



## Breaking the stereotypical animation aesthetic

Some thoughts shared by Mert Akbal

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The stereotypical animation aesthetic, which we see in movies and shows targeting especially -but not only- children audiences, claims to perfectly reproduce the reality and enhance this reality with fantastic elements, with fairy tales, with "journeys of heroes" yet to become wise and white leaders of society.

The reproduction of reality in these works aims to say : "We make an image of the fantasy in the most believable way. We create renderings of perfect light and shadow, drops of water to make you thirsty and explosions of fire to burn you in your imagination. And also we create the smoothest perfection of the skin. This is how your body and should look like, alas you will never reach this perfection and therefore you will never be able to become a hero on your own."

This aesthetic dictates a flawless, spotless purity. This aesthetic understanding in animation is an overkill of what the photographic cinema dictates on body, especially on female body, to become an object which is smooth and caresses the eye and invites the body to be obedient to the watching eye. This aesthetic dictates a subordinated place to the body.


We can not challenge this gaze by creating a queer utopian narrative but keeping the same smooth perfectionist gaze. Our images shall hurt the eye, the smoothness shall be replaced by sharpness, the torn skin. We can not ignore the infinite possibilities of digital production just to create a distorted reality. We have to exhaust the parameters, we have to mixing skin colors in time, we have to break the body and reshape it, we have to rip predetermined borders between different styles.

The inventions psychedelic aesthetic which always been an avant-garde to mainstream may open a door to new ways of image creation, but they should not be the end station. Mainstream always managed to get inspiration from the novelties of avant-garde but adapt them properly to recreate the same dominant gaze.

Psychedelic is only a first step to invent strong and diverse ways of queer aesthetic. We shall not forget, that there is only one way and one language of predominant heteronormative power aesthetic: the one which tries to perfectly copy the reality as it is (as dictating and oppressive the real gaze is) and enhances it with fairy tales. In contrast there are infinite ways of queer gazes and aesthetics which are yet to invent.

#A-ZoneCyborg  
#researchnotes





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