the rookies

The first step to your future creative career

TOP SCHOOLS
LEARN VFX, ANIM,
GAMES AND MORE

Ranked based on student performance

BEST CREATIVE MEDIA SCHOOLS 2023 REPORT

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Artwork by Charlotte Van Hulle
Futuregames

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Production Excellence - Animation & Visual Effects

Get Involved for 2023

Introduction

The Best Creative Media & Entertainment Schools report is based on the quality and performance of student work that is submitted to our judging panel between March 2022 – May 2022.

We feel that traditional school rankings – that include peer and employer reviews, faculty-to-student ratio, citations and other data – are not adequate when ranking the best creative schools. This might work in industries with more traditional career paths, however, when it comes to technical and creative roles, such as Visual Effects, Feature Animation and Games, it's a lot more complicated.

Based on the results of student submissions we received this year we have released the following in-depth breakdowns about the Best Creative Media and Entertainment Schools in the World.

In 2022, The Rookies received over 63,000 digital media submissions

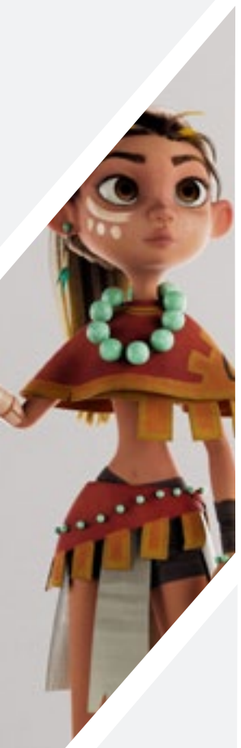
created by over 4,000 students from more than 80 countries worldwide. Over 520 academic facilities encouraged their students to submit work which we believe is a very substantial and fair dataset to use in our global report.

Each student entry was reviewed by an official Judging Panel, which included over 200 influential and highly respected industry veterans.

To view the winning student entries for 2022 please visit Rookie Awards.

> The judging process hit a new level of complexity this year as judges were asked to review full portfolios of work, not just individual projects like other awards.

Andrew McDonald
Co-founder @ The Rookies



The Ranking Process

We feel that traditional school rankings – that include peer and employer reviews, faculty-to-student ratio, citations and other data – are not adequate when ranking the best creative schools. This might work in industries with more traditional career paths, however, when it comes to technical and creative roles, such as Visual Effects, Feature Animation and Games, it's a lot more complicated.

How we determine the best schools

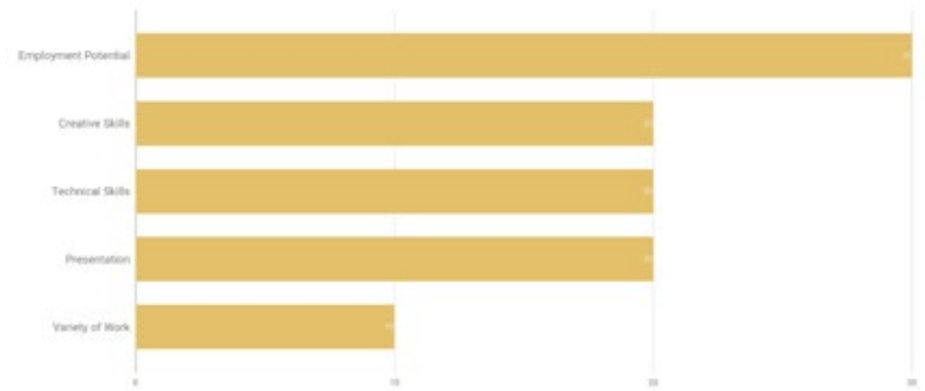
Our rankings are based on the quality of students' portfolios that are submitted to our judging panel. This simple approach best reflects the recruitment interview process.

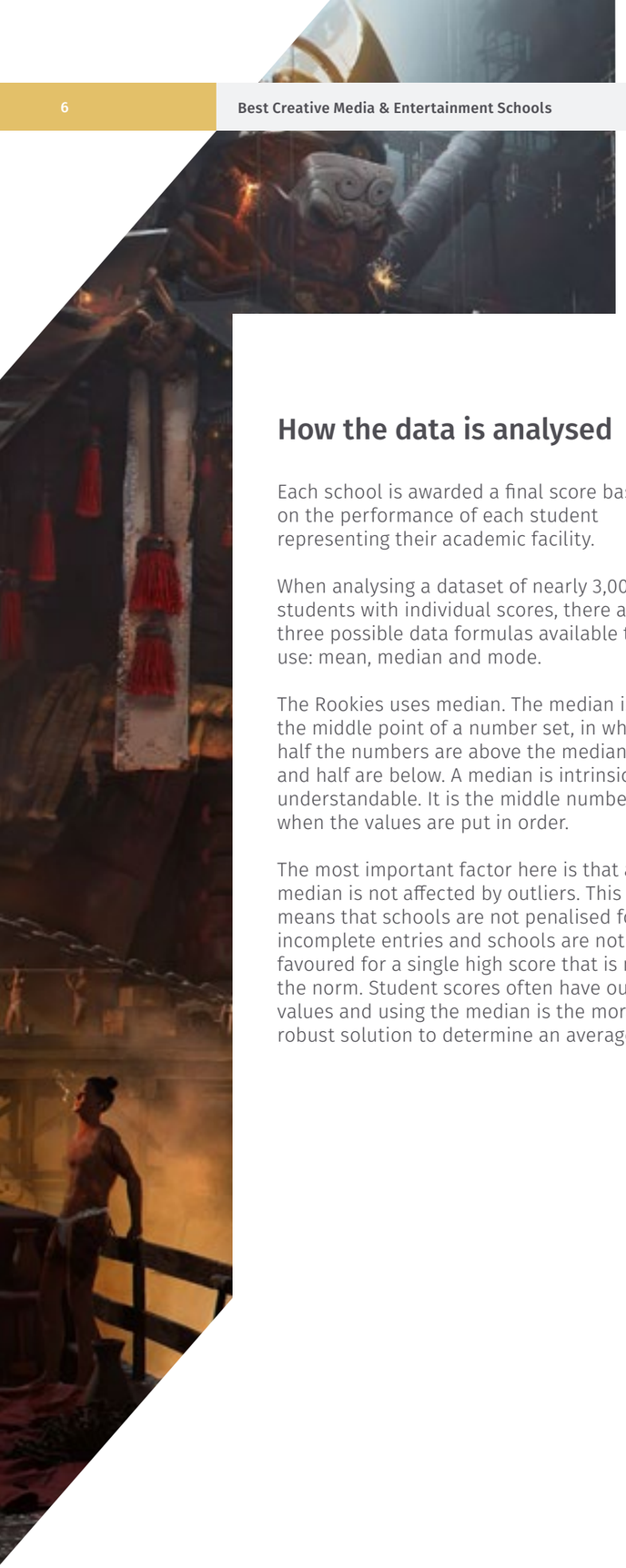
The reason we take this approach is because we believe that every school is tasked with helping students learn the right creative and technical skills that meet the requirements of industry. It is their job to train artists to a level that allows them to transition from school to a professional environment with ease.

The end result for students is less about grades, it's about creating a digital portfolio that best showcases their skills and displays an understanding of production pipelines. This is why our judges review portfolios and review student work in the same manner as a professional job application.

The rankings are based on the scores as awarded by the official judging panel. Opinions by the general public or schools are by no means considered.

The chart below shows how students are reviewed by the judging panel. The criteria includes creative skills, technical skills, presentation, variety of skills, complexity, raw talent, and employment potential.





How the data is analysed

Each school is awarded a final score based on the performance of each student representing their academic facility.

When analysing a dataset of nearly 3,000 students with individual scores, there are three possible data formulas available to use: mean, median and mode.

The Rookies uses median. The median is the middle point of a number set, in which half the numbers are above the median and half are below. A median is intrinsically understandable. It is the middle number when the values are put in order.

The most important factor here is that a median is not affected by outliers. This means that schools are not penalised for incomplete entries and schools are not favoured for a single high score that is not the norm. Student scores often have outlier values and using the median is the more robust solution to determine an average.

Important details about how a school score is calculated:

- Schools must submit a team project.
- Each entry receives a final project score.
- Each entry receives a team work score.
- Each category finalist receives bonus points toward School Score.
- Each category highly commended receives bonus points toward School Score.
- Each category runner up receives bonus points toward School Score.
- Each category winner receives bonus points toward School Score.

"Over 200 industry leading professionals submitted 38,000 judgements to student works, across 3 stages of voting. This provides an unsurpassed data-set for discovering which schools and colleges are best preparing students for the challenges of industry."

Alwyn Hunt,
Co-Founder @ The Rookies

Turning passion into profession.

Rey Zhong '23, Game Art

#1 BEST 3D ANIMATION COLLEGE IN THE WORLD

#2 BEST MOTION GRAPHICS COLLEGE IN THE WORLD

#3 BEST GAME DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT COLLEGE IN THE WORLD

#7 CREATIVE MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT COLLEGE IN THE WORLD

ROOKIES CERTIFIED SCHOOL

Creativity and technology collide in Ringling College's 13 unique undergraduate programs.

www.ringling.edu

Ringling College of Art + Design

ARTFX SCHOOL OF DIGITAL ARTS

MONTPELLIER - LILLE - PARIS

2023 APPLICATIONS OPEN!

Image from the game 'A Blaze Within' created by the ARTFX students.

5 Master's degrees officially recognized by the state delivering the title of "Digital Director" registered in the RNCP (level 7)

ARTFX.FR

Private technical college. Member school of the RECA, network of French animation schools.

2D ANIMATION
3D CHARACTERS
SPECIAL EFFECTS
VIDEO GAME PROGRAMMING
FOUNDATION YEAR

Top 50 Schools and Colleges in the World

Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	New3dge	France	152.26
2	Savannah College of Art and Design	Multiple Locations	121.01
3	The One Academy of Communication Design	Malaysia	116.61
4	SCHOOL-ING	Spain, Online	107.12
5	School of Visual Arts	United States	102.00
6	Gnomon	Online, United States	97.93
7	Ringling College of Art and Design	United States	96.68
8	Think Tank Training Centre	Canada, Online	96.02
9	ArtFX School	France	86.15
10	3dsense Media School	Singapore	84.38
11	SF Film School	Korea	83.50
12	Howest University of Applied Sciences - Digital Arts and Entertainment	Belgium	82.37
13	Cleveland Institute of Art	United States	75.28
14	Artside School	France	72.43
15	butic The New School	Online	72.00
16	Lost Boys | School of Visual Effects	Canada	71.96
17	Netherlands Film Academy	Netherlands	71.51
18	PIXL VISN | media arts academy	Germany	71.38
19	Animum Creativity Advanced School	Spain	68.29
20	University of Hertfordshire	United Kingdom, Online	65.35
21	YRGO	Sweden	64.18
22	ECV	France	62.35
23	Nanyang Polytechnic SDM	Singapore	60.75
24	cg5 Academy	Korea	60.05
25	ISART Digital	France, Canada	59.85

Rank	School	Location	Score
26	Futuregames	Sweden	59.08
27	Flinders University / CDW Studios	Australia, Online	58.75
28	The Game Assembly	Sweden	57.82
29	Universal Arts School	Spain	56.74
30	FX ANIMATION Barcelona 3D & Film School	Spain	55.62
31	Game Academy	France	55.53
32	Florida Universitària	Spain	55.16
33	Ecole MoPA	France	54.47
34	Bellecour Ecole	France	52.62
35	ESMA	France	52.10
36	Breda University of Applied Sciences	Netherlands	52.00
37	Brassart	France	51.77
38	Escape Studios	United Kingdom, Online	51.64
39	University for the Creative Arts	United Kingdom	51.62
40	BigRock	Italy, Online	51.43
41	PlaygroundSquad	Sweden	51.08
42	Staffordshire University	United Kingdom	50.79
43	M3DS Academy	Macedonia	50.62
44	Norwich University of the Arts	United Kingdom, Online	49.98
45	CICE, The Professional School in New Technologies	Spain	49.39
46	Voxel School	Spain	48.91
47	Academy of Art University	United States, Online	48.87
48	Lightbox Academy	Spain, Online	48.12
49	Artline Institute	Online	47.47
50	The Animation Workshop/ VIA University College	Denmark	47.12

"The **Rookies World School Rankings®** are not like other education based ranking systems. They are driven and judged by industry professionals without the interference of paid advertising dollars that cloud the judgement of other ranking sites."

• SCOTT THOMPSON, FOUNDER OF THINK TANK TRAINING CENTRE.

CATEGORIES
16

JUDGES
153

ENTRIES
4,407

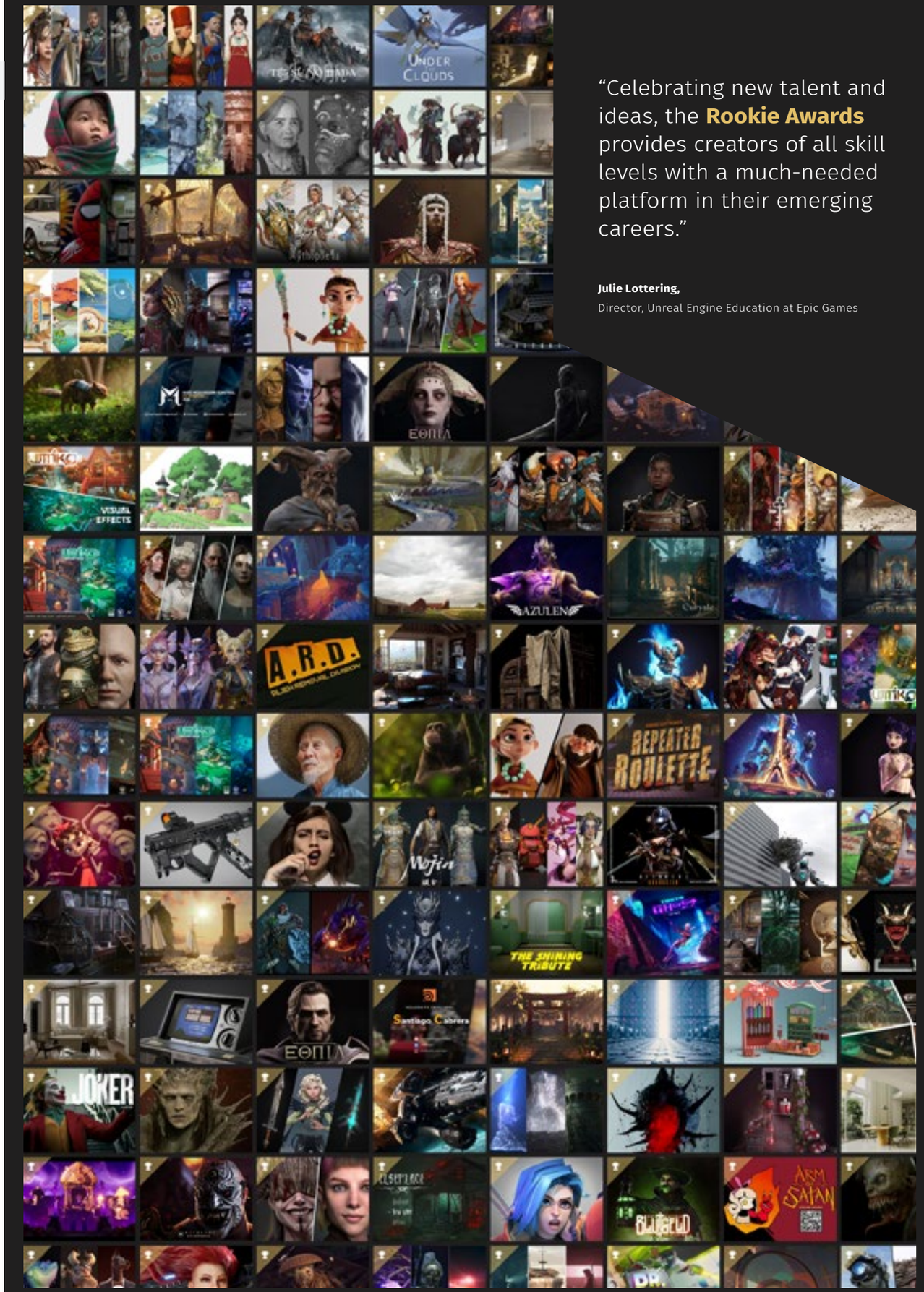
SCHOOLS
524

COUNTRIES
91

EST.
2009

JUDGE REVIEWS
58,443

MEDIA UPLOADS
63,518



"Celebrating new talent and ideas, the **Rookie Awards** provides creators of all skill levels with a much-needed platform in their emerging careers."

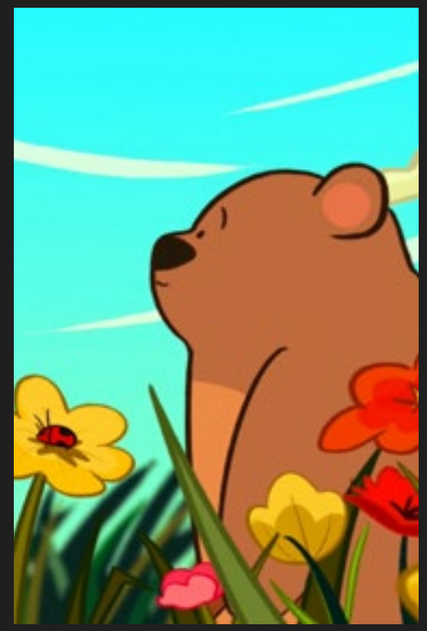
Julie Lottering,
Director, Unreal Engine Education at Epic Games

Best 2D Animation Schools

Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	School of Visual Arts	United States	97.75
2	Savannah College of Art and Design	Multiple Locations	81.59
3	Cleveland Institute of Art	United States	79.71
4	University of Hertfordshire	United Kingdom, Online	66.41
5	ECV	France	64.68
6	Flinders University / CDW Studios	Australia, Online	53.75
7	Nanyang Polytechnic SDM	Singapore	49.75
8	The One Academy of Communication Design	Malaysia	42.75
9	Voxel School	Spain	37.75
10	Ringling College of Art and Design	United States	36.75



“Having the ‘employability of the Artist’ as a judging criteria is key, for in the creative fields you can be free of constraint and let the ideas flow but getting and building a career requires an additional ability to be practical and having ideas that can be executed and maintained.”

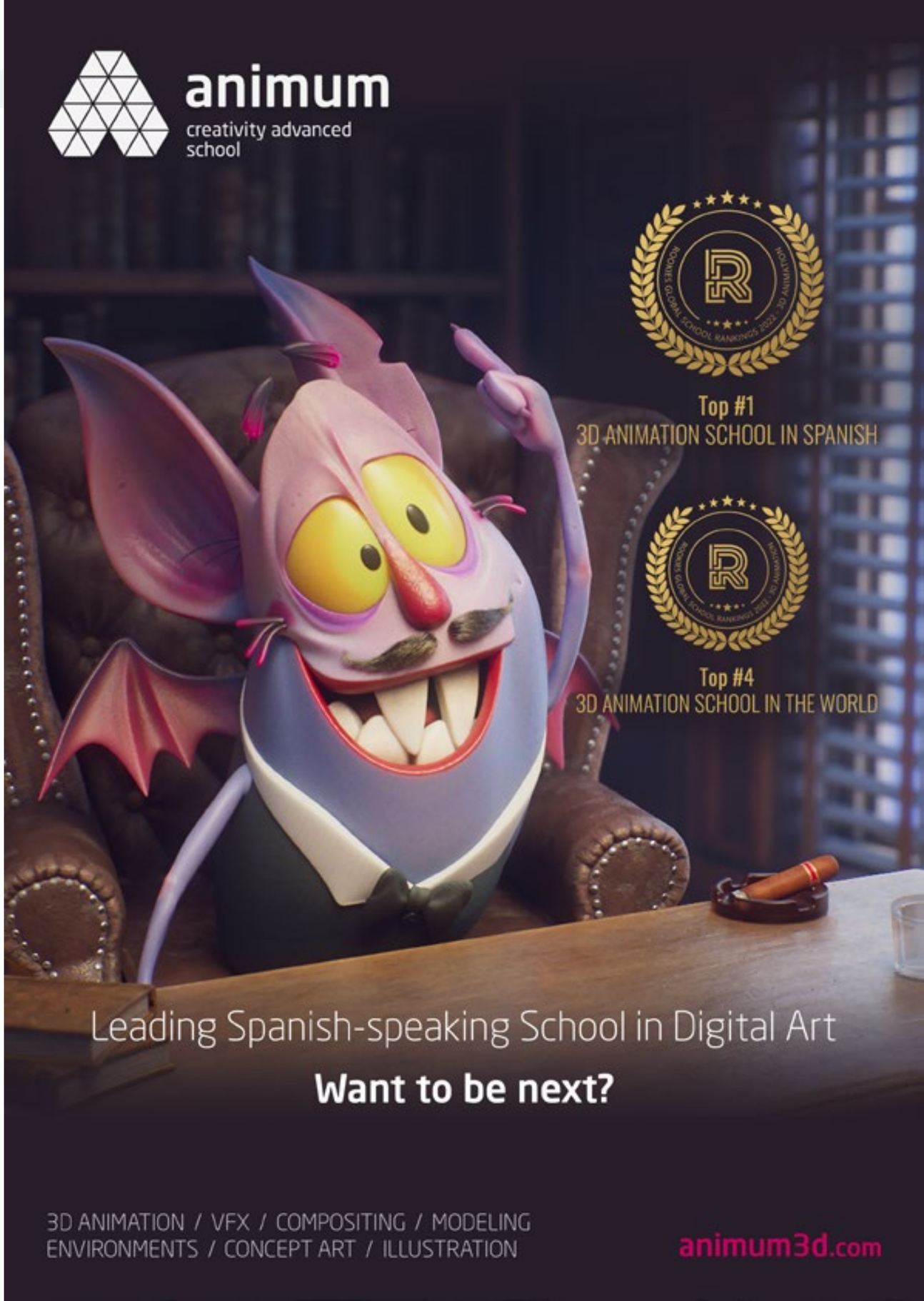
• **DARRYN MELROSE**, FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MEDIA DESIGN SCHOOL

Best 3D Animation Schools

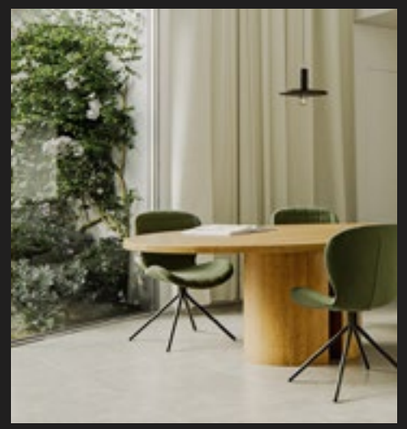
Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	Ringling College of Art and Design	United States	87.21
2	Gnomon	Online, United States	81.24
3	New3dge	France	70.35
4	Animum Creativity Advanced School	Spain	69.36
5	Academy of Art University	United States, Online	68.52
6	ArtFX School	France	67.19
7	3dsense Media School	Singapore	66.90
8	SF Film School	Korea	65.75
9	ECV	France	59.28
10	PIXL VISN | media arts academy	Germany	59.16
11	Ecole MoPA	France	55.52
12	Savannah College of Art and Design	Multiple Locations	54.80
13	Think Tank Training Centre	Canada, Online	54.63
14	ESMA	France	54.44
14	School of Visual Arts	United States	54.44
16	cg5 Academy	Korea	53.85
17	BigRock	Italy, Online	50.74
18	Nanyang Polytechnic SDM	Singapore	48.12
19	CG Spectrum	Online	47.74
20	The One Academy of Communication Design	Malaysia	47.44



3D ANIMATION STUDENT GALLERY



Best Architectural Visualisation Schools

Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

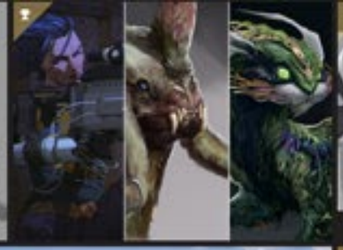
Rank	School	Location	Score
1	SCHOOL-ING	Spain, Online	107.48
2	butic The New School	Spain, Online	72.34
3	YRGO	Sweden	63.18
4	FX ANIMATION Barcelona 3D & Film School	Spain	60.18
5	Voxel School	Spain	50.93
6	Animum Creativity Advanced School	Spain	49.92
7	CICE, The Professional School in New Technologies	Spain	48.85

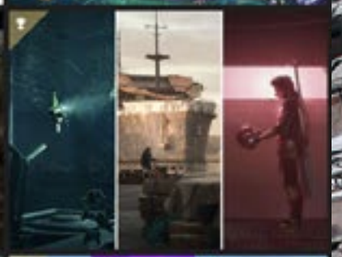
Best Concept Art & Illustration Schools

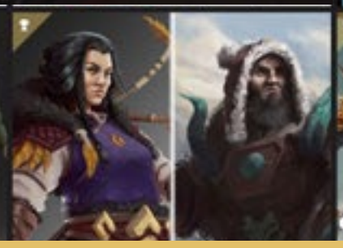
Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

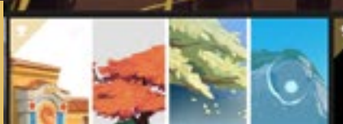
Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	New3dge	France	124.90
2	Artside School	France	69.53
3	The One Academy of Communication Design	Malaysia	67.77
4	ISART Digital	France, Canada	59.85
5	Universal Arts School	Spain	56.25
6	Howest University of Applied Sciences - Digital Arts and Entertainment	Belgium	52.43
7	Bellecour Ecole	France	51.99
8	Flinders University / CDW Studios	Australia, Online	51.85
9	3dsense Media School	Singapore	50.98
10	University of Hertfordshire	United Kingdom, Online	49.43
11	FX ANIMATION Barcelona 3D & Film School	Spain	49.17
12	Academy of Art University	United States, Online	45.14
13	Artline Institute	Online	44.04
14	CG Spectrum	Online	43.86
15	Voxel School	Spain	41.41
16	Savannah College of Art and Design	United States, France, Online	40.30
17	Breda University of Applied Sciences	Netherlands	40.23
18	Leeds Art Academy	United Kingdom	38.37
19	Norwich University of the Arts	United Kingdom, Online	37.23
20	Games Academy Falmouth University	United Kingdom	34.73









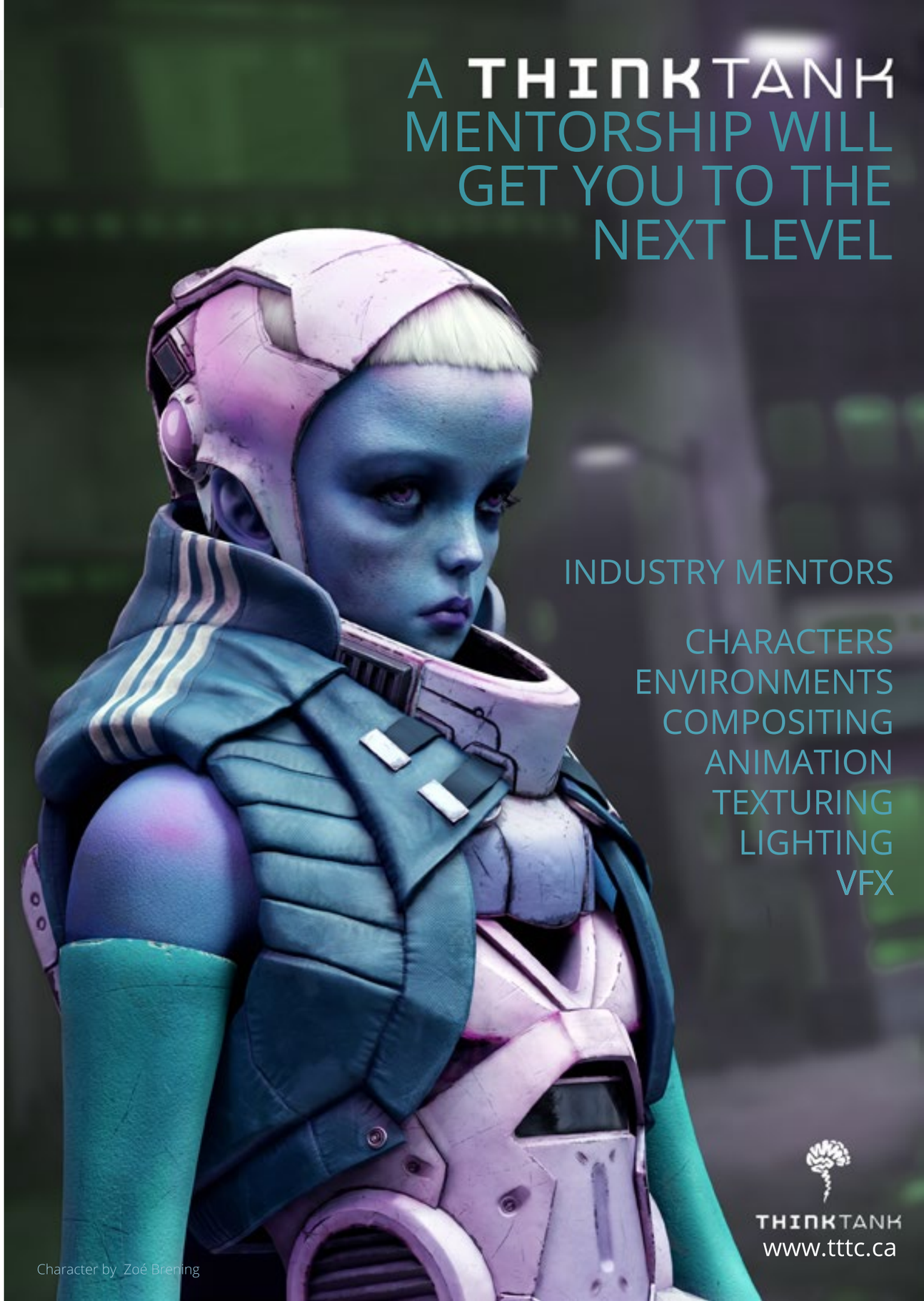
CONCEPT ART STUDENT GALLERY

Best Game Design & Development Schools

Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	Think Tank Training Centre	Canada, Online	83.38
2	Howest University of Applied Sciences - Digital Arts and Entertainment	Belgium	79.67
3	New3dge	France	79.12
4	Gnomon	Online, United States	72.84
5	Artside School	France	72.09
6	3dsense Media School	Singapore	70.31
7	Futuregames	Sweden	63.03
8	Breda University of Applied Sciences	Netherlands	61.94
9	Escape Studios	United Kingdom, Online	58.05
10	The Game Assembly	Sweden	57.79
11	Game Academy	France	57.42
12	Florida Universitària	Spain	57.41
13	Animum Creativity Advanced School	Spain	57.39
14	SAE Creative Media Institute	Multiple Locations	53.32
15	PlaygroundSquad	Sweden	50.17
16	Voxel School	Spain	47.76
17	Ringling College of Art and Design	United States	46.30
18	University of Hertfordshire	United Kingdom, Online	40.44
19	Staffordshire University	United Kingdom	39.87
20	Games Academy Falmouth University	United Kingdom	36.19



Best Motion Graphics Schools

Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	3dsense Media School	Singapore	92.75
2	Ringling College of Art and Design	United States	72.75
3	Savannah College of Art and Design	United States, France, Online	65.25
4	Nanyang Polytechnic SDM	Singapore	63.75
5	Voxel School	Spain	52.75
6	The One Academy of Communication Design	Malaysia	49.00

Best Product Design Schools

Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	Savannah College of Art and Design	United States, France, Online	102.76
2	The One Academy of Communication Design	Malaysia	58.52
3	Animum Creativity Advanced School	Spain	40.36

Best Visual Effects Schools

Calculated using data collected from the Rookie Awards 2022.

Please refer to page 4 for more detailed information about how we collect and analyse data.

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	SF Film School	Korea	83.38
2	ArtFX School	France	79.67
3	Think Tank Training Centre	Canada, Online	79.12
4	PIXL VISN | media arts academy	Germany	72.84
5	Netherlands Film Academy	Netherlands	72.09
6	Lost Boys | School of Visual Effects	Canada	70.31
7	Gnomon	Online, United States	63.03
8	cg5 Academy	Korea	61.94
9	FX ANIMATION Barcelona 3D & Film School	Spain	58.05
10	Howest University of Applied Sciences - Digital Arts and Entertainment	Belgium	57.79
11	ESMA	France	57.42
12	Animum Creativity Advanced School	Spain	57.41
13	New3dge	France	57.39
14	3dsense Media School	Singapore	53.32
15	Flinders University / CDW Studios	Australia, Online	50.17
16	Lightbox Academy	Spain, Online	47.76
17	Bournemouth University	United Kingdom	46.30
18	Savannah College of Art and Design	United States, France, Online	40.44
19	CG Spectrum	Online	39.87
20	University of South Australia	Australia, Online	36.19

Production Excellence
Game Design & Development

Production Excellence is an accolade awarded to the very best schools that focus on working as a team to create short films and short form projects. Many schools focus on teaching the core skills of animation and film making, however it takes quite a different approach to creating an immersive experience that replicates a production studio.

"We believe that schools that replicate a production studio experience provide a great advantage to students because it encourages team work, a strong understanding of pipelines, scheduling experience, resource management and problem solving."

Andrew McDonald, Co-Founder of The Rookies.

Console & PC - Production Excellence

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	New3dge	France	92.62
2	ISART Digital	France, Canada	78.21
3	ArtFX School	France	77.26
4	University of Hertfordshire	United Kingdom	73.93
5	Brigham Young University	United States	72.51
6	DigiPen Institute of Technology	Multiple Locations	69.88
7	The Animation Workshop/ VIA University College	Denmark	69.82
8	Breda University of Applied Sciences	Netherlands	65.26
9	Howest University of Applied Sciences - Digital Arts and Entertainment	Belgium	62.75
10	Games Academy Falmouth University	United Kingdom	62.27

Mobile - Production Excellence

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	ISART Digital	France, Canada	103.39
2	Howest University of Applied Sciences - Digital Arts and Entertainment	Belgium	76.225
3	Champlain College	United States	72.73
4	The Game Assembly	Sweden	71.06
5	RUBIKA	France	69.39
6	CG Spectrum	Online	61.92

Immersive Media - Production Excellence

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	The One Academy of Communication Design	Malaysia	87.09
2	University of the Arts London	United Kingdom	76.885
3	Ringling College of Art and Design	United States	74
4	ISART Digital	France, Canada	73.75
5	Howest University of Applied Sciences - Digital Arts and Entertainment	Belgium	71.25
6	Centro	Mexico	69.49
7	Games Academy Falmouth University	United Kingdom	66.25
8	Savannah College of Art and Design	United States, France	51.69

GAME DEVELOPMENT - PC & CONSOLE

Production Excellence - **Animation & Visual Effects**

Production Excellence is an accolade awarded to the very best schools that focus on working as a team to create short films and short form projects. Many schools focus on teaching the core skills of animation and film making, however it takes quite a different approach to creating an immersive experience that replicates a production studio.

"The creativity, production quality, and technical and organisational skills I have seen demonstrated in the short films entered by student teams makes me excited to think what they will achieve in a studio environment one day."

Sabrina Scalfari, Marketing & Education @ The Rookies.

Visual Effects - Production Excellence

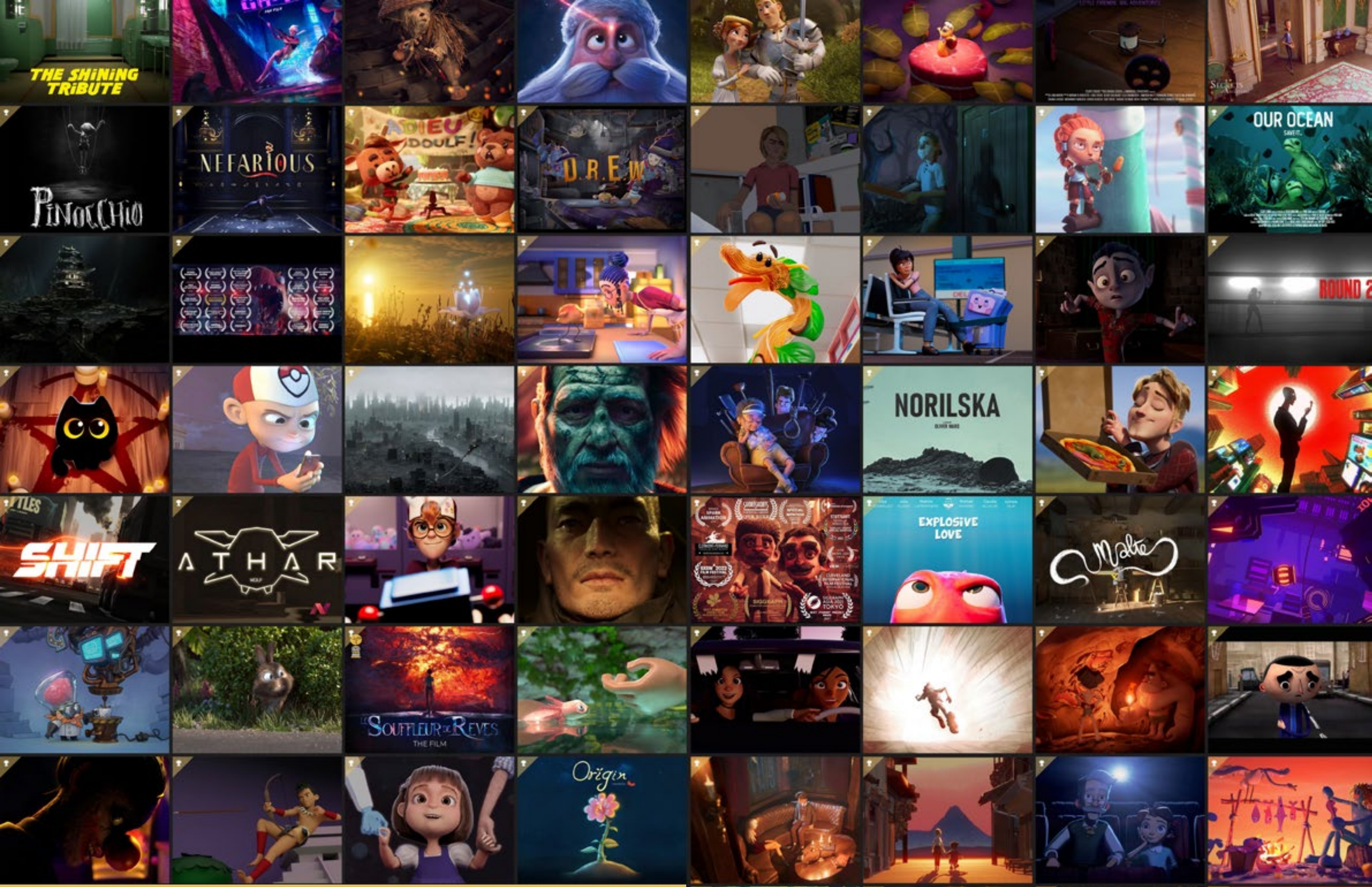
Rank	School	Location	Score
1	ArtFX School	France	112.38
2	SF Film School	Korea	76.09
3	Sheridan College	Canada, Online	73.36
4	Columbia University	United States	66.84
5	ISART Digital	France, Canada	66.77
6	University of Hertfordshire	United Kingdom, Online	66.74
7	New3dge	France	64.84
8	Netherlands Film Academy	Netherlands	61.51
9	Breda University of Applied Sciences	Netherlands	58.07
10	Escape Studios	United Kingdom, Online	57.93

2D Animation - Production Excellence

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	GOBELINS, l'école de l'image	France	91.31
2	The Animation Workshop/ VIA University College	Denmark	87.20
3	DigiPen Institute of Technology	Mulitple Locations States,	78.53
4	Savannah College of Art and Design	Mulitple Locations	76.36
5	M3DS Academy	Macedonia	76.04
6	School of Visual Arts	United States	75.75
7	Bellecour Ecole	France	74.83
8	ECV	France	72.75
9	ESCENA Escuela de Animación	Mexico	71.04
10	Cleveland Institute of Art	United States	69.71

3D Animation - Production Excellence

Rank	School	Location	Score
1	ESMA	France	114.63
2	PÔLE 3D Digital & Creative School	France	92.32
3	GOBELINS, l'école de l'image	France	82.24
4	Ecole des Nouvelles Images	France	78.56
5	New3dge	France	77.87
6	RUBIKA	France	77.56
7	Ringling College of Art and Design	United States	77.04
8	ArtFX School	France	75.68
9	ECV	France	74.49
10	DigiPen Institute of Technology	Multiple Locations	70.27



3D ANIMATION - SHORT FILMS

Discover the right Art School for your future

It's time to change your college search game. Check out the only curated school directory for Art Schools that are based on the student performance, and voted by industry professionals. Talk directly with our team of student advisors, and have a chat with real students in our private Discord server.

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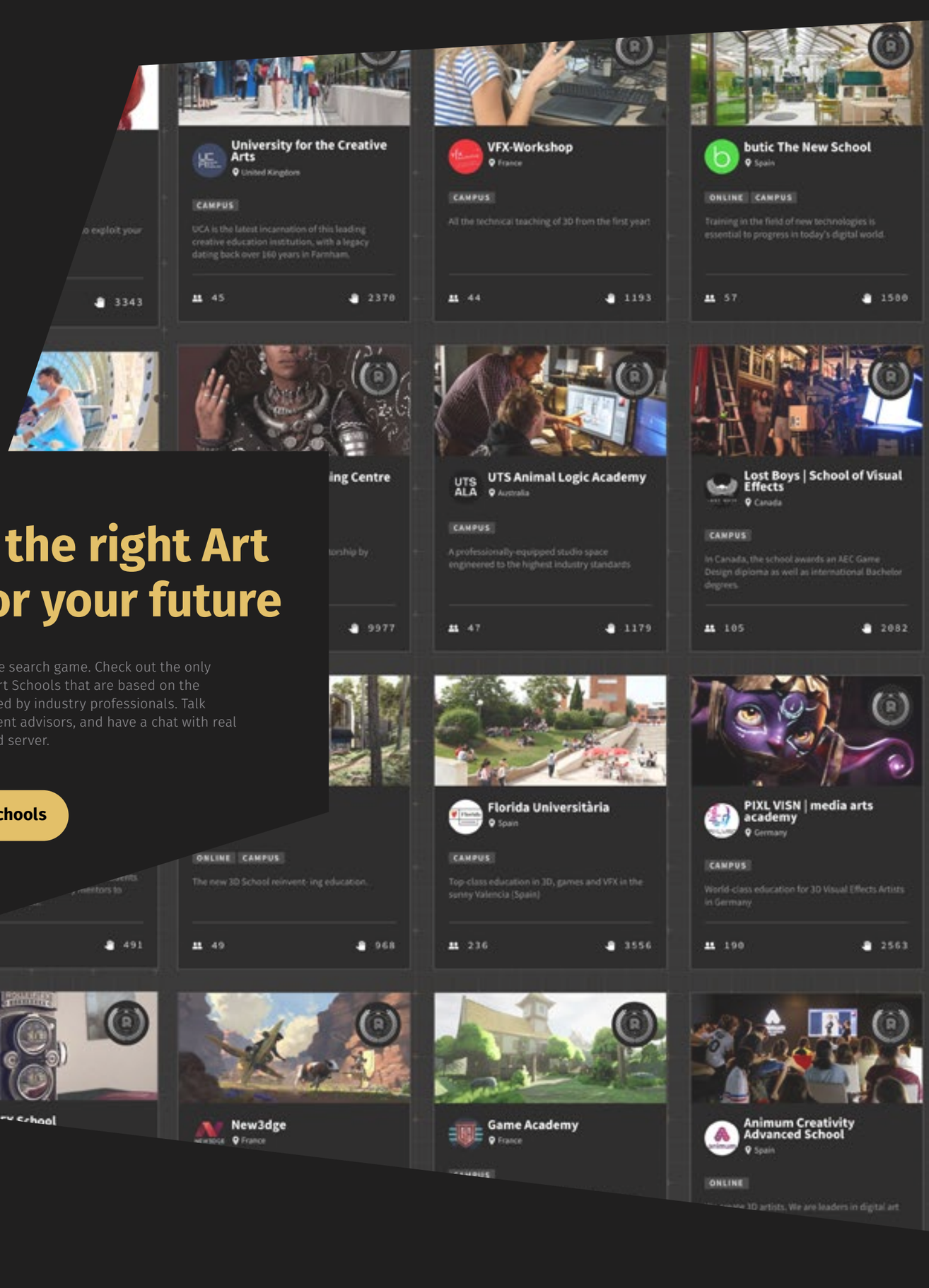

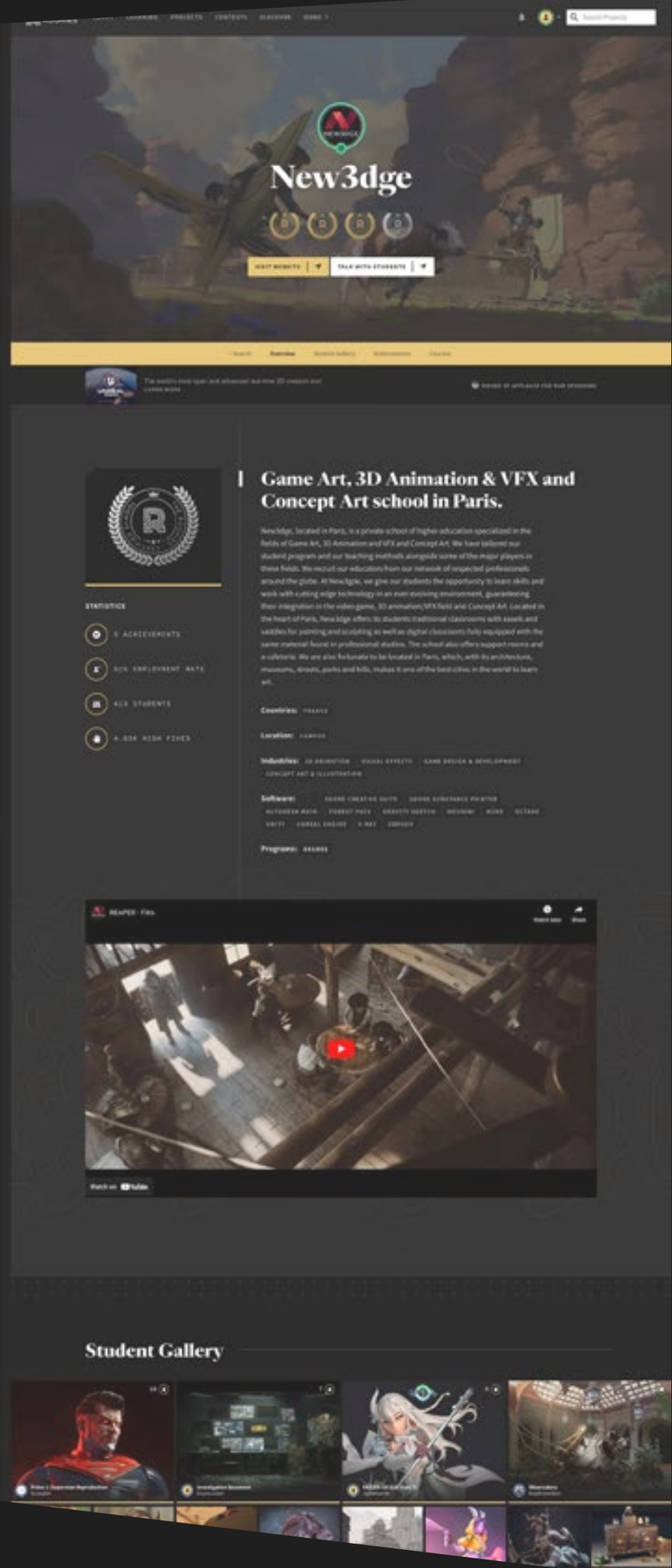

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