

What is animation?

General Definitions of Animation

Technique of single frame cinematography

1. Imagery is recorded frame by frame
2. illusion of motion is created, rather than recorded

Charles Solomon

Post-Modern Definition of Animation

Animation is not the art of drawings that move but the art of movements that are drawn; what happens between each frame is more important than what exists on each frame; animation is therefore the art of manipulating the invisible interstices that lie between the frames.

Norman McLaren

result of movement created by an artist's rendering of successive images in a somewhat intuitive manner.

Disney's Definition of Animation

Life is in the drawing instead of funny little movements synched to sound

No scene is better than the sum total of its drawings. Life must be in every drawing.

Life and vitality comes not from movement or timing alone [as in very early cartoons - my comment] but from the ability to make the single drawings come alive.

Animation does not equal movement. Movement is the mechanism. The word animation comes from 'animus' which means 'life or to live'.

Beyond the definitions...

What animation is not...

not about having incredible drawing skills

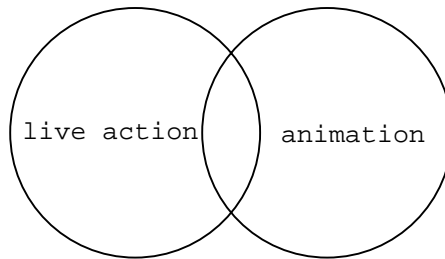
What animation is...

planning
patience

Problems of Definition

Live Action: appearance of live objects or continuous filming

Animation: inanimate objects or certain types of frame by frame recording (such as time lapse and pixilation)



The Overlap of live action and animation is making it more and more difficult to define animation in any way at all. Consider certain items on a continuum...

Terms describing Types of animation

Mimesis and abstraction...

Mimesis: represents the desire to reproduce natural reality (more like live-action work as well as being influenced by live action).

Abstraction: use of pure form that suggests a concept rather than trying to replicate its real life counterpart (more like animation).