

curriculum vitae

personal information

profession:	animation film director & narrative visual artist
specialization:	visual artist, 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 1 st , 1963
citizenship:	Italian & Brazilian
usa work permit visa:	O-1 Extraordinary Ability

overview



CÉU D'ELLIA

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 the entertainment film animation industry, he worked as Supervising Animator for the feature films *FIEVEL GOES WEST* (Spielberg's *Amblimation*) and *A GOOFY MOVIE* (Disney). He was also Art Director, Supervising Animator and Director at *Little Airplane* (2015-2017), a provider of animated series for *Disney Jr*, *Discovery Kids* and other channels.

Among the various animated short films he directed, the following stand out: *ADEUS* (1988), chosen by the Clermont-Ferrand Festival as one of the most outstanding Brazilian shorts of all time; a series of animated shorts, with socio-environmental themes, produced at *NUPA* (2009-2012), a center created and directed by Céu, in São Paulo, to encourage the development of Brazilian animated cinema; *LOVE WILL RESCUE YOU* (2015), about trafficking (slavery) of children in Burma and Thailand.



Céu's interest in socio-environmental issues emerges as a theme throughout his creations. He has been conducting field research since 1990 and has been awarded, among others, the *VITAE* grant for art research from the *Rockefeller Foundation* and the *HOPES FOR THE FUTURE* award from *IUAPPA/IAS*.

From 2019 to 2023, he has developed *METRÔTOONS*, a broad communication campaign, through animations, illustrations and visual design, for the *São Paulo Metrô*. The metro operation involves 7.8 million passengers per day, and the campaign created by Céu is considered, according to a survey with users, one of the most efficient actions carried out since the service was founded.

He is currently developing the adult comic book *PSYCHE D'ELLIA* and *LUCHT VOOR KINDEREN* - animated nursery rhymes for his Belgian grandson —in addition to ongoing research into FINE ART.

web portfolios

site: ailhadoceu.com.br

youtube: www.youtube.com/@ceudellia4309

instagram: instagram.com/ceudellia/

vimeo: vimeo.com/ceu

fine arts: fedraart.com/ceu-dellia/

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 and member of the Academy of
Motion Picture Arts and Sciences of Hollywood

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

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
festival director
Anima Mundi

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

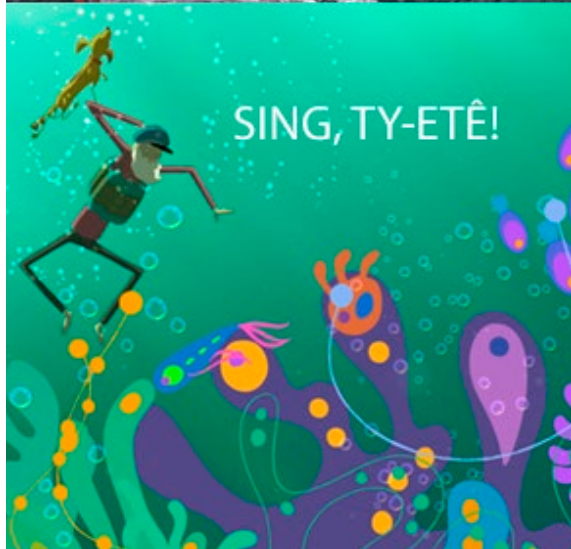
(Secretary of Culture of the city of São Paulo, from 2005 to 2012) At *NUPA*, Céu integrated professional training for young people on the outskirts with the passionate collaboration of great artists from the city. He opened discussions on city themes, such as literature, mobility, and the environment. 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, but 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.

main awards



CÉU D'ELLIA Curriculum Vitae

METRÔTOON, highlighted in marketing campaign, *UITP (Union Internationale des Transports Publics) International Awards*, Barcelona, Spain, 2023

METRÔTOON, *Silver Columnists* award, design category, Brazil, 2021

SEVEN-STAR (HAVE A PLACE) - best plot, *Brazil Federal Culture Department* 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 - The *International Animation Festival* in Rio, *Anima Mundi*, chose Céu D'Ellia to be one of the 2014 Honored Artists. The others were Bob Balser (*Yellow Submarine*), Eric Goldberg (*Aladdin*) and the Guillaume Brothers (*Max & Co*).

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. The film was a product of *NUPA (São Paulo Animation Center)*, an animation production house that supported a free center-studio-school, created, and directed by Céu, for almost four years. The center was located at the *CCJ Youth Cultural Center*, on the outskirts of São Paulo. It provided an opportunity for students without money to become animation professionals. Its production was quite successful, with public discussions about the content of the films and raising awareness about socio-environmental issues in São Paulo.

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.



ADEUS aka FAREWELL (screenplay, direction & animation), animated experimental short film completed in 1988, intended for an adult audience, the film generated controversy, but also received national and international awards: *Havana Festival White Coral* award, best short film, 1991. *Los Angeles, Utrecht, Tampere, Annecy and Bologna Festivals* finalist, 1989-1991, among many others. Acclaimed *Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival*, 2004, considered it as one of the best 25 Brazilian short films ever. In 2018, by *ABRACCINE (Brazilian Association of Film Critics)*, as one of the 100 essential Brazilian animated films. As in other experimental films that Céu created, he experimented in *FAREWELL* with narrative, editing, animation technique and visual innovation.

THE CIVIL SERVANTS THAT WERE HEARING VOICES CASE (screenplay, direction & design), animated short film, *UNESCO environment educational* award category, Brazil, 2002.

YANDÚ AND YAUARETÊ (story & art), comic book, *IX International Press Art Hall* award, *best comic book*, Brazil, 2001.

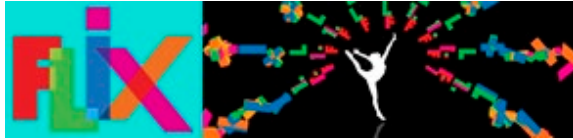
WATER-BIODIVERSITY-EQUILIBRIUM (story & art), comic books collection, *Fernando Pini* award, *best children's book graphic design*, Brazil, 1999.

MĂMĂMBUGÉ YANDÚ (story plot & design), content research, *Rockefeller Foundation VITAE* Grant, animation content research grant, Brazil, 1994. Céu's 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, and 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.

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. Céu's 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, Philip Morris*, among others.

scientific-environmental award

Unique eco-project wins top award

Brazilian environmental program draws world attention

By William vanwesen

A unique Brazilian environmental education project was considered so exceptional in its philosophical and practical approach that a special prize was created for it by the International Science Academy, after studying over 1,000 competing entries from 50 countries around the world.

The "Hopes of the Future" Special Prize, awarded on July 4 in Innsbruck, will be officially handed over to biologist André de Roddes Vieira, of Curitiba, state capital of Paraná, and São Paulo motion picture producer Céu D'Ellia at Second Sun awards. "Hopes of the Future"

in cooperation with the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Association (IUAPPA), regularly awards two prizes



usually concern projects in the fields of ecological techniques, alternative energy and pollution control.

After studying Vieira's and D'Ellia's project, the selecting committee came to the conclusion that the creation of a special prize would be the best way to honor their work which, according to Austrian scientist Walter Kofler of the Innsbruck University, makes it clear that it is not only science, technology and the economy which will save the planet, but also education. The original suggestion that make up the Brazilian project, and the way that is presented, further contributed to create more than a fleeting

in partnership with biologist Andréa Vieira

SUPER ECO COMMUNICATION & ENVIRONMENT: *Hopes for the Future for a Sustainable World Special Award, IUAPPA/ IAS, 1996* (Switzerland, United Kingdom) Presented at USP (University of São Paulo), São Paulo, Brazil. 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. Initially with ten principles, after tests were conducted, Céu summarized it to only three: Eco Efficiency, Biophilia & Key Question.

ailhadoceu.com.br/the-hopes-for-the-future/

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."

motion highlights



institutional:

METRÔTOON (screenplay, production & direction), series of short films for the São Paulo Metro. A.S. Céu D'Ellia. Brazil, 2019-2024

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.



CÉU D'ELLIA Curriculum Vitae

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), NUPA. Brazil, 2012

SING, TY-ETÊ! (production & direction), NUPA. Brazil, 2012

PAULICÉIA MÁRIO DE ANDRADE (production & direction), NUPA. Brazil, 2011

LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY (animation), 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), collective short film to United Nations, Peace International Year. Embrafilme. Brazil, 1986.

feature films:

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 then, as animation supervisor, joined *Spielberg's* animation studio *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* & *Uli Meyer*, among others. Céu has also lived in Paris, Rio and New York City, and currently shares his time between São Paulo and Brussels.

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:

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.

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 + Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2012-2014



musical promo:

EXPANSION (production, direction & editing), O Jardim das Horas music video. NUPA + Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2014

D-DAY (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation), music video for Suvaca Di Prata. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2004

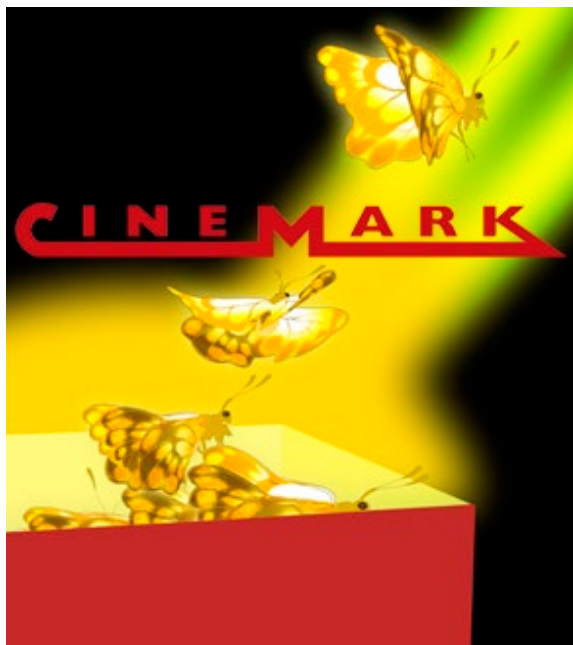
NEO FASCIO (character design and animation), music video for Kyosuke Himuro, MTV Japan. Felix Films. UK/ Japan, 1989



documentary animation:

ROYAL CHAPEL (production, direction, design & animation), animation film projection in a historical Brazilian church. Seecord Sun. Brazil, 2008

YANDÚ EXPEDITION (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation), Amazon Rainforest television documentary with animated scenes. Cigarra. Brazil prime time first exhibition, 1996. Live action filmed in remote areas of the Amazon Rainforest.



advertising:

CINEMARK & FLIX (screenplay, production, direction, design & animation), advertising films. Seecond Sun + Tonica Mix. Brazil, 2011-2014

GRADIENTE CREATURE (production, direction, design & animation), animation insertion in live action. Seecond Sun + Margarida Filmes. Brazil, 2006.

RAID EAT AT SPIKES (international co-production & animation), SC-JOHNSON, animation+live action. Directed by Uli Meyer. Seecond Sun + Uli Meyer Films. UK, 2005.

LIGHTS (production, direction, design & animation), digital effects animation to FUJI FILMS. Seecond Sun. Brazil, 2002.

DONALD DUCK (production, direction & animation), approved by Disney, for Ploc bubble gum. Seecond 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 / Seecond Sun, Brazil, 1979-2003.

other visual arts highlights

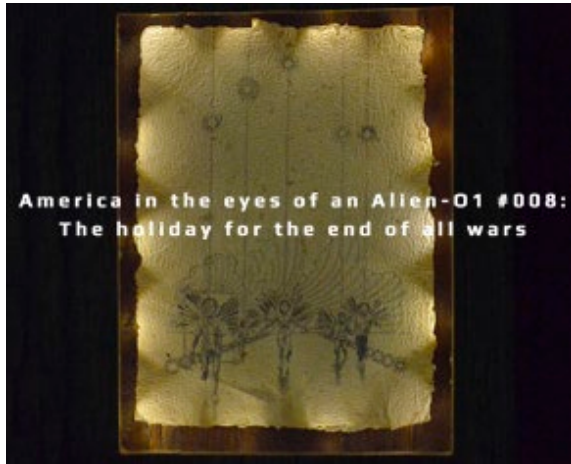


KALEIDOS, 3 artists, 3 perspectives unfolding light into form, participation in collective exhibition, Marcio Gobbi art consultancy. Brazil, São Paulo, 2026

MASTERS OF SPONTANEOUS PAINTINGS by ROBERTO RUGIERO, art book design and art direction, Brasiliana Editions. Brazil, São Paulo, 2024

MESTRE GABRIEL, solo exhibition of watercolors and fine art, Brasiliana Art Gallery. Brazil, São Paulo, 2022

WONDERLAND, participation in collective exhibition, S. Eufemia Art Gallery. Italy, Venezia, 2021



teaching & graduation

AMERICA IN THE EYES OF AN ALIEN O-1, individual exhibition of drawings, working project.

SIDE B PROJECT, drawings exhibition at Central Art Gallery. Brazil, São Paulo, 2007.

PRESCIOUS CANVAS, Lithographies exhibition at Brasiliana Art Gallery. Brazil, São Paulo, 2006.

FROM CLAY TO CLAY, Adobe & Ceramics History drawings exhibition at Sesc Pompéia Cultural Center. Brazil, São Paulo, 2003.

JIVAS, book and lithography series, working project. Writer and Illustrator.

BRAZILIAN FOLK TALES, children's book. Illustrator and Researcher. Empresa das Artes. Brazil, 1990

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 Teacher 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).

- **Director of Animation School.** 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.

other interests and skills

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

third sector



Since 1985 Céu has dedicated part of his time to volunteering for social causes. In addition to the personal development aspects involved, he believes that such activities contribute to his professional experience, improving the application of human values and emotions in his own work.

Yogacharya (teacher) of *KRIYA YOGA*, teaching meditation to students from all over Latin America and Europe. 2011- today

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, 2001-2014.

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

September 2026