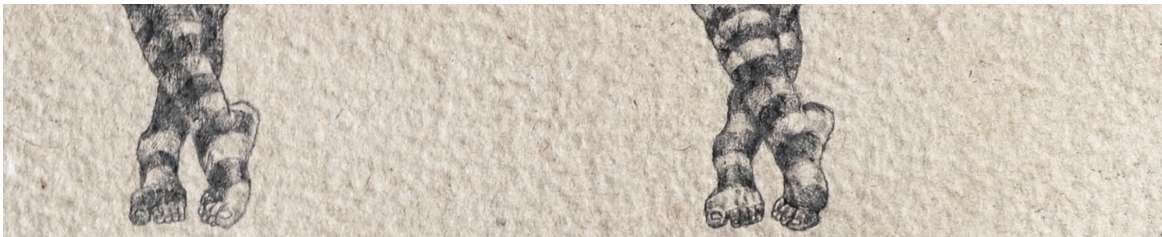
- **EXPANSION (production, direction & editing)**, O Jardim das Horas music video. NUPA + Second Sun. Brazil, 2014
- **D-DAY (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation)**, music video for Suvaca Di Prata. Second Sun. Brazil, 2004
- **NEO FASCIO (character design and animation)**, music video for Kyosuke Himuro, MTV Japan. Felix Films. UK/ Japan, 1989

educational

- **ROYAL CHAPEL (production, direction, design & animation)**, animation film projection in a historical Brazilian church. Second Sun. Brazil, 2008
- **YANDÚ EXPEDITION (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation)**, Amazon Rainforest television documentary with animated scenes. Cigarra. Brazil prime time first exhibition, 1996.

advertising

- **CINEMARK & FLIX (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation)**, advertising films. Second Sun + Tonica Mix. Brazil, 2011-2014
- **GRADIENTE CREATURE (production, direction, design & animation)**, animation insertion in live action. Second Sun + Margarida Filmes. Brazil, 2006.
- **RAID EAT AT SPIKES (international co-production & animation)**, SC-JOHNSON, animation + live action. Directed by Uli Meyer. Second Sun + Uli Meyer Films. Brazil/ UK, 2005.
- **LIGHTS (production, direction, design & animation)**, digital effects animation to FUJI FILMS. Second Sun. Brazil, 2002.
- **DONALD DUCK (production, direction & animation)**, approved by Disney, for Ploc bubble gum. Second Sun. Brazil, 1991.
- **LEGENDS (character design & animation)**. Felix Films. UK, 1989.
- **Screenplay, production, direction, design & animation** of many advertising films for such clients as **CARREFOUR, ELKA, GELATTO, GENERAL MOTORS, GESSY-LEVER, KIBON, KRAFT- SUCHARD, LACTA, MERCK & SHARP, NESTLÉ**, among others. Cigarra Inquietante / Second Sun, Brazil, 1979-2003.



visual arts highlights

- **MESTRE GABRIEL**, solo exhibition of watercolors and fine art, Galeria Brasileira. Brazil, São Paulo, 2022
- **METRÔTOONS**, visual communication for the São Paulo Metro. Brazil, São Paulo, 2019 – today
- **AMERICA IN THE EYES OF AN ALIEN O-1**, individual exhibition of drawings, working project.
- **SIDE B PROJECT**, Drawings Exposition at Central Art Gallery. Brazil, São Paulo, 2007.

- **PRESCIOUS CANVAS**, Lithographies Exposition at Brasiliana Art Gallery. Brazil, São Paulo, 2006.
- **FROM CLAY TO CLAY**, Adobe & Ceramics History Drawings exposition at Sesc Pompéia. Brazil, São Paulo, 2003.
- **NATURE SPIRITS**, book and lithography series, working project. Writer and Illustrator.
- **BRAZILIAN FOLK TALES**, children's book. Illustrator and Researcher. Empresa das Artes. Brazil, 1990



www portfolios

ailhadoceu.com.br

fedraart.com/ceu-dellia/

[instagram.com/ceudellia/](https://www.instagram.com/ceudellia/)

testimonials

DENISE MATTAR
São Paulo, Brazil
art critic and curator
Brazilian Association of Art
Critics affiliated

Céu D'Ellia's works are notable for the precision and refinement of their compositions, and, although they have characteristics that refer them to a fantastic universe, they are, in fact, conceptual investigations, which reveal a deep anguish, permeated with irony, in the face of the increasingly idiosyncratic world in which we live.

FERNANDO MEIRELLES
São Paulo, Brazil
cinema director
O2 Films

Céu is not only extraordinarily versatile and talented, but he also has the unusual creative ability to develop new ways of approaching the audience and the theme of a film. I especially admire his short films, and his production at *NUPA*, from 2009 to 2012.

JOSH SELIG
New York City, USA
ceo and creative director
Little Airplane

Céu's design and animation work is among the very best I've ever seen. I was deeply impressed by his ability to work well with both the pre-production team in New York and the animation team in China. His leadership ability, combined with visual acuity, is very special. He has a wide range of design talents, ranging from animation to photography and visual arts.

LÉA ZAGURY

Céu is an artist of many facets and among few he is a painter, an

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
festival director
Anima Mundi

animator, and a documentary filmmaker. His creations are precise, powerful, intense, and deep. It amazes me how he easily can produce a beautiful, detailed work or a series of astonishing fast drawings that brilliantly comes to life in suspended or projected animation.

NANCY BEIMAN
Toronto, Canada
animator and animation
teacher
Sheridan Institute

(In all the films we have worked on together), I have been impressed by how Céu maintains a high standard of work and acting, equivalent to artists who have been trained in animation programs such as the *California Institute of the Arts*, *Sheridan College*, and the *Ecole Des Gobelins*, in Paris. What's most notable is that he is a self-taught animator, and has excelled artistically, working with artists from 21 different countries.

CARLOS A. CALIL
São Paulo, Brazil
film teacher
ECA-USP

(Secretary of Culture of the city of São Paulo, from 2005 to 2012) At *NUPA*, Céu integrated professional training for young people on the outskirts with the passionate collaboration of great artists from the city. He opened discussions on city themes, such as literature, mobility, and the environment. All this, while producing beautiful animated shorts, which now enrich the municipal collection.

ULI MEYER
London, United Kingdom
animation producer and
filmmaker

I have known Céu D'Ellia since we first met on the production of *An American Tail 2* for Universal Pictures (1988). Céu is not only an outstanding artist and designer, he has also been working successfully as a producer, running his own company. In both capacities he has worked with me over the years and has always delivered sterling work, professional and reliable. Céu has that rare gift of understanding both the needs of the artist and the demands of a production. I hope to be able to work with Céu again in the not-too-distant future.

other interests and skills

- Awarded environmentalist, Biology and Botany scholar
- Mythologies and Folk Tales scholar
- Meditation, swimming, yoga and trekking practitioner

teaching & graduation

- **Animation Faculty Director.** NUPA Animation Center at CCJ Youth Cultural Center SP, Brazil, 2009-2012
- **Animation Film Technology, graduated with recognized merits for knowledge,** Braz Cubas University, Brazil, 2008.
- **Guest Semiotic Teacher:** PUC University (PUC), Brazil, 2007/2011/2012
- **Guest Animation Cinema Teacher:** São Paulo University (USP), Cinema College, Communication and Arts School. Brazil, 2002.
- **Guest Teacher:** Santa Maria University, special workshop THE SIGHT, deconditioning. Brazil, 1993.

- **Teacher:** CLASSICAL ANIMATION and SHORT FILM PRE-PRODUCTION workshops. Oswald de Andrade Cultural Workshops. Brazil, 1991.
- **Director** of the II Animation Cinema Brazilian Meeting and **Teacher** in the ANIMATION DESIGN workshop. Três Rios Cultural Workshops. Brazil, 1988.

third sector

- Volunteer of *ARK OF LOVE HARIHARANANDA SÃO PAULO*, non-profit humanitarian organization that develops activities to stimulate the self-esteem and positive potential of children under social risk. Brazil, 2001-today.
- Volunteer of *NEW ENCHANTMENT ASSOCIATION*, voluntary organization that develops activities of nature conservation with rubber tappers and other communities. Brazil, Vice-president, 1992-1994. Voluntary consultant from 1994 to 2003.

Céu D'Ellia

December, 2023