

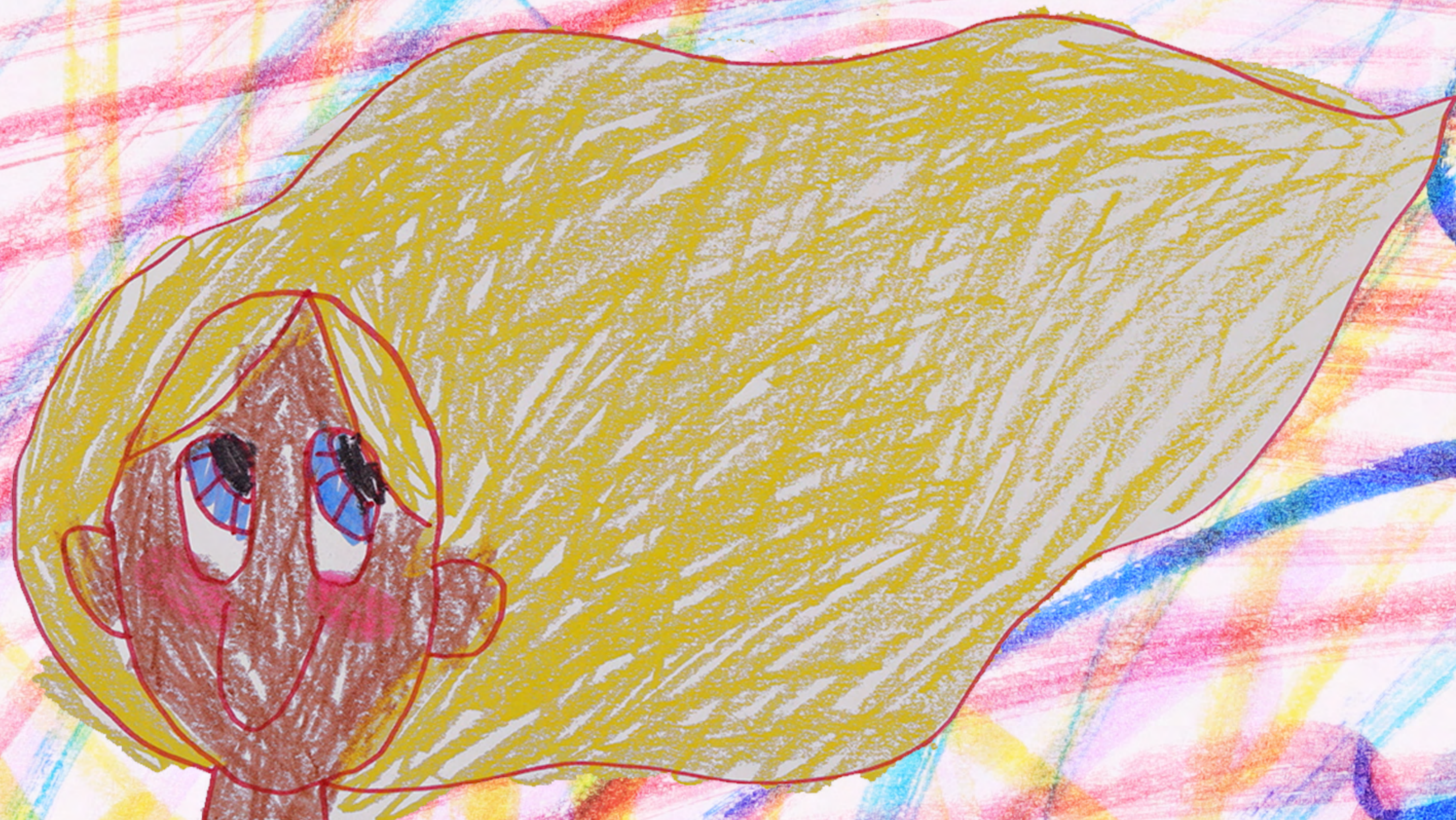
flè dè me

A Film By Bathschèba Duronvil



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still from flè dè me

Synopsis

flè dè me is an experimental film about 4-year-old Bathschèba's retelling of their adoption story. Young Bathschèba takes us through their fears of coming to America and the strange, silly, and scary new things about this country in order to unpack the complexity of their childhood.



About

flè dè me is an experimental student film utilizing a mix of traditional 2D animation, magazine cutouts, and found footage.



still from flè dè me

Director's Statement

In flè dè me, I tell my story; my life living in Haiti and how I came into this world having a strong sense of self. I had nature that loved me and a mother who adored me. I had all my sisters, my friends, my culture, and my food. I never asked for more. I never wanted more. Moving to the U.S. was terrifying. I came to this country scared and confused. I had lost my culture and my mother and swiftly had to adjust to this strange new country surrounded by these strange white faces. This film was an opportunity for me to explore my adoption story through visual storytelling and language.

When society thinks of adoption, images of adoptive parents taking in a poor young child may pop into one's head. One may hear of an adoption story and view it from the perspective of an adoption parent. But often what we don't see are adoptees' feelings of displacement, shame, guilt, grief, and loss. Adoption is nuanced, and for adoptees, it can be painful. For me, it was painful. I lost everything I loved when I came to America, and the people around me seemed to be in jubilation over my loss. I created this film as a way to tell my adoption story and what it means to be Black and female in a transracial household. Grief, loss, and pain look different on a child, and I wanted to honor my story from the perspective of my child-self.



still from flè dè me



FAQ

- flè dè me translates to *may flowers* in Haitian creole. I chose this title because one, I love flowers and two May was my last month in Haiti.
- The 2D animation was done using solely my non-dominant hand, my left hand, to mimic the drawings of a child.
- 100% of the found footage and magazine cutouts used in this film I bought from a single-used art supply store in Portland, Oregon called *Scraps PDX*.
- The child voice actor was my classmate's younger brother in my Radical Cinema Workshop class. He was a star to work with.
- The film was created in my Radical Cinema Workshop class, where we were encouraged to create moving images utilizing experimental techniques.
- flè dè me was made over four months at the School of Film and Animation, Rochester Institute of Technology.

Software Used

Dragonframe

After Effects

Adobe Photoshop

Premiere Pro

ProTools





Director's Bio

Bathschèba Duronvil is a multidisciplinary artist who focuses on experimental animation using a combination of stop-motion and traditional animation.

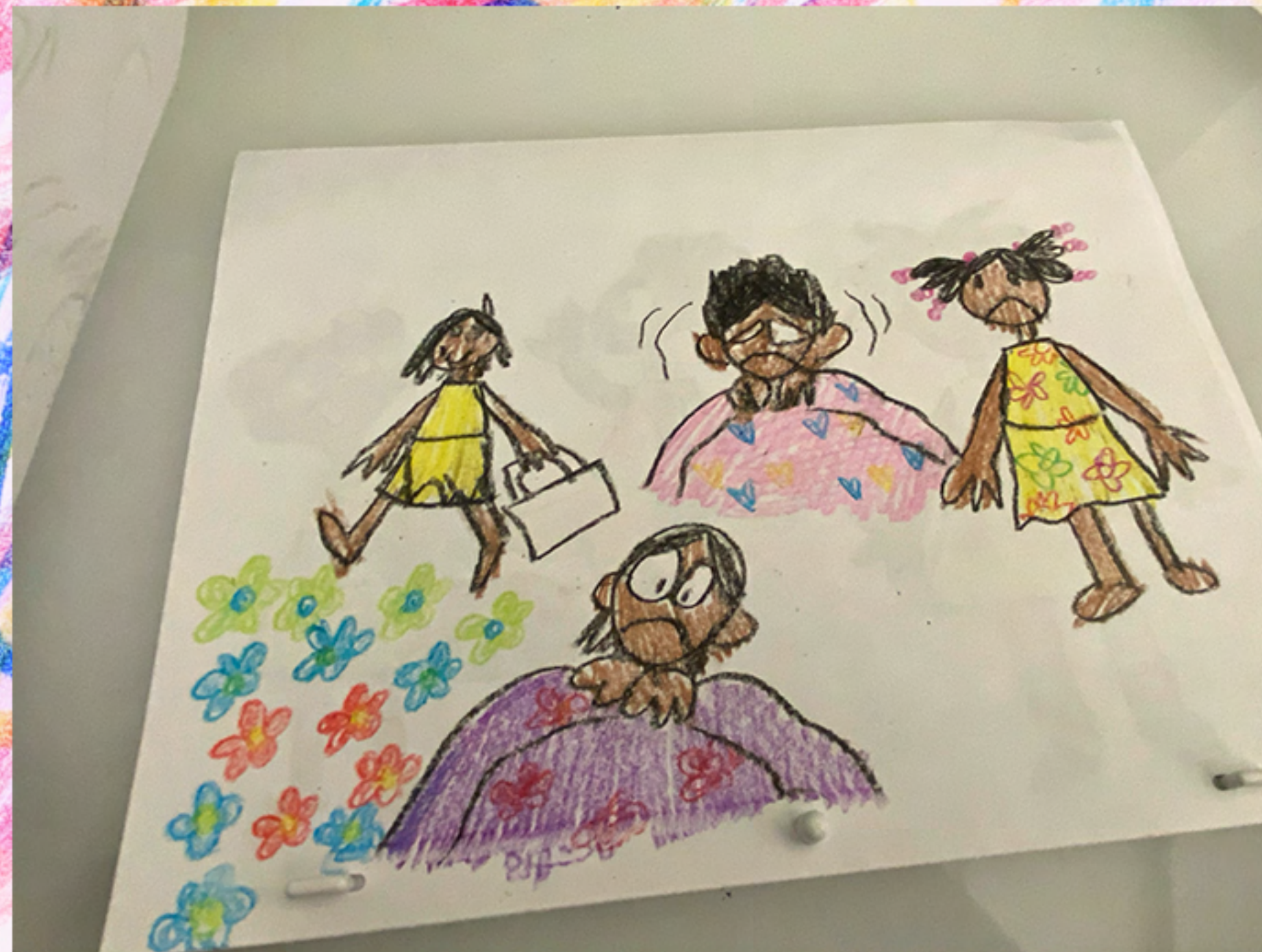
Born in Haiti and brought up in Minnesota, Bathschèba grew up with a rich love of storytelling. Bathschèba loves to draw, and as a young artist, they illustrated and wrote their own teen-drama books, sculpted paper mache monsters from recycled soda cans, and spent most days imagining elaborate stories for their large collection of stuffed animals. This instinct to incorporate play into their art has followed Bathschèba into adulthood and is reflected in their visual storytelling and art style. Bathschèba Duronvil is a second-year graduate student at the School of Animation, Rochester Institute of Technology.



photo of me taking a break from animating in Dragonframe



coloring in my frames using an LED light pad



initial character exploration



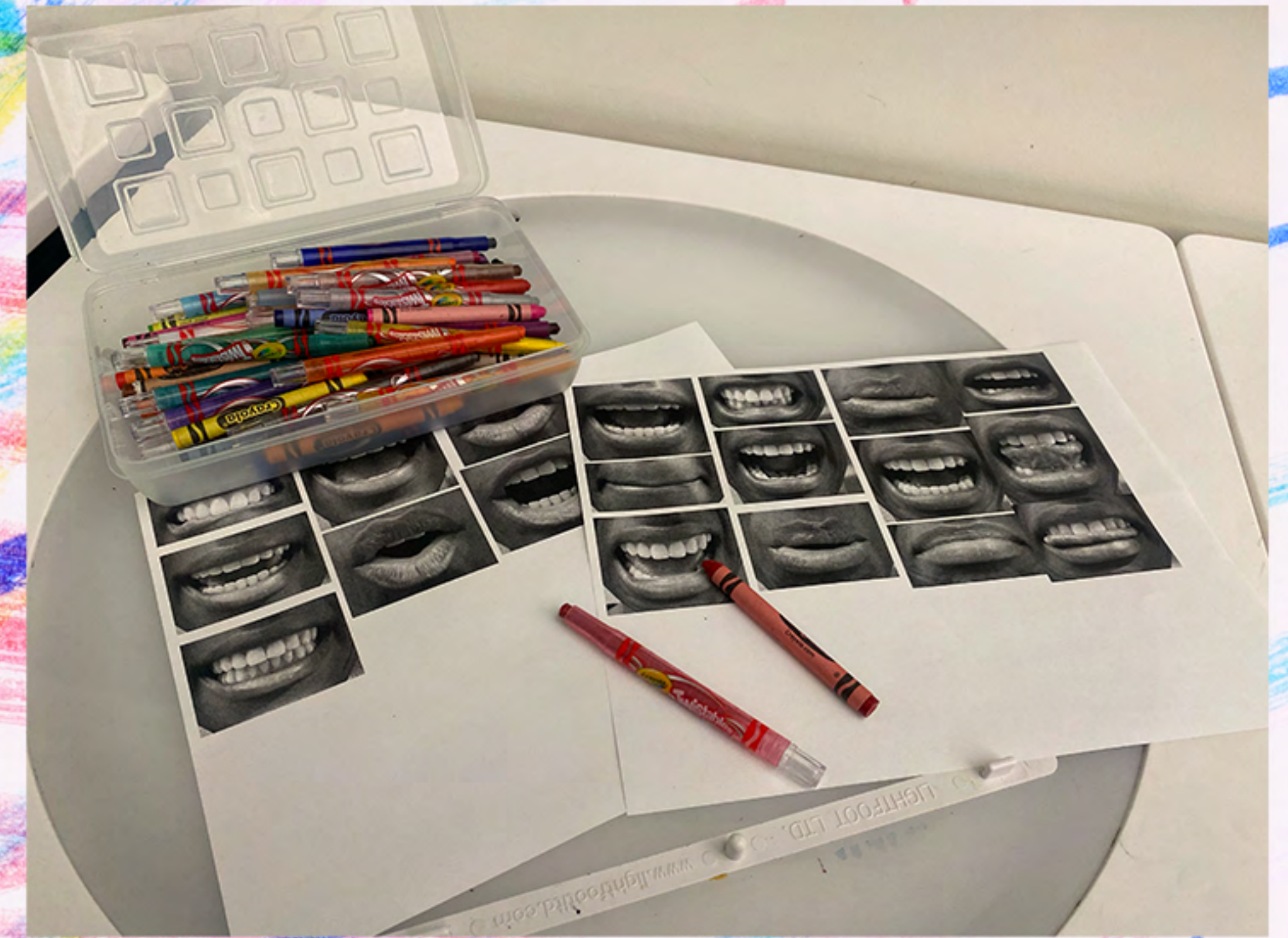
initial character exploration



materials used in the making of this film



initial drawings of my main character



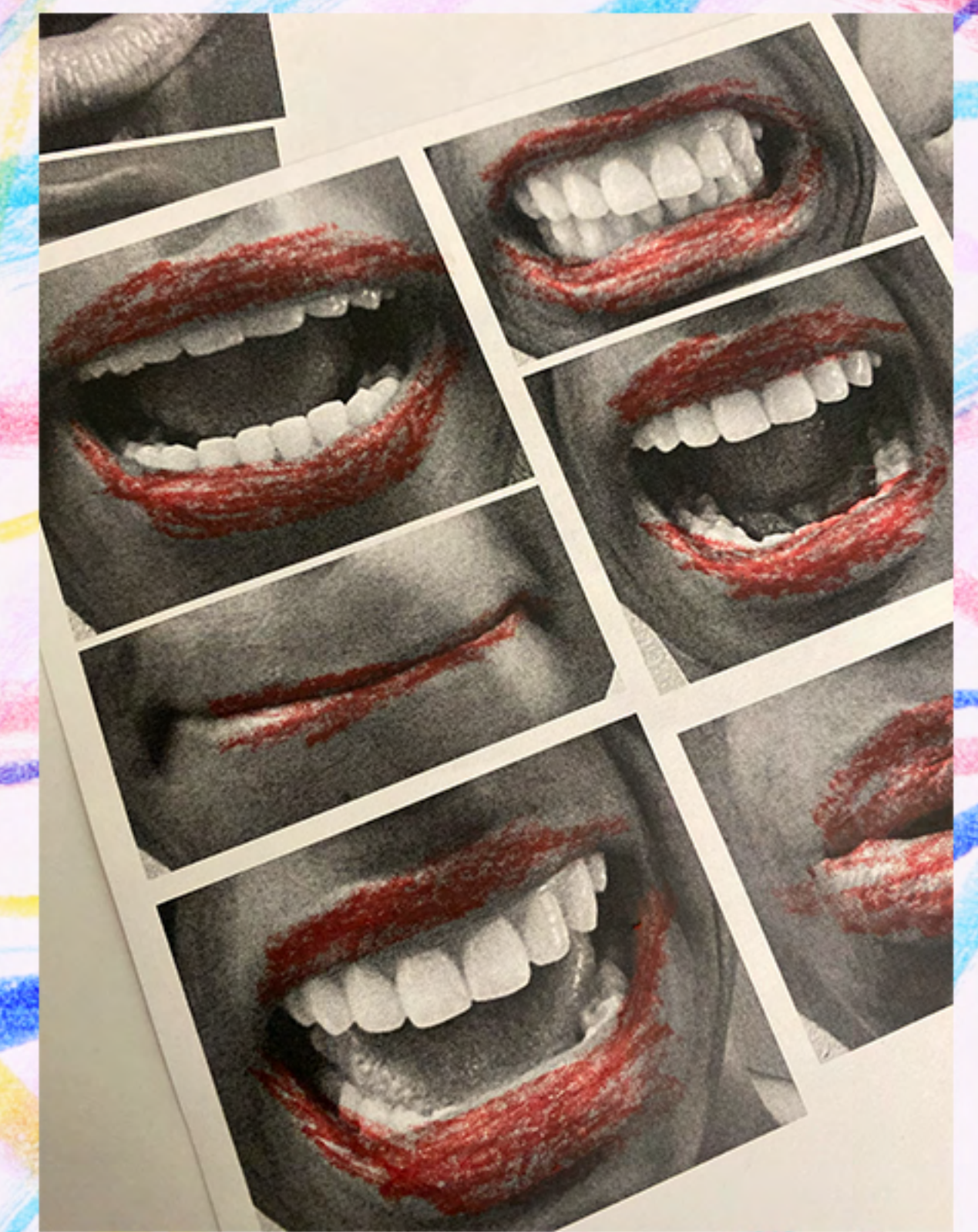
printouts of my sisters mouth for lip sync animation



taking a photo of my arms for ghost sequence in film



animating meatball sandwich in stop motion studio



colored in lips for lip sync animation

CREDITS

A Film By Bathschèba Duronvil

CHILD ACTOR: Griffin Brandes

SOUND DESIGN by Old Father Eternity

DIALOGUE CLEAN UP: Dave Sluberski

ADDITIONAL COLORIST: Tea Natkin

BACKGROUND DESIGN: Kaualani Ceberano; Tea Natkin

DOLL COSTUME DESIGN: Emily Sugar

SPECIAL THANKS: Christine Banna; Vanessa Sweet; Scout Brandes; Andrew Sonntag; Marie Jèraldine Graham; Aybuke Yilmazar

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE: Pixabay; Pexels; DaFont; Texturelabs

Student Produces at the School of Film and Animation Rochester Institute of Technology

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