

Pratt

Pratt Institute
200 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Computer Graphics
& Interactive Media

Phone: 718.636.4583

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RE: Ms. Sandra Villarreal

As an MFA candidate here at Pratt, Sandra Villarreal completed all three of my interactive design classes with high marks and then became one of my most ambitious masters thesis advisees.

Ms. Villarreal is one of those rare individuals who seems comfortable in both technology and the visual arts. I have great admiration for her artistic sensibility: Her imagery is unique and imaginative, delicate and enticing. During her time here as a student, she also embraced the concepts of programming and technology necessary to execute her interactive projects.

During her thesis production, for example, her intellectual curiosity took her into extensive self-directed research, an effort that far exceeded that of my other students. The completed work, a sensor-activated generative art installation, was outstanding. For that project, she evaluated various sensor systems and modified standard imaging code to create visual transformations based on visitors' locations within her installation. She also researched and implemented a multi-screen display, to create a sense of immersion in her imagery. All of this work was meticulous and well documented.

Easy to work with, Ms. Villarreal was often sought by other students as a resource guide, and was visibly active in student organizations here. She participated in experimental extra-curricular programs as well, including a PICmicro programming class and a "Cricket" robotics workshop, where she was one of the course assistants. I recall she also took a welding class, which she seemed to enjoy.

Recently, Ms. Villarreal returned to our department as an instructor. She and I co-taught our Interactive 3D course this semester, a challenging program involving 3D modeling and interactive programming. As a teacher, I found her to be very organized and well prepared. We easily collaborated on each week's lectures and assignments. She has proposed an installation technology course here, which I believe is being added to our schedule soon.

Ms. Villarreal has much experience and energy to share. Her intelligence and talent would be a great enhancement to your program. She has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,



Peter S. Mackey

Associate Professor, Computer Graphics and Interactive Media

About me: I am in my tenth year of teaching graduate students at Pratt Institute in the Computer Graphics and Interactive Media Department, as well as coordinating our ever-evolving interactive program. My course load for recent semesters has included the advisement of many of Pratt's outstanding Master's Thesis candidates. I have also been active in the visual communications business since 1979. My MFA is in Cinema from the University of Southern California.