

Jorge Lara +  
Israel Reyna

**Afghanistan and Mexico – a comparison**

MX, 2005  
0:55, stereo

Afghanistan - one of the first producers of heroin poppies, the first to fight for 10 years against the Russians with stones and sticks, a society that killed women as a public spectacle; the beauty of its land and people is destroyed by wars and taliban culture, but all of them strongly say: we are Afghans. Mexico – including one of the world's largest cities. The mixture of ways of thinking, indigeneous, foreigners and urban people. Fire eaters, charros, revolutionary symbols, "la muerte" (death), popular icons, the zapatistas, Marcos. All of them strongly saying: we are Mexicans.



Pierre-Jacques  
Kotze

**Argentina - Brazil**

ZA, 2010  
0:30, stereo

In 2007, Brazil and Argentina collectively launched the VS-30 sounding rocket into the heavens of space. This animation explores the tension and rivalry between the two neighboring countries, in terms of cultural and physical exports. The rocket, ultimately flying into space, represents the beautiful moment where two countries can set aside their rivalry and disputes and together venture beyond the physical boundaries of this planet for the greater good of humankind.



Myriam Thyes

**Armament at Lake Constance**

DE/CH, 2008  
3:50, stereo

This animation explores the cult of death in Catholic ideology as manifested in numerous images in churches and monasteries around Lake Constance – and the association of this cult with warfare, a link represented locally in the armaments industry at Friedrichshafen.

Use of the music for this animation by courtesy of Berthold Büchele.  
www.buechele-musik.de

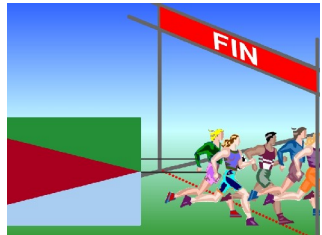


Sonya Mansour

**Bahamas - Eritrea**

USA, 2008  
0:35, stereo

The characteristic both countries share is their love for soccer (or euro football) and track. In the animation, the viewer is taken through an optical journey that illustrates the two sports individually and, at times, simultaneously. A soccer ball travels throughout the entire piece, tying the two countries together visually.



Christoph Frei

**Bolivia - Japan**

CH, 2006  
0:55, silent

Bolivia and Japan are situated on opposite sides of planet earth. On one side: the organic country Bolivia, full of forests, steppes and mountains, with little industry, living mainly from its agriculture and natural gas hoard. On the other side: Japan, highly industrialised and automated, on shaky, insecure geological territory. Two countries, antithetic in culture and geography, but partners in symmetry.



Ajdin Pajevic

**Bosnia & Herzegovina**

DE / BiH, 2006  
1:45, silent

The formation of the state of Bosnia & Herzegovina after wars with Serbia and Croatia. First, the breakup of Tito's Yugoslavia is symbolised by a bleeding Red Star (Petokraka). Then the animation shows the destruction of the old symbols of unity between the different nations living in Bosnia & Herzegovina – Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats. The terrain of Bosnia serves as a chess board / battlefield for the bloody fightings...



Myriam Thyes

**Brazil – China**

DE / CH, 2006  
0:45, stereo

Since 1995, the Amazon rain forest has shrunk by 1,7m hectares a year and has been turned into farmland. During the same period, China has lost more than 6m hectares of arable land to cities, factories, roads and deserts. Brazil produces millions of tonnes of soya beans for China: Since 1995, soya bean imports from Brazil to China have increased ten thousand %. The pulses are now by far the most important item on the bilateral balance sheet, 2004 worth more than a third of Brazil's sales volume to Beijing.

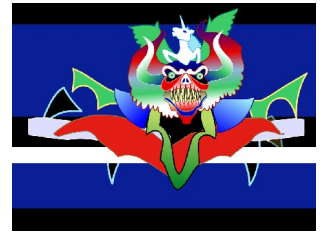


Myriam Thyes

**Caribbean Carnivals (19 African and Caribbean flags)**

DE / CH, 2006  
4:40, stereo

The Caribbean Carnivals and their African roots: The animation features flags from West and Central Africa, from the Caribbean islands, and images with carnival figures. The transition from an African to a Caribbean state flag shows pale colours, because white is often the colour for death and mourning in Africa - and so was the way for people from that continent, when they were brought as slaves to the Caribbean. The transition from a Caribbean to an African flag shows carnival figures and masks that remind the ritual cultures of Africa.



Anke Landschreiber

**Congo (DRC) - Uganda**

DE, 2006  
0:55, stereo

I have chosen to work with the flags of Uganda and the Congo (DRC), because both countries hardly know any tourism, and for me they are the heart of the so called "unknown continent". As I could not live and verify the reality of these countries up to now, I quote my first big cinema experience – the film featured the gorilla who lives in that region of Africa: King Kong, and the white woman. (A. L.)



Myriam Thyes

**Congo – Belgium**

DE / CH, 2005  
1:05, stereo

The huge Congo (ex-Zaire) is naturally very rich with rain forest and minerals (copper, diamonds, cobalt, uranium, gold and more). For more than hundred years, this wealth has been exploited (and stolen) by European, American and African companies and states (and buyers often pay with weapons). Since the time the Congo was a colony of Belgium, and up to now, the minerals are often brought to the big commerce port of Antwerp.



Slobodan Tomic

**Croatia – USA**

HR, 2007  
1:20, stereo

The ideas of freedom and independence are transformed into a caricature-like mixture of populist ideologies, cheap consumerism and all-pervasive globalization: The Croatian flag is being gradually supplemented by the characters from the ancient and modern history. They have become interwoven thus creating a game throughout which different ideology types – tradition, nation, revolution (socialist and nationalist) - have symbolically been in conflict. However, after a revolutionary and triumphal emerging of the new independent state Croatia, the ideals and traditional values are gradually weakening against a much stronger enemy – the international conformism.

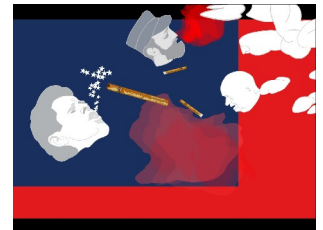


Barry L. Roshto

**Cuba - USA**

DE / USA, 2006  
0:45, silent

The relationship between Cuba and the US has always been complicated. The major problems have been caused by conflicts of interest between Washington and other foreign powers. During the Missile Crisis of 1962, when the Soviet Union began stationing nuclear warheads in Cuba, the world came very close to nuclear war. Eventually Nikita Khrushchev, the soviet prime minister, conceded to withdrawing the warheads in exchange for the promise that the US would not invade Cuba. Kennedy also agreed to the removal of U.S. nuclear missiles from Turkey. Their prudent and level-headed handling of this crisis prevented a world war.



Katherine Sweetman

**El Salvador - Guatemala**

USA, 2010  
0:55, stereo

El Salvador and Guatemala exist just above three, pent-up, agitated and powerful tectonic plates that make this region one of the most seismically active places in the world. Perhaps this geological turmoil filters upwards, onto the civilizations that inhabit the surface layers, in more than just the obvious ways. The seemingly regular cycles of violence and power-struggles upon the land occur with the scale and ferocity of earthquakes. The militarized border between El Salvador and Guatemala is not so permeable to those in El Salvador seeking better wages and escape from civil war.

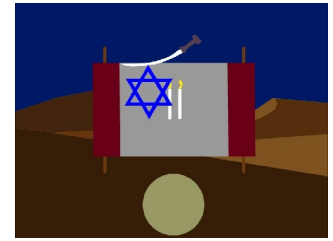


Alex Schneider

### Ethiopia - Israel

USA, 2008  
1:15, silent

Throughout the last half century, Israel has tried to fulfill its role as safe haven for Jews of the Diaspora. One such situation has come to define the relationship between Israel and Ethiopia. Although assimilation has proved difficult, today, these Jews have come to view Israel as their homeland. They pledge allegiance to the same flag that other Israelis revere, even as they keep older traditions. In my animation, I tried to frame the change from Ethiopian to Israeli as a journey that is based less on nationality and more on religion and tradition.



Myriam Thyes

### EU 2020 ?

DE / CH, 2005  
2:20, stereo

The flag of the European Union transforms itself into all the flags of its member countries, from west to east, and then into the flags of future and further possible members. While the EU expands eastwards, the wolves return to the west. But who can tell what the EU will look like in the year 2020 ?



Irena Paskali

### Ex-Yugoslavia

MK, 2007  
0:45, stereo

It was a country with different cultures, religions, a lot of symbols and with beautiful, nice songs - mosaics of beauty. One day the symbols started to mix, to become crazy. The country falls into a chaos, which is continuing until today. And now we are many countries, many crazy countries - and they call us banana republics.



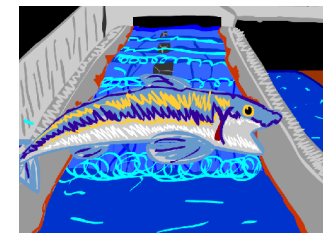
Deanna Morse +  
animation class

### Grand Rapids Sister Cities

USA, 2007  
1:55, stereo

This animation celebrates the connection between Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA and its five sister cities: Ga District (Ghana), Omihachiman (Japan), Perugia (Italy), Bielsko-Biala (Poland) and Zapopan (Mexico). This piece was created as the first exercise in Animation I class at Grand Valley State University, Deanna Morse, instructor, and Kari Smith, Teaching Assistant.

Animators: Chuck Kovalik, Steve Cain, Jacob Kubon, Jonathon Havens, Adam Cook, Jolene Flohe, Kevin Page, Geno Mallo, Elena Sobolic, Cody Flynn, Andrea Rulewicz, Tricia Kannegieter, Rob Piotrowski, Jacob Pierzchala, Heather Mc Donough, Mike Harthen, Tim Dailey, Eric Taylor. Sound design: Deanna Morse.

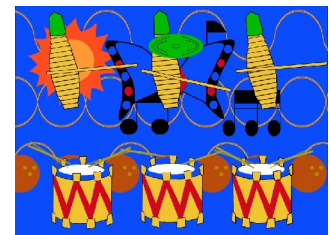


Tomoaki Goto

### Haiti and Mexico

USA, 2008  
1:35, stereo

Both countries had beautiful music and were at peace. But they suddenly collapsed by Spanish invasion. This animation shows you the peace before the invasion, and then the chaos after.



Joanna Priestley

### Harmonic Convergence (Bulgaria – Mongolia)

USA, 2007  
0:35, stereo

This piece was inspired by sound. The traditional choral music of Bulgaria and Mongolia are related through harmonics and musical structure. Bulgaria is represented by a silhouette of the Balkan Mountains, the Queen's Standard, the Coat of Arms, a country map and the rose, the national symbol. Mongolia is represented by a mandala, the treasured steed from the Coat of Arms, a country map and the flame (prosperity), sun, moon, yin yang fish, triangles (death to enemies), horizontal rectangles (honesty and fairness between rulers and the people) and vertical rectangles (fortress, strength of friendship) of the soyombo, the national symbol. Snowflakes link the countries.

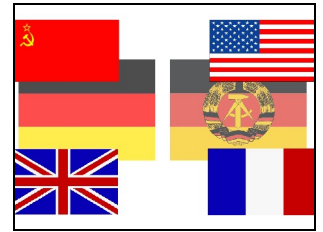


Amir Scheulen +  
Frank Köhnen

### History of the German Flag

DE, 2007  
0:40, silent

The development of the German flag, from the *Burschenschaft* (liberal nationalist student fraternity – see 1848) to the flag of the modern Federal Republic of Germany, with historical background: the black-red-and-gold Burschenschaft tunic, the spiked helmet, the Iron Cross, the swastika, the Imperial Eagle, the flags of the Allies / victorious powers of World War II, and the two German flags prior to Reunification - all these stand for their times and symbolise specific periods of Germany's history.

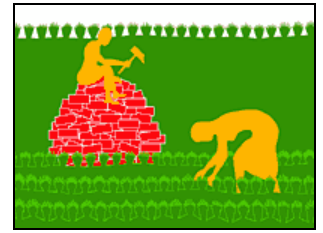


Myriam Thyes

### India - Bangladesh

DE / CH, 2005  
0:45, stereo

The main historical connection between India and Bangladesh is Calcutta - the former cultural and economical centre of Bengal. - The bicycle rickshaw rides away from the possible confrontation of Hinduism (orange) and Islam (green). - The Dakhineswar temple in Calcutta is dedicated to the goddess Kali, Calcutta's "mother". She transforms into a brick chopper and a rice farmer in Bangladesh, while hindi music blends into islamic chanting and bengali folk music.



Rona Innes

### India - Scotland

UK, 2006  
1:20, stereo

Jute has been grown in the Indian subcontinent for centuries. In 1793, the Bengal Board of Trade sent a jute fibre sample to Great Britain. A breakthrough came in 1833, when jute fibre was spun mechanically in Dundee, Scotland. Dundee had the advantage of locally supplied whale oil to make the jute fibres flexible and a workforce of women experienced in the spinning and weaving of linen. Scotland's jute prosperity was to last for over 100 years, until India developed the capacity to manufacture the raw material. India formerly was the largest exporter of raw jute in the world.



Nicola Tauscher

### Korea - Japan

DE / KR, 2006  
1:25, silent

This animation features the beauty of Korea and Korean women - and how especially the women suffered from the Japanese occupying force.

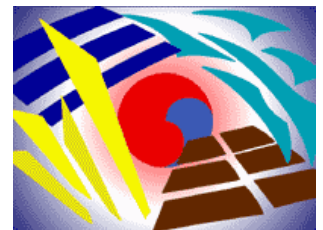


Myriam Thyes

### Korea - Japan

DE / CH, 2005  
0:30, stereo

Here I feature the philosophical / religious symbols on the flags: Korea's flag pictures a red and blue Yin-Yang symbol, surrounded by 4 trigrams from the I Ching. They represent – on a spiritual level - heaven, the earth, water and fire. Japan's flag is white with a red sun disk which symbolizes the Shinto sun-goddess Amaterasu. Japan's religious culture with its native Shinto beliefs and rituals, includes influences from China and Korea, mainly Buddhism. The animation also adumbrates the Japanese emperor's flag and the war flag...



Peter  
Chanthanakone

### Laos - Canada

CA, 2005  
0:35, stereo

My family fled Laos because of the Communist regime back in 1976. The democratic system was flattened and there were dark times in Laos. Bloodshed brought ethnic cleansing in the eyes of the communists when our family escaped to a safer place. It was like we floated to Canada by accident. (P. Chanthanakone)

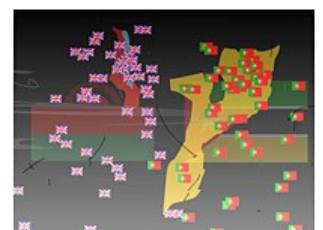


Rona Innes

### Mozambique + Malawi (+ Portugal and UK)

UK, 2005  
1:30, stereo

Mozambique and Malawi are neighbouring countries in South East Africa. Both are lush with vegetation and rich in minerals and culture, but have a history of internal conflict. Western settlers arrived in the 15th and 19th century and exploited the resources and minerals. Flooding, drought, poverty and crippling World Bank debts have since made Malawi and Mozambique two of the poorest in the world.





Norbert F. Attard

**MetaWarphoses** ( Malta - Turkey - Germany - UK )

MT, 2005  
2:40, stereo

Maltese history is the inspiration of Metawarphoses. I based my scenes on two important historical events which took place in Malta during the 16th and the 20th centuries. They both refer to important wars that saved Europe and North Africa from prolonged wars and further destruction. These were the great siege of 1565 against the Turkish Ottoman Empire and the second great siege of Malta during World War II. During these two episodes Malta was a colony of the Order of the Knights of St. John and the British Empire respectively.

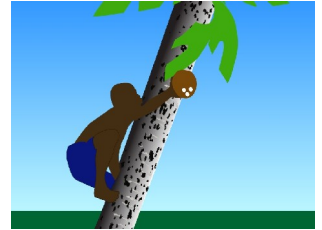


Stacy Averill

**Nauru - Kiribati**

USA, 2008  
0:40, silent

My piece was created to symbolize the ongoing connection that these two nation-states hold. Though they both share the bond of the Micronesian Islands, this bond is strengthened every four years through their participation in the Micronesian Games, a quadrennial international multi-sport event.



Kerstin Rajnar\_frau  
mag rosa pink

**Papua New Guinea - Monaco**

AT, 2014  
0:40, stereo

The most important yearly cultural events of these two countries are displayed: The 17 days lasting National Mask Festival of Papua New Guinea and the glamorous Rose Ball (Bal de la Rose) which introduces the traditional festival season in Monaco. Each feast shows its own kind of beauty in wearing masks: While in one state, they wear sequined strapless gowns - covered with glittering jewels - and pose for the paparazzis, in the other one they cover their whole bodies with masks and costumes and dance and drum in order to ban evil spirits.

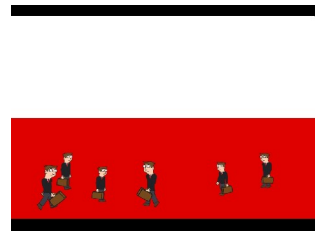


Ingrid Doering

**Poland - USA**

USA, 2011  
1:05, stereo

All the countries that are featured in this animation are interconnected to Poland in a significant, historical manner as well as their modern-day relationships and being a part of my background. The significance of Mongolia at the beginning comes from the invasion that had happened in the 13th century: it was an influence in developing the Polish cavalry, which gave rise to the American cavalry during the American Revolution.



Barry L. Roshto

**Red and Yellow - A Historical Review of the Vietnamese Flag**  
(North and South Vietnam, China, France, USA)

DE / USA, 2005  
3:25, stereo

The last war in Vietnam with all of its traumatic effects is only a brief episode in the ancient and ongoing struggle of the Vietnamese people. This struggle is evident in the evolution of the Vietnamese flag. Although it has taken on diverse form, borrowed symbolic content from colonial powers and remains a subject of heated debate even today, there is a central thematic thread: red blood and yellow skin.



Myriam Thyes

**Spain - Mexico**

DE / CH, 2005  
0:30, stereo

Spain - with its Austrian / Habsburg kings and the help of the Catholic church - invaded Mexico and destroyed a lot of Mexico's people and culture (leaving huge Maya pyramids among other heritage). Mexico's native tradition "Dia de los Muertos" (with colourful sugar skulls) may have integrated that historical shock. In the Mexican flag, the golden eagle still gets the snake - an aztec symbol for the former capital Tenochtitlan (today Mexico City) and the god(esse)s of the indigenous peoples.



Max Pohlenz

**Stars'n'Stripes Gun Crazy**

DE, 2005  
1:15, stereo

The stars'n'stripes jet is rushing through stratosphere and CRASH! - loses some stars in accident. The hunt for the lost stars begins. A journey through sixty years of war history of the United States.

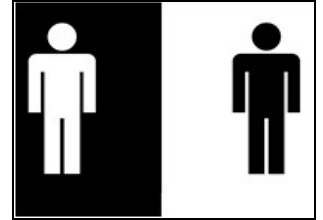


Cene  
van der Merve

### South Africa - Namibia

NA, 2010  
0:55, stereo

South-West Africa (now Namibia) was a colony of Germany, when it was taken over by South Africa. The Herero and Nama people fought against the Germans - almost 80% of the tribes were killed. In 1948, Apartheid was introduced in South Africa. In 1962, SWAPO was formed and fought South Africa - it won independence for Namibia in 1990. Now the people take on the colours of the South African flag: After 1994, South Africa became known as the rainbow nation. The animation ends with the Namibian flag; thanks to its independence, Namibia got rid of Apartheid some years earlier.

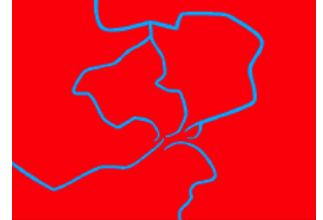


Myriam Thyes

### Switzerland - Germany

DE / CH, 2005  
0:40, stereo

The river Rhein doesn't stay so clean on its way through the countries, from Switzerland to Germany. And on the other hand: (Not only) German tourists bring (clean?) money to Switzerland ...



Natalieann Rich

### Thailand - Sri Lanka

USA, 2008  
0:40, stereo

This animation is an exploration of how Sri Lanka and Thailand relate to each other and culturally reveal similarities in the practice of Theravada Buddhism and ceremonial tradition. Separated by the Bay of Bengal, each country has kept in tact the main practice of Buddhism while adapting it to their individual cultures and locations. These relationships are seen through the study of meditation, dance, representations of the Buddha, and natural surroundings in each country.

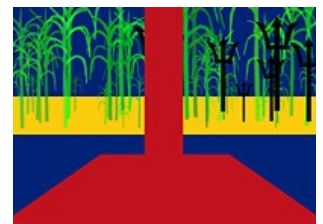


Chris Joseph  
(Babel)

### United Kingdom - Barbados

CA, 2006  
0:35, stereo

An animation about sugar cane fields and the fight against slavery: Barbados became independent peacefully in 1966 after many centuries of solely British rule; its main crop has been sugar cane for most of this time, and the relationship between the plantation owners and the workers / slaves was a key issue in the island's history. - The artist's mother is from Barbados, and his grandfather worked in plantations to bring his family from Barbados to the UK in the 1960s.



Phillip Kraft

### United Kingdom - South Africa

ZA, 2010  
0:50, stereo

This is an exploration of the ability for all of mankind to strive for control. In this particular example, the UK is shown as a huntsman trying to gain power. The owl is a symbol of social control. The bullet fired is an equilateral triangle due to its constant formal tension. The bubbling spheres within the triangle are a symbol of the internal clashes within such a social structure, and with enough pressure, the control may subside. However, control turned to favour another dominant class, again oppressing other individuals.



Silvia Popp

### Vatican and Russia

CH, 2012  
0:40, stereo

The Vatican City State and Russia are negotiating the establishment of diplomatic relations. For this delicate mission they meet on a neutral territory: behind the moon.



Monika Oechsler

### World Cup Fever

UK, 2006  
6:00, stereo

The football jumps happily through all the flags of the 32 nations participating in the FIFA Soccer World Cup 2006 - and moves them in blithely dancing shapes.

